



# JINDRAHIMAGES



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## BSF guns down Pak Drone near international border in Amritsar

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 8

Border Security Force (BSF) personnel have shot down a Pakistani drone near the international border in Amritsar after it sneaked into the Indian territory, a spokesman said on Thursday.

In a separate development, troops of the border guarding force seized more than two kilograms of heroin air-dropped by another Pakistani drone in Tarn Taran district, the official said.

Around 9 pm on Wednesday, BSF personnel heard the buzzing sound of an unmanned aerial vehicle near Ghaini Rajputana village in Amritsar and opened fire on it, the spokesman of the force said.

A joint search operation by the BSF and the Punjab Police was carried out, during which the drone was found in a damaged condition on a field adjacent to the Rajatal-Bharopul-Doake tri-junction on the outskirts of the village, he said.

The recovered drone was a quadcopter  
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## Close aide of Pro-Khalistan terrorists arrested: NIA

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 8

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a close aide of two foreign-based operatives of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), Canada-based Arshdeep Singh alias 'Arsh Dala' and Philippines-based Manpreet Singh alias 'Peeta'.

Gagandeep Singh alias 'Mitti', who was nabbed by the NIA on Tuesday during raids in Haryana and Punjab, is the fifth person to be arrested as part of NIA's sustained crackdown on the organised crime syndicate and network being operated by the two terrorists in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi  
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## Incest Rape Case: Jammu Crime Branch arrests two absconding siblings

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 8

The Economic Offences Wing of Jammu Crime Branch Jammu have arrested absconding siblings wanted in incest rape case.

The Crime Branch Spokesman on Thursday said that the accused persons identified as Bittu Singh and Kewal Krishan, both residents of Nagali, Basohli, District Kathua were arrested from Delhi and Surjan Mangyar, Bani, in an incest rape case.

The case was registered after a complaint was lodged by one Bali Ram S on allegation of rape. The case being of immense public importance was transferred to Crime Branch  
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## Lord Venkateswara temple dedication will boost spiritual tourism in J&K: LG

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 8

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, along with Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, and Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State attended the Maha Samprokshanam of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams at Jammu, today.

After paying their obeisance at the sanctity sanctum, the dignitaries attended the dedication ceremony of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, spread across over 62 acres of land, to the devotees.

Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism congratulated the people, J&K Government and all the devotees of Sri Venkateswara. The temple at Jammu



will carry the message in the world that Kashmir to Kanyakumari, India is one. This will be a centre of spirituality and Sanatan traditions, he said.

It is the result of the devotion and commitment of the Lt Governor of J&K and Chairman and Board members of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams that Sri Venkateswara Swamy

Temple is completed in a short span. Now, the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and other prominent religious places can also seek the blessings of Sri Venkateswara Swamy at Jammu, said the Union Minister.

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha said the inauguration of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple

is a historic moment in the Sanatan Journey of J&K and the country.

"The dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple will strengthen religious tourism circuit in J&K. It will give a boost to spiritual tourism and a major fillip to the economic development and employment opportunities in the

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## Relations with China not advanced due to border issue, Pakistan has to give up cross-border terror: EAM

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 8



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said that while India's relations with all major powers has evolved, with China it has not advanced due to the continuing tension of the borders. On Pakistan, he said that Islamabad knows that it has to give up cross-border terrorism if it wants to improve ties with India.

Answering questions at a press conference, the EAM said that India's relationship with all the major powers has evolved, including with the US, with Russia despite all the challenges, with the

EU, Germany, Japan, and Gulf, each one of them has advanced.

"Because people worked very hard, and in each of the relationships the Modi government has put in place policies, and the PM has led the diplomatic efforts from the front. We have tried to find areas of agreements, collaboration, of working

together, tried to expand the tech base, the economy and find security partners and have been largely successful.

"Why is China the exception? In a sense the answer can only be given by China," he said.

"Because China chose consciously, for some reason, in 2020, to breaking agreements to move forces to border areas... It's been made very clear to them that unless there is peace and tranquility in the border areas our relationship cannot progress. That is the obstacle that is holding the relationship from advancing," he added.

To a question on India's

Neighbourhood First policy, and where Pakistan and China stood with respect to that, he said that India's relations have seen both progress and challenges in the neighbourhood. "With Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Myanmar the political relations are strong... for the first time a regional economy is being made, and petrol, electricity can be transported across borders and there is rail, road connectivity, and we are using Bangladesh ports for the first time."

"There is much progress." On Pakistan, he said: "The challenges are

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## Mayor JMC, former Ministers call on Lt Governor

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 8

Rajinder Sharma, Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today.

He apprised the Lt Governor on various public welfare issues and important matters related to Municipal Corporation.

Raman Bhalla, former Minister met the Lt Gov-



ernor and projected concerning issues of various sections of society including of POJK refugees and Daily wagers.

Abdul Gani Kohli, former Minister apprised the Lt Governor on important matters related to reconstitution of Wool

Board, upgradation of Mughal Road and overall development of Kalakote. Sukhnaandan Choudhary, former Minister also called on the Lt Governor and put forth various issues of public importance.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the Mayor JMC and former Ministers assured them that the issues will be looked into earnestly for early redressal.

## Raghav Langer, Piyush Singla are Nodal Officers for Amarnath Yatra 2023



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 8

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday nominated two senior officers as nodal officers for the smooth conduct



of the Amarnath Yatra, which will commence from July 1.

According to an order issued by General Administration Department Dr Raghav Langer, Secretary to the Government,

MHA orders transfer of four IAS, IPS officers from J&K AGENCIES  
JAMMU, JUNE 8

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday transferred four officers—two IAS and two IPS officers from Jammu and Kashmir with immediate effect and until further orders. Quoting an order, that two

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## Chugh lauds PM for hiking MSP on Kharif

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh today hailed the Centre's decision to increase the MSP of Kharif crops which, he said, would help farmers in a big way in Punjab.

Chugh said while the MSP for paddy (common) has been fixed at Rs 2,183 per quintal, 7% higher than the last season,

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## Tirupati Temple In Jammu Celebrates India's 'Unity In Diversity': Dr Jitendra

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 8

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and the Development of the North Eastern Region, Shri G Kishan Reddy and Lieutenant Governor Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha today inaugurated Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Jammu which is 6th in the country and first in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the establishment of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Jammu is a celebration of the idea of India and the Tirupati temple in Jammu celebrates India's 'Unity in Diversity'.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the temple being first in Jammu and Kashmir and sixth in India will pave the way for Jammu to become the top religious

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## Dr Jitendra reviews India's first cannabis medicinal project with canadian collaboration

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 8

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, "Cannabis Research Project" of CSIR-IITM Jammu with Canadian collaboration is the first of its kind in India which has a great potential to produce export quality medicine for Diabetic neuropathy, neurologias, cancer and epilepsy. Dr. Jitendra Singh said this while chairing a review meeting with the top officials of CSIR-IITM and J&K UT Science and Technology Department.

During the meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the signing of scientific agreement between CSIR-IITM and IndusScan was historic not only for J&K but for whole of India as it has the potential to produce those kinds of medicines which have to be exported from foreign countries. This kind of project will give an impetus for huge

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## Over 1 lakh works to be completed during this Financial year: Officers to Chief Secretary

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 8

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today held a meeting of all the Administrative Secretaries to review the performance of different Departments regarding pace of the Developmental works and overall expenditure of Departments during 2022-23.

The meeting was also attended by the officers from the Expenditure Division-1 and it besides those to review the performance of the Finance Department.

On the occasion Dr Mehta emphasized that the actual portion of the budget the utilization of which creates durable public assets. He emphasized on efficient planning for so that the expenditure outcomes are maximized.

The Chief Secretary advised the officers to set monthly targets for completion of works so that the March-rush at the



He observed that there is manifold increase in number of works completed in recent years and during the past few years the number has grown very substantially. He urged upon the officers to strategize spending for meeting the targets for completion of works during the current financial year.

The Chief Secretary advised the officers to set monthly targets for completion of works so that the March-rush at the

end of the financial year is avoided here. He called for setting a timeline for each project and allied activities to be carried under it. He told them to have periodical reviews at their levels to ensure that the timeframe set for each activity is complied with.

He asked them to complete the tendering process of every work against which the Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction has been secured. He also

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## MeT forecasts mainly dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 8

Mainly dry weather with lesser possibility of evening shower and thunderstorm has been forecast in Jammu and Kashmir till June 12.

"Mainly dry weather is expected but a brief spell of shower/thunderstorm mainly towards evening can't be ruled out, although chances are less (0-20%)" said a meteorological department official. He said there would be gradual increase in temperature and warmer days are expected ahead.

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 11.2°C against 12.4°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C below normal for the famous tourist resort



summer capital. Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 10.2°C against 11.2°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.8°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 5.0°C against 6.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C below normal for the famous tourist resort

in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 10.4°C against 11.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 9.9°C against 8.4°C on the previous night  
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## People's sufferings increase manifold in absence of popular govt in J&K: Jan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**POONCH, JUN 8:** Ajaz Jan, Provincial President Youth National Conference Jammu and former legislator, raised serious concern over the issues faced by the people of Poonch district in absence of popular government in Jammu and Kashmir.

While interacting with people during his visit to far flung area of Mandi and Poonch, the senior NC leader said that the residents of Mandi Tehsil and Poonch Tehsil of POONCH district are currently facing an acute shortage of drinking water due to the shortage of PHE linemen. "This is affecting the water supply as single linemen are looking after 5 to 6 villages, causing several areas' water lines to become defunct. As such, women in these areas have to cover long distances to access drinking water," he added.

Furthermore, Jan expressed concern over the delay in clearing the pending liabilities under MGN-REGA. These liabilities have been pending for over two years and require



immediate attention, he said.

Jan said that the roads in the entire Poonch district are in a dilapidated condition. He appealed to the government to constitute a special team to inspect the dilapidation of roads and upgrade all such roads in Mandi Poonch with the aim of providing better road connectivity to the people.

Jan also raised serious concern over power bills on domestic connections, as power meters have not been installed in Mandi Tehsil and the Power Department is charging flat rate, despite people not receiving regular power

supply. He requested the government to install power meters so that people can pay power bills according to their usage.

Lastly, he highlighted that the people of Poonch are not receiving the benefit of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana scheme. He said that the relevant files have been gathering dust in the government office since 2019. As the Poonch district may witness snowfall in next three months, he appealed to the government to clear all the files related to PMAY as soon as possible so that the people get the benefit of aforesaid government scheme.

In conclusion, the former

Legislator urged people to support the NC and strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah for equitable development of the state.

Prominent those who accompany Jan are Abdul Ahad Bhatt, Abdul Razak Sarpanch, Bashir Naik Sarpanch, Imtiaz Bandyaj, Aslam Sheikh, Dar sh, Khalil alone, Gulam Mohamad, Abdul Jabbar, Qazi Saleem Councilor, Parvinder Singh, Mukhtar Rathoor, Rustam, Shamim, Mubashar Bandyaj Sarpanch HQ, Abdul Ahad Kamrat, Aslam Lone, Saleem Lone, Ab Ahad Tantary and others

## VC JU chairs review meeting regarding preparation for NIRF & NAAC

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUN 8:** Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu Prof. Umesh Rai today held an interactive session with all the stakeholders to review the preparedness of the University for forthcoming NIRF and NAAC Accreditation.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Umesh Rai called upon all the stakeholders of the University to work proactively to build on their strengths for better ranking in various bodies. He exhorted upon the entire faculty to work on enhancing their research profile which will eventually help the institution to secure a higher ranking. He further assured the gathering that measures to make the system more user-friendly and ease out the procedures are underway and the administration will extend any and every support to the research initiatives of the teachers. He expressed his gratitude for unconditional support from J&K government for various infrastructure development projects.

He also acknowledged getting unprecedented support from the teachers and all the other stakeholders of the University and expressed hope that the same shall help in steering the institution towards academic and research excellence. In this context, he shared that such review meeting shall be held every month with the faculty and officers of the University to assess the progress made by the University on various parameters.

Earlier, Dr. Ginny Dogra, Deputy Director DIQA gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the various criteria for evaluation and Ranking of the University by various bodies like NIRF and NAAC. In her presentation, Dr. Dogra apprised the gathering that the University of

Jammu is at par with other highly ranked State Universities in the criterion of Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR), Graduation outcomes (GO) and Outreach and Inclusivity. However, the University needs to focus more on Research & Professional Parameters and Perception criteria to qualify for a higher ranking.

Various stakeholders were also invited to give their report on the initiatives undertaken for the preparations of NAAC. In this context, Sh. Sanjeev Mahajan, Controller of Examinations appraised the house that the examination wing caters to about 2.5 lakh examinees in which 2 lakh are Undergraduate students. He further said that for this the Examination Wing of the University has adopted an automated process of declaration of results and also the implementation of the ERP system is under process.

Prof. Neelul Rohmetra, Director, DD&OE appraised the house of the various initiatives being taken up in DD&OE including setting up of Digital Studio for various academic activities at the earliest.

Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning informed the gathering that various initiatives of repair and renovation along with the upkeep of the Centralized facilities are being undertaken by the University to make them differently abled friendly.

Prof. Namrata Sharma, Prof. Dipanker Sen and Prof. Sarika Manhas shared that the University has acquired the LMS and has its own Moodle to enable the faculty to design and run online courses. Various capacity building workshops are being regularly conducted and the faculty is being encouraged to submit proposals for their courses.

Prof. Piyush Malviya apprised the

gathering about the various environmental initiatives taken up by the University which include sensor based energy consumption, designing structures from waste etc. He also informed the house that the University of Jammu has been issued Green Audit Certification besides Green Champion Award. He further shared that the University is also in the process of developing Sewage Treatment Plant and drainage system.

Prof. Alka Sharma, director, SIEDDC shared with the house the various initiatives undertaken by SIEDDC in the verticals of Skill, entrepreneurship, innovation and incubation, IPR and the Design your degree course. Er. Anik Gupta reported about the IT initiative and creation of Smart Classes in all the University Teaching Departments. Prof. Vishav Raskha shared the details about the internal gender audit conducted within the university and also that the university fares well in the Gender friendly atmosphere of the University. She also said that a Gender Policy of the University is also being formulated.

Many senior functionaries including Prof. Anju Bhanu, Senior Professor, Dept. of Physics, Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, President JUTA, Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, DSW, Prof. Vinay Chauhan, Director TBS and Prof. K.S. Charak, Head Dept. Of Mathematics, also contributed towards suggested measures to achieve a higher ranking by the University. Other initiatives being taken up by the University including SMARTH were also shared with the house.

The interaction was attended by all the Deans, directors, heads, permanent faculty and officers of the University.

## Col Mahan inaugurates JJM project worth Rs 7 cr in Jankhar Panchayat, Basohli



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JANKHER (BASOHLI), JUN 8:** Col Mahan Singh (Retd) DDC Chairman Kathua today marked another milestone towards fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of providing clean water to every household across the nation. He performed the Bhumi Pujan and inaugurated the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Project in the remote Jankhar Panchayat of Basohli Sub District.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Sarpanch Jankher Kewal Kumar, Nirmal Singh, Capt Harnam Singh, Madt Ram, and prominent residents of Jankher and adjoining Panchayats. Arun Sharma AEE PHE Basohli, Ji Sanjeev Gupta, Contractor Gandarb Singh were also present during the event.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh appreciated the JJM Mission launched by the Modi Government and claimed that the mission will fulfil the commitment of the BJP Government to provide 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal'. He urged everyone to uphold the government norms and ensure quality and timely work.

The DDC Chairman made a special appeal to the residents present to make their land available for the construction of GSR Tanks, laying pipeline, and building overhead tanks, etc.

He said that the JJM project, worth Rs 7 Crores, consists of a 10 km long supply line from the Chirk Nalla Source, three 20000 gallon capacity GSR Tanks, and laying of 30 Kms supply line of various sizes. He said Jankher Panchayat and adjoining areas will now benefit from this state-of-the-art JJM project, which signifies the beginning of a new era of progress and development in the region.

## India's prestige grew globally in 9 years of PM Modi govt: Sunil Prajapati

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUN 8:** Hailing policies to uplift the socio-economic status of the OBCs, BJP OBC Morcha lauded Modi government on the completion of nine years.

J&K BJP OBC Morcha under the leadership of its President, Sunil Prajapati held a meeting at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu to discuss the forthcoming Morcha programmes.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, J&K BJP Media Secretary and BJP OBC Morcha leaders, namely Vice President Suresh Salgotra, Secretary Shamsheer Prajapati, Secretary Ashok Verma, Secretary Anil Balgotra, District President Jammu Ashok Salgotra, District President Samba Suraj Parkash Verma, District President Jammu South Vijay Dogra, District Secretary Jammu North Sanjay Saab participated in the meeting.

"A new era has ushered in the country where people have witnessed the emergence of a 'New India' that



grew on a high and sustained socio-economic growth trajectory", said Sunil Prajapati.

Sunil Prajapati said that the new India stands on four pillars - growth of India's prestige in the international arena, a robust internal and external security, speedy infrastructural growth and reforms for the poor. He said that the BJP has undertaken a nationwide month-long campaign, 'Mahasampark Abhiyaan', to mark completion of nine years of BJP government at the Centre. BJP OBC Morcha is also conducting a number of programmes to familiarize the community with the landmark achievements of the Modi government, especially those concerning the

community. Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, on the occasion, enumerated the landmark works of the Modi government.

He said that the security scenario including the 'self made weaponry and logistics' have strengthened the nation's defense, the increased road connectivity has led to the rural development and ease of transportation for civil and military purposes, since 2014, 74 airports have been constructed in the country, metro trains and rapid rails have come as key public transport systems. No one had ever imagined that air connectivity would become affordable for the poor," he said, while referring to the UDAN scheme entailing cheaper air services in states.

## SC/ST/OBC Confederation call on Chief Secretary; for speedy redressal of grievances

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUN 8:** All India Confederation of SC/ST/OBC Organisations' State President R K Kalsotra along with State Secy Dr Ramesh Kaith met honourable Chief Secretary, J&K to discuss the issues faced by SC/ST/OBCs, minorities of J&K. A memorandum of demands was also submitted to His Excellency for his due consideration.

At the outset, Kalsotra extended their heartfelt gratitude to CS for giving them time and apprised him that previously they met on 17th April and was surprised to note that their memorandum was pending with no action till 1st June 2023 in CS Office and forwarded to Comrn Secy SW on 2nd June whereas it was interested to Addl Secy to CS to prepare report to submits to CS for action.

Kalsotra also apprised that the Caste Atrocities are on a rise and Corporators & Sarpanches are being attacked. On 09.05.2023 Sarpanch Hon'ble Capt Lakhmi Chand (SC) of Thathri was attacked and abused by upper caste, Kalsotra apprised CS that he personally talked over phone to DC, SSP, DDO & concerned IO & DSP but till date culprits are not arrested even after registering the case under SC/ST Atrocity Act. Same is the conditions in other district of the UT.

Kalsotra also apprised the CS that even allotments of lands in favour of

SCs are being cancelled, a glaring example of Chak Jangi Village of Samba and some SC allotted are not given possessions, he gave one example of Magobali Village of RS Pura where land allotted in favour of Shahu but possession not given and is in others possession.

Kalsotra raised objection before CS that on their own UT Administration is curtailing the age criteria of relaxation of age of 5 years to SC/ST & 3 years to OBC & in Anganwari recruitment no relegation of age is being given which is an injustice.

Kalsotra apprised the CS that they don't know why Govt hasn't recognised their social leaders like Babu Parmanand, Chajju Ram Bhagat, Masha Nair Singh, Babu Milkhi Ram, whereas many places are declared on the names of outsiders martyred in UT. Confederation held a national event on 1st June 2023 at Batote where two resolutions were adopted in favour of the son of the soil, Shaheed Bhagat Amar Nath ji, after whose sacrifice reservation was implemented in J&K, they demand first to declare Gazetted holiday in UT-J&K under NIA Act on 1 June & second naming Baglihar Hydro Electric Power Project to be named as Shaheed Bhagat Amar Nath Hydro Electric Power Project and his life should be taken as an inspiration to students. Other demands of SC/ST/OBC and minorities were raised during the meeting.

Reservation in Promotions has been stopped in J&K and it should be implemented since 2015, retrospectively. Previously it was assured that the proposal will be looked into and a meeting was also organised but unfortunately was deferred. It is requested that this should be prioritised again immediately because the progress of the society is held up due to stoppage of promotions.

There is a huge backlog of 1 lakh candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBCs. This backlog should be filled immediately. There should also be a re-advertisement of the backlog posts withdrawn by the government in PSC, SSRB, and the backlog in SKUAST, J&K.

Kalsotra mentioned that Currently a lot of employees are working on a daily wage basis, contractual obligations, NYC youth, seasonal teachers, ad hoc staff.

None of them are on a permanent basis. Thus, they should be made permanent and the reserved category employees should be given their due benefits. Safaikaramchari belong to the most underprivileged section and they should be made permanent on immediate notice.

Proposal of Padma Shree Award and compensation for Teacher Rajni Bala, who got martyred in a terrorist attack in Kashmir on 31st May, 2022 was also put forth by the delegation. Her daughter should also be given full pay on her behalf.

## Shiromani Sant Kabir Temple Trust honours volunteers for making Prakash Ustav successful

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUN 8:** Shiromani Sant Kabir Temple Trust honoured the volunteers who had participated and contributed their best to make the Prakash Ustav of Sant Kabir a historical event.

On the occasion Dalip Kumar Block Development Councillor and social worker got the blessings of Sant Kabir Sahib.

Dalip Kumar expressed his gratitude towards the tireless workings of Chaman Lal (President), Darshan Kumar (General Secretary), Balak Ram



(Vice President), and members Som Nath Floria, Jeet Raj, Shashi, Surjeet Singh, Dimple for the development of Temple.

Suraj Parkash Sarpanch of Halqa Block, Suchetgarh President BJP Kotli Gala Bana was also present. Trust Members, Sarpanch

and devotees honoured the Block Development Councillor, Dalip Kumar with the portrait of Sant Kabir Sahib.

## DC Kishtwar flags off First Batch of Hajj Pilgrims to Srinagar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**KISHTWAR, JUNE 08:** Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, today flagged off the first batch of 28 Hajj pilgrims to Srinagar here in the presence of Administrator J&K Waqf Board Kishtwar, Zakir

Hussain Wani, Imam Markazi Masjid Kishtwar, Farooq Ahmed Kichloo, CMO Kishtwar, Dr. M.Y. Mir, and other civil society members.

The group comprises 20 men and 8 women, who departed from the Islamia Faridia College of Education and Research Institute of the district

Kishtwar. The DC congratulated the Hajj pilgrims for getting the opportunity to embark on this sacred journey. He extended his best wishes for their safe and secure pilgrimage and earnestly appealed to them to pray for the peace and prosperity of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

# Mamata Govt involved in neck-deep corruption: Kavinder Gupta



JI NEWS SERVICE

**HOOGHLY, JUN 8:** Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, J&K, Kavinder Gupta on Thursday accused the West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee Government of being involved in neck deep corruption claiming that number of ministers of the aforesaid state government are facing serious charges of corruption.

The BJP stalwart leader from Jammu said this while addressing a press conference along with local MP Locket Chatterji, District President Tushar Kumar, Mazoom Dar and Cluster Incharge Debatanu Bhattacharjee at District party office in Hooghly.

Kavinder said that people here are troubled with the rampant corruption in

the system with the Mamata Banerjee government doing nothing to contain this menace. "Instead of taking steps to combat corruption, several ministers of the West Bengal Government have been indulging in deep-rooted corruption and many are facing charges with central probing agencies investigating their evil deeds to unravel the truth and expose their misdeeds."

He named three ministers of the Mamata Government namely Ayan Seal, Kuntal Gyosh Shantanu Banerjee, who have been lodged in dungeons on corruption charges showing the pathetic situation created by the West Bengal dispensation. The senior BJP functionary from J&K also pointed out that Chinsurah

visited City Club near Chinsurah Bus Stand and met Social Influencers.

He asked them to play an important role in highlighting the policies and key achievements of the Modi Govt in the last nine years.

Thereafter, Kavinder visited Kendriya Vidyalaya at Bandel which was constructed by the Modi Govt.

Kavinder Gupta along with MP Locket Chatterji and others visited Bandel Railway Station which has Asia's largest interlocking system.

This railway station has been constructed by Modi Govt by spending massive Rs 600 crore.

Bandel Junction is one of the important stations of Howrah division handling a large number of trains

Kavinder said that to overcome limitations of the old signaling system of this railway station, the centre has come up with a modern state of art technology system of signaling. He said that the aforesaid signaling system is the largest signaling system in the world.

Subsequently, Kavinder addressed Morchha Sanjukta Sammelan at Party's District Office Hooghly. He asked the party workers to be in touch with the public and counter the anti-people policies of WB Govt headed by Mamata Banerjee.

# PM Modi changed perception about India: MP Khatana



JI NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR, JUN 8:** BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime has transformed the world opinion on India.

He accused Congress leadership and Govts. for projecting India as a country of Snake Charmers and beggars but BJP gov't under

the stewardship of Sh. Narendra Modi has emerged as a world leader.

As part of 9 Saal Bemisal campaign of BJP on completion of 9 years of Modi Govt, MP Khatana alongwith Waqf Chairperson

Ashok Koul addressed social media influencers conference here.

MP Gulam Ali said that now India is known as #DigitalIndia, holds the presidency of G20, defends the sovereignty and integrity with rigour

and is witnessing tremendous growth in infrastructure development.

Er. Gulam Ali said that PM Narendra Modi has

special love for the people of Kashmir and focused on balanced development of Jammu and Kashmir, restoration of peace and faith of the common man in good governance are BJP Govt's focus. He said that previous govts tagged minorities as mafia and troublemakers but PM Modi gave the slogan of Ek Haath Mein Koran, Ek Haath Mein Computer. He said that minorities have not been more safe than ever as under present BJP gov't.

BJP Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi made a PowerPoint presentation of Modi government's achievements in nine years. He said that PM Modi has ensured all round development and connectivity, digitization, corruption free administration, no scam in 9 years, DBTL are hall marks of the modi regime.

# Shiv Sena (H) protest lack of drainage facility at Chak Zafar, Marh



JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUN 8:** Shiv Sena Hindustan activists led by its J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today held strong protest against the government at village Chak Zafar, Block Marh. The residents of Ward No. 3 including Mohan Kumar, Parshotam Lal, Sewa Ram, Roshni Lal, Santu Ram, Sunita Devi, Geeta Devi, Tulsi Devi

besides others were present who disclosed that the streets of Ward No. 3 are being constructed but there is not even a single drain, the water from the houses comes out into the streets, causing trouble to the commuters. Most of the residents have dug out small pits outside their houses wherein waste water gets filled in those pits.

Speaking on the occasion,

Kesri said that with the summer season making way for monsoons, in a few days if people will push their waste water into these pits, and rainwater will stagnate around homes. Even if a small quantity of water, as little as 40 ml, is left stagnating in anything or placed inside and outside homes, it can serve as perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes which transmit

virus causing dengue, malaria, and other life-threatening vector-borne diseases. Depending on the severity of dengue, treatment in private hospitals can run into lakhs.

Kesri further said that proper initiatives need to be implemented for better safety regarding mosquitoes, as well as campaigning for making the communities aware of their surroundings and breeding spaces can be essential as well. Resources to tackle these pests need to be enhanced and effective in order to limit the scope of them reproducing.

He demanded Govt to direct concerned authorities to construct drainage facility as soon as possible before arrival of monsoon to avoid any epidemic. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Captain Gara Ram, Brijesh Kumar, Darshana Devi, Rajni Devi, Jyoti Devi, Balwant Fauji besides others.

# Will start hunger strike if govt fails to resolve issues of Maalis-cum-Chowkidars in 6 months: AJKPC



JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUN 8:** All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC), the frontline body of elected PRI members, today served an ultimatum of six months, till November 30, to the UT administration to resolve all issues of temporary Guards/ Maalis-Chowkidars of the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, failing which PRI members would go on indefinite hunger strike.

Addressing a press conference here at AJKPC headquarter in presence of Guards/Maalis and Gardeners/Chowkidars, the AJKPC president Anil Sharma said it was quite unfortunate that the UT govern-

ment has taken no action or framed any policy to address the genuine concerns of these people.

"We express our utter dismay that despite submitting over a dozen memoranda and letters to the authorities of the Rural Development Department in Kashmir and Jammu, the government has not moved even an inch and showing its reluctance to adjust these poor Maalis and Chowkidars as they were promised government jobs in lieu of their lands given for setting up different government buildings/ Panchayat Bhawans and other infrastructure," Sharma regretted.

The AJKPC leader said the families of these poor people were at the verge of starvation due to the adamant atti-

tude and step-motherly treatment adopted by the UT administration.

"We once again make a humble request to the government that these people should be adjusted as temporary daily wagers at the monthly honorarium of Rs 9,000 so that they are able to feed and support their families," he said.

Sharma said decades have passed but these gullible and poor temporary workers were not given any justice and many of them have now surpassed the eligible age for absorption in regular recruitment in government jobs therefore, it is imperative that these workers be given at least the status of daily wage workers and give appointment orders.

He further said that despite repeated requests to the officers, no arrangements had been made by the government to enable biometric attendance of these Chowkidars and Maalis.

"The government should immediately start biometric attendance of these Chowkidars and Maalis who are nearly 2,000 in numbers across Jammu and Kashmir. We want to make it clear that all Panches and Sarpanches and entire AJKPC stand with the Maalis and Chowkidars and their families and would not hesitate to initiate indefinite agitation if no concrete decision is taken at an earliest," the leader said.

# BJP's Jan Sampark Abhiyan attempt to seek apology from the people for unfulfilled promises: Rattan Lal

**JAMMU, JUN 8:** Rattan Lal Gupta, Jammu's Provincial President J&K National Conference Jammu said that BJP's Jan Sampark Abhiyan is nothing but an attempt to seek apology from the people for the unfulfilled promises, which the party made during the run-up to polls.

In a statement issued to media persons, the senior NC leader said that even a layman in politics can understand the dismal position of the Saffron party, which has drastically failed in fulfilling its promises on containing inflation, providing employment to unemployed and ensuring amenities to the people leading to its leadership going into apologetic mode and seeking another chance, which the people will never give to this 'flock of liars', who tried to rely on Jammu more than once to befool the electorate. Recalling the pragmatic and prolific endeavour of NC regime headed by Omar Abdullah which gave 659 new, Panchayats, Blocks, Niabats, Tehsils, SDM offices for the welfare of people by ensuring good governance at people's doorstep, Rattan Lal questioned that

what BJP has done to provide succor to the people? He said today 165 public health centres of Jammu Province are confronting acute shortage of medicos with many not even having sub-ordinate staff even many dispensaries of far faling areas are closed due to shortage of staff and infrastructure. The condition of Ayurvedic system in Jammu region is also in worst condition.

"The situation of providing tapped water in the arid belts of Jammu region is also pathetic with Samba, Kathua and Jammu Districts being the worst example. He said that it is not proper despite the pitiable condition of things, the Government is patting its back in the name of Jal Jeevan Schemes, which in actuality are total failures. Gupta said that "Joblessness has broken all previous records and the recruitment agencies indulged in scams. There are thousands of govt posts lying vacant, the government is sitting idle with no intention to advertise the same or refer to SSB or PSC to initiate the recruitment process of selection. The students are facing lots of problems as phlegmatic government even not able to make their exams centres to the CUET aspirants within J&K as they have been forced by National Testing Agency to go out of J&K to take exams" in different states.

"The situation with regard to road mishaps due to dilapidated road condition in Jammu region, specially Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and Poonch Districts is appalling but the government is busy in rhetoric claiming everything is best," he said. The true facts are that nearly 150 people were killed and more than 1000 suffered injuries in over 850 road accidents reported between January to April this year across the Jammu region which speaks about the seriousness of government about road network in J&K in different states. Gupta accused the ruling dispensation for not respecting and showing serious concern towards the issues raised by the opposition which is a matter of grave concern as it undermines the basic principles of democracy. The opposition is the 'soul of democracy' as it challenges the wrong decisions of the ruling party so that citizens can get the best decisions for their welfare. Thus, running a government without respecting democracy is in fact a hypocrisy.

# National Seminar on "Smart Materials: Current Scenario and Future Prospects" held at SMVDU

**JAMMU, JUN 8:** A day-long national seminar on "Smart Materials: Current Scenario and Future Prospects" was successfully held today at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra. The seminar was organized by the School of Mechanical Engineering under the Faculty of Engineering, SMVDU. Dr. Ankush Raina, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, and coordinator of the program, provided an overview of the objectives behind organizing this seminar. The main aim of the seminar was to familiarize the participants with various smart materials used in the field of Mechanical Engineering. The inaugural session of the seminar was graced by Dr. Ankush Anand, In-charge Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Anand motivated the students and participants to gain valuable insights into the diverse applications of smart

materials. Esteemed speakers, including Dr. Ravi Pratap Singh from NIT Kurushetra, Dr. Akhil Kajuria from IIT Jammu, Dr. Ankush Anand from SMVDU, and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq from SMVDU, delivered enlightening lectures on different advanced materials. The speakers also emphasized the importance of sustainability aspects related to these materials.

# DIG IRP Range Jammu visits IRP-15th Battalion

JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUNE 08:** Deputy Inspector General of Police, IRP Range Jammu, Sarah Rizvi today visited the Battalion Headquarters of IRP-15th Battalion Gulshan Ground, Jammu and took stock of the activities carried out by the Battalion. On her arrival, the DIG IRP Range Jammu was received by Mubassir Latif SSP (CO IRP-15th Bn) along with other officers of the battalion.

After taking the General Salute at Quarter Guard, she conducted the darbar of the nafr. At the outset, CO, IRP-15th Battalion gave a brief introduction about duties/nafr and major issues related to accommodation/ logistics and welfare of jawans. A number of officials raised their genuine demands before her for which she assured an affirmative action and also appreciated the efforts put in by the Commandant IRP-15th Battalion for the welfare of the women officials. On her maiden visit to the IRP-15th Battalion, she inspected the Unit Mess / Creche / Gym / Barracks / Stores / Beauty Parlor / Knitting & Tailoring section etc. Later, the DIG IRP Range Jammu chaired a meeting of Gazetted officers of the unit in the office chamber of CO, IRP-15th Bn, and discussed various issues of the Battalion.

# Doda Admin releases annual publications highlighting District's Socio-Economic Profile

**JAMMU, JUNE 08:** District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Doda, Abdul Yaqoom, released multiple editions of the Annual Publications of the District Statistical & Evaluation Office (DSEO), here today.

The release function was held in the presence of Additional District Development Commissioner, Pran Singh; District Statistical & Evaluation Officer, Suresh Kr. Sharma; Assistant Director of Planning, Mohammed Shakeel; Tehsil, Shabir Ahmed and the Zonal Head of J&K Bank Ltd and other officials from DSEO, Doda.

The publications unveiled during the event included the Village Amenity Directory for the years 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22; the District Statistical Handbook for the years 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21; the District at a Glance for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21; and the District Economic Review for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

## IICA and NALSAR launch "LL.M in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Laws" programme

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 8

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) in association with NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad launched a new programme, LL.M in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Laws at New Delhi.

The first of its kind of programme in India was launched by Shri Manoj Govil, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, in the presence of Shri Praveen Kumar, Director General & CEO, IICA; Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice Chancellor; Prof. K. Vidyullatha Reddy, Registrar, NALSAR University of Law and Dr. Pyla Narayana Rao, Head, School of Corporate Law, IICA, besides faculty and staff members from

the both institutes.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Govil appreciated IICA for the course under this programme and collaborating with the world class institutions such as NALSAR University of Law. He further appreciated IICA for emerging as the leading institute in terms of offering the online and offline courses regularly on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Laws and Procedures. With reference to the LL.M Programme with NALSAR on IBC, the Secretary mentioned that the main objective of the programme is to produce the best and tailor made professionals, academicians and researcher on IBC who may take up the profession with utmost confidence and join the rich insolvency eco-system in

the country. While speaking about the course coverage, he mentioned that the contents of the course are covering all kinds of insolvency included both in IBC and allied legislations. He expressed his heartfelt happiness and wished the prospective students and both the institutes great success and long association.

Prof. Shrikrishna Deva Rao, Vice Chancellor, NALSAR, spoke about the association with IICA as historical considering the fact that the NALSAR and IICA are sharing the common goals to emerge as centre of excellence in this area of IBC. He expressed his confidence that both the institutes would go a long way to get associated and join the rich areas like Research, Teach-

ing and offering many more such courses in future. He assured that NALSAR would like to associate with IICA for all academic programmes in relation to corporate and commercial laws.

Shri Praveen Kumar, Director General & CEO, IICA, Prof. K. Vidyullatha Reddy, Registrar, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad and Dr. Pyla Narayana Rao, Head, School of Corporate Law, IICA also spoke on the occasion.

The course offered is a two-year full time LL.M. Degree Residential Course, with 51 credits arranged over four semesters, equally divided between the two campuses of IICA and NALSAR. The intense academic activity during each semester will be for at least 24 weeks of

teaching, research, practical assignments, seminar presentations focusing on the subjects offered, in and outside the classroom, and will also include four distinct periods of mandatory internship component with industry.

Initially, a total of 60 seats is being made available for each batch. The registration process for the course would start from 8th June, 2023 and end on 31st July, 2023. The classes would commence from 5th October, 2023 at NALSAR campus. Selection would be both through the CLAT scores and a written examinations-cum-interview process, each stream contributing 30 students each. Students can apply online at [www.nalsar.ac.in](http://www.nalsar.ac.in) till 31st July 2023.

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 8

New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime' was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on June 07, 2023. During the flight test, all objectives were successfully demonstrated.

This was the first pre-induction night launch conducted by the users after three successful developmental trials of the missile, validating the accuracy and reliability of the system. Range instrumentation like Radar, Telemetry and Electro Optical Tracking Systems were deployed at



capture flight data covering the entire trajectory of the vehicle.

Senior officials from DRDO and Strategic Forces Command witnessed the successful flight-test, which has paved the way for induction of the system into the Armed Forces.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO and the Armed Forces for the success as well as the copy-book performance of the New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni Prime

Secretary Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat appreciated the efforts put in by the teams of DRDO laboratories and the users involved in the test launch.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### It is a historic moment...

Union Territory," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism for accelerating development and tourism promotion in J&K.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah ji was expected to grace today's occasion with his presence but due to some indispensable work, he couldn't join us. He has conveyed his best wishes and told me his future event in Jammu will start only after paying obedience to Sri Venkateswara Swamy, said the Lt Governor.

We are also grateful to the Shri XV Subba Reddy, Chairman, TTD and other Board members for the establishment of Sri Venkateswara Temple in the land of spirituality and wisdom and to the people of J&K for their cooperation in this. He also acknowledged the hard work of the workforce engaged in the construction of the temple.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Jammu Kashmir is witnessing faster economic development and revival of culture in Amrit Kaal. The Union Territory is touching new heights of glory, divinity and development in its eternal journey, observed the Lt Governor.

"The Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir is looking ahead, to a bright future. It is our collective responsibility to contribute to the task of socio-economic growth and to ensure participation and empowerment of the common man," he said.

The Lt Governor said, along with the unprecedented development, the spiritual aspect of Jammu Kashmir is also scaling new heights.

The holy shrines of Sri Venkateswara, Baba Amarnath, Mata Vaishno Devi, Mata Sharada, Shiv Khori, Adi Shankaracharya Temple, Hazratbal and other prominent religious places and Sufi shrines in the UT will not only boost tourism but also develop Jammu Kashmir as the cultural-spiritual capital of the country, he added.

The Lt Governor lauded Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Shri Kailash Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan and other organizations for their immense contribution in promoting Vedic culture and traditions.

I am confident Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams will develop a Ved Pathshala and Health Centre on priority, he added.

"Lord Venkateswara maintains this world and he is the very basis of existence. His divine blessings continue to guide the journey of Atam-Nirbhar Bharat and ensuring peace and prosperity in the lives of people," the Lt Governor said.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State, while speaking on the occasion, said the historic day will script a new milestone in the development journey of J&K UT.

This Vikas Tirth is a celebration of India's unity in diversity and also signifies Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, he added.

Shri YV. Subba Reddy, Chairman, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Trust Board expressed gratitude to the Government of India and the Lt Governor led UT Government for their support and cooperation. I pray to Lord Venkateswara to bless the people of Jammu Kashmir with love, peace and prosperity.

Sh Bharat Bhushan, Chairman DDC Jammu; Sh Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, TTD board members, senior officials of Police and Civil administration, religious heads, political leaders and devotees in large numbers attended the historic inaugural ceremony.

### Over 1 lakh works...

stressed on saturating all the beneficiary oriented schemes especially those regarding self employment as per new demands on ground.

Dr Mehta told them to ensure that the funds earmarked for each work under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are timely accessed from Gol Ministries and spent for maximum benefit of public. He emphasised on uploading data on the Gol designated portals simultaneously so that funds are released timely by them and spent by the Departments as per their requirements. He advised them to seek assistance from IT Department, in case any technical issues are faced by them.

He enjoined upon the officers to ensure that uploading of all the works is done at an earlier so that necessary releases are made against each work through BEAMS portal. He told them to make it a feature to reflect activity wise/scheme wise releases so that everybody has a fair idea about each of the work and activity carried out by the departments. He also encouraged people to be partners in development by taking part through 'Janbhagidari' and monitoring their works themselves and provide the

feedback.

He expressed that each of the officer in any department should own the responsibility of being a catalyst in furthering the government policies and schemes. He stated that all of us should work with a right frame of mind to achieve better results in a time-bound manner. He made out that the 'Whole of Government Approach' is the cornerstone for percolation of benefits down to the grassroots level as per the aims and aspirations of general public.

The Chief Secretary also took note of the number of works completed previous financial year. He urged the Planning Department to come up with the E-Compendium of all these completed works like that of Districts at an earliest. He made out that the set target for completion of works this year should be met without any fail. He also urged them to achieve all the deliverables set for each of the department by following them with due urgency and application.

The Chief Secretary was informed that under UT Capex about 40510 works are going on currently out of which 32615 works are going to be completed at the end of this financial year. It was also revealed that under CSS a total of 19828 works would be taken in hand including the new ones out of which 17102 works are slated to be completed this year.

Similarly under District Capex the number of works to be taken up in different districts of the UT is 48454 for the year 2023-24. The funds are being released to the concerned DCs for taking them up and many of them had already been tendered out during past couple of months.

It was also given out that around 22837 works were completed under UT Capex alone last year. It was added that an E-Compendium of these works would be put in public domain shortly as was done by Districts depicting the works done under District Capex 2022-23. Such measures are going to enhance transparency as the public is encouraged to examine the performance of government themselves and give their feedback about improvements, if any.

It was also given out that the additional features like geo-tagging and photograph of works is putting extra checks to ensure that quality work is done on ground. Together with e-tendering and 3rd party verification of works by both PRIs and the Planning Department is aimed at bringing transparency and accountability in the execution of these projects throughout J&K.

### Relations with China...

due to Pakistan... and cross border terrorism has been there from the beginning. We are not ready to tolerate it.

"If you say that keep cross border terror aside and progress the relations with Pakistan, we are not ready to do that. If Pakistan wants to take forward the relations, they know what they need to do, and the world too knows it."

On China, he said that "China is our neighbour, and the biggest economy, and we will want that relations should be good. But relations can be good when there is peace and tranquility in the border areas and the agreements are adhered to."

He said that both sides were talking to each other to resolve the border row.

"With China, we are talking, it is not that communications have broken down... Even before Galwan happened we were talking to them and saying look we are seeing movement of your forces, which in our view is violative of our understanding... The day after Galwan happened, I spoke to my counterpart... Since then we have engaged, our military commanders have engaged, our embassies have engaged. I have engaged..."

Referring to Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang's visit to Goa for the SCO Foreign Minister's meeting last month, he said the two spoke on the border issue and that he also spoke with the Deputy Chinese PM on the sidelines of the BRICS meeting in Cape Town recently.

"The two of us have to find a way of disengaging. I don't believe that the present impasse is in China's interest either, as the relationship is impacted."

"And the relationship will continue to be impacted. If somehow there is an expectation that we will normalise, even if the border situation is not normal, it is not a well-founded expectation."

"...We have mechanisms, the WMCC and the senior high level commanders meeting; these continue to be there because at the end of the day disengagement is a very detailed process, and details have to be worked out by people on the ground. All of this continues to happen," he added.

### Tirupati Temple in...

tourism destination in India.

Under PM Narendra Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized, the 8th June, 2023, the day of the inauguration of

Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Jammu is a milestone in the journey of development of Jammu.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further said, the whole country is now integrated under PM Narendra Modi from east to West, from North to South and the Kashi Tamil Sangamam 'organised in Varanasi and Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple' at Jammu is the best examples of it with the objective to celebrate, reaffirm and rediscover the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, two of the country's most important and ancient sites of learning.

Y V Reddy, Chairman TTD, MP Jammu, Jugal Kishore, Chief Secretary J&K, Arun Kumar Mehta and Prashant Reddy, Member TTD were present during the inaugural ceremony.

### Dr Jitendra reviews...

investment in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Singh added. While appreciating CSIR-IITM for this project, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, CSIR-IITM is the oldest scientific research institute in India with the history of discovering mint water back in 1960s, the centre of purple revolution and now the Cannabis Research Project of CSIR-IITM is going to make it more prestigious in terms of scientific research in India. Dr. Jitendra Singh further said, for such a kind of important project, synergy between institutions like CSIR-IITM, IIT, IIT, AIIMS etc. is imperative to look for various technicalities involved in it like the marketing strategies that can be done through IIT, clinical trials through AIIMS, technical support through IIT etc. as all these institutions are only situated in a radius of few kilometres in Jammu which is now the hub of education in India.

During the meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh also directed CSIR-IITM, J&K DST and other stakeholders in this project to hold a workshop so that the challenges and issues related to it can be redressed on the spot and the work on the project is not stalled but increased.

The meeting was attended by Director CSIR-IITM, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Commissioner DST J&K, Sh. Sourabh Bhagat, DG Codes J&K, Sh. Shadi Lal Pandita, Excise Divisionary J&K, Sh. Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Dr. Shakti Gupta, Director AIIMS Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma, Principal GMC Jammu, Dr. Suarabh Saran, Principal Scientist CSIR-IITM, Dr. P P Singh, Principal Scientist CSIR-IITM, Er. Ab Raheem, Chief Scientist CSIR-IITM besides other officers of CSIR-IITM and DST J&K.

### Raghav Langer. Piyush...

Planning, Development and Monitoring Department and Dr Piyush Singla, Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department have been nominated as nodal officers.

As per the order Dr Raghav Langer has been nominated as nodal officer for Baltal Axis and Dr Piyush Singla for Pahalgam Axis.

"The officers shall closely monitor and liaison with all concerned agencies involved in the conduct of Amarnath Yatra 2023, and shall report to Chief Executive Officer Amarnath Shrine Board on a regular basis," the order reads.

### MHA orders transfer...

IAS officers, serving in J&K, Amit Sharma & Sagar D Datnatar and two IPS officers including Ashish Kumar Mishra and Mohita Sharma have been transferred from J&K.

According to the order, Anuj Kumar, IPS (2016) and Saurabh Chandra, IAS (2015) have been transferred to Jammu and Kashmir.

### Chugh lauds PM...

the MSP for moong has been fixed at Rs 8,558 per quintal, an increase of Rs 803.

He said MSP of paddy, the most cultivated crop in the country, has seen a hike of 7%, with MSP of common paddy fixed at Rs 2,183 per quintal for 2023-24 - a 7.01% increase over last year's Rs 2,040 per quintal. For paddy grade A, MSP has been announced at Rs 2,203 per quintal, which is 6.94% more than last year's Rs 2,060 per quintal.

This reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pro-farmer policies aimed at doubling farmers' income. Chugh said the Prime Minister has always kept farmers' interest uppermost in mind following which the increase in MSP has been highest during the last nine years.

"This decision would go a long way to abridge the gap between the cost and income of farmers over the Kharif crops."

The hike in MSP will allow farmers to procure higher quality foodgrains as well as invest on the modern techniques of farming.

The Modi government introduced one nation, one MSP, One DBT scheme to help farmers in a big way, Chugh added.

### MeT forecasts mainly...

and it was 3.0°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 5.6°C against 6.0°C on previous night and it was below normal by 2.4°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 21.7°C against 23.0°C on the previous night and it was 4.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 11.5°C, Batote 13.0°C, Katra 19.6°C and Bhandarwah 8.8°C. (Agencies)

### Close aide of Pro-Khalistan...

and Rajasthan, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The official said Singh was arrested in a case related to the terror activities of chiefs and members of proscribed pro-Khalistan terrorist organizations. The case was registered suo-moto by the NIA on August 20 last year.

The NIA had earlier arrested Lucky Khokhar alias "Denis" from Ganganagar in February, Jassa Singh of Moga on May 18, as well as Amritpal Singh alias Amog of Moga and Amrik Singh of Ferozpur, who were picked up from the IGI Airport, New Delhi on May 19.

While Peeta has been living in the Philippines, Dala, currently based in Canada, was declared a Proclaimed Offender by the NIA Special Court, Mohali, on Monday in a priest murder conspiracy case.

According to NIA investigations, Singh had been working for Dala and Peeta and was supporting them in smuggling weapons from across the border.

"He was also part of an extortion racket for raising funds for the banned KTF. Dala and Peeta have been continuously recruiting new cadres in India to carry out the activities of the terror group," the spokesperson said.

The NIA spokesperson said all the accused are working at the behest of KTF's self-styled chief Harjit Nijjar, currently based in Canada, who was also designated as an 'individual terrorist' by the Ministry of Home Affairs in July 2020.

"They are raising funds through extortion and other means, and carrying out smuggling of arms, ammunition and explosives across the border," the official said.

The spokesperson said KTF, as well as other proscribed terrorist organisations such as Khalistan Liberation Force, Babbar Khalsa International, International Sikh Youth Federation and Khalistan Tiger Force, have been engaged in promoting terror across India.

"Their activities include smuggling of terrorist hardware, such as arms, ammunition explosive, Improvised Explosive Devices across international borders, for carrying out terrorist acts like bomb explosions and targeted killings," the official said. (Agencies)

### BSF guns down Pak...

of model DJI Matrice 300RTK series, the official added. In Tarn Tara, BSF personnel detected the drone coming from the Pakistani side around the same time on Wednesday near Wan village and intercepted it, the spokesperson said.

After a while, the troops spotted a suspicious motorcycle coming from Wan and signalled it to stop. Its rider, however, sped away towards Mari Kamboke village. The BSF troops chased the bike and found it abandoned in the village, he said.

The village was cordoned off and during a search, a packet wrapped in a yellow adhesive tape was found, the spokesperson added.

The packet was found to be a consignment of heroin weighing around 2.50 kilograms. It is suspected that the bike rider was carrying the packet after it was dropped off by the drone. (Agencies)

### Incense Rape Case: Jammu...

Jammu (Now Economic Offences Wing) for in-depth Investigation," said the spokesman.

He said that after conducting the investigation substantial evidence was collected including FSL opinion and allegations levelled against the accused among two other co-accused persons were proved.

The Charge sheet was produced against the accused persons in the Court of law, said the spokesman.

He added that however, charge sheets against absconding criminals after they have been handed over to Police Station Basohli for further proceedings as warranted under law.

## Rakesh meets Union Minister Giriraj Singh, discusses strengthening of PRI institutions in J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUN 8: Rakesh Mahajan, Incharge All Cells BJP J&K and Senior BJP leader met with Union Minister for Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh and discussed various issues related to strengthening the PRI institution in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Mahajan apprised the Union Minister about the functioning of Panchayati Raj Cell of Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu and Kashmir, which is playing vital role in strengthening the PRI institutions in the



region and making PRI members aware of their crucial role in the upliftment of rural areas. Mahajan also briefed the Union Minister about the

74th amendments in the Union Territory.

Furthermore, Mahajan requested the Union Panchayati Raj Minister to visit Jammu and Kashmir and address the Panch Sammelan to impart awareness about the vision of Modi Government with regard to strengthening the Panchayati Raj institutions across the country.

The Union Minister assured Rakesh Mahajan that he would consider his request with regard to the upcoming convention in Jammu and Kashmir.

He asked him to continue their role in strengthening the PRI institution in J&K.

## CSIR-IIM organizes Young Researchers Meet and Awareness Programme for Farmers



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 8: CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIM) Jammu, as part of its One Week One Lab (OWOL) campaign, successfully organized a "Young Researcher Meet (YRM)" event at its main campus at Jammu and "Awareness Programme for Farmers" at its Chatha Experimental Farm, Jammu. Both events commenced with an introduction to the OWOL Programme, highlighting its conceptualization by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space; and Vice President, CSIR.

Young Researcher Meet witnessed the participation of over 100 aspiring researchers from various Universities. A poster session followed by a brainstorming discussion on cutting-edge research was conducted, where scholars from CSIR-IIM and visitors discussed the latest research and experimental outcomes. The scholars provided live demon-

strations of research and analytical facilities, showcasing laboratory techniques unique to the institute. This was followed by an interactive session where participants engaged with the Scientists from CSIR-IIM, Jammu. The participants greatly benefited from their insightful discussions. Dr. Love Sharma and Dr. Mir Asrar from RMBD&IT Division coordinated the YRM event.

More than 300 farmers from Rajouri, Jammu, Kathua, Samba, and Udhampur districts attended the Awareness programme for farmers at Chatha farm organized under CSIR-Aroma Mission Phase-III. During this day-long program, they were apprised of the cultivation, processing, value addition, product development, and marketing of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs). Farmers appreciated the efforts of IIM and showed enthusiasm to associate with the programme.

Chief Guest of the Programme, Dr. Sushil Kumar Gupta, Registrar and Dean, College of Horticulture and Forestry, SKUAST, Jammu, urged participants to take full benefit of the

programme and adopt cash crops like MAPs. He suggested that the synergy between CSIR-IIM, SKUAST, and Agriculture Department will bring good fortunes to the farmers.

Guest of Honour, K.K. Sharma, Director of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, apprised about various welfare schemes of the department and appreciated the effort of CSIR-IIM under the Aroma Mission. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, IIM Jammu, while speaking on occasion, said that after the remarkable success of CSIR-Aroma Mission Phase-I and II, CSIR has launched Phase-III of this mission project which would focus on establishing clusters where end-to-end solutions would be provided to farmers for value addition, product development for the inclusive economic development of the farmers of the region and the promotion of the agri-tech startup ecosystem. He also assured farmers that CSIR-IIM would provide all support possible under the CSIR-Aroma Mission Phase-III for developing Aroma farming and industry in the region. Earlier, Dr. Sumet Gairola, Nodal Scientist, CSIR-Aroma Mission Phase-III (CSIR-IIM), welcomed the guests and briefly introduced them to the achievements and plans of the CSIR-Aroma Mission Phase-III. Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, Head Plant & Agrotechnology Division, apprised participants about the "Purple Revolution" or "Success model of Lavender cultivation in J&K" under CSIR-Aroma Mission. Many scientists, technical officers, and scholars of the Plant Sciences & Agrotechnology Division were also present.

## DPAP stages massive protest rally against ration curtailment, imposition of property tax in J&K



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUN 8: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) on Thursday staged a massive protest rally here against stopping of ration to 70 percent Above Poverty Line (APL) population, curtailing it for those under below poverty line (BPL) and imposition of property tax in Jammu and Kashmir.

Taking to streets in Srinagar as DPAP launched protests in Jammu and Kashmir against ration curtailment and property tax imposition, senior leadership and hundreds of party workers marched from party headquarters towards Press Enclave before they were stopped near SK Stadium from where only the party leaders were all allowed to submit a memorandum to Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bihuri at his office.

Addressing the party workers and activists, senior leader DPAP Treasurer Taj Mohiuddin reminded the protesters that it was during

Ghulam Nabi Azad's tenure as chief minister that the then government sanctioned 11 kilograms of ration and five kilograms of atta to all sections of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Ironically, the present government has stopped the ration to majority of people thus depriving 70 per cent of APL population of basic necessities while 30% BPL population is being given mere five kgs which reflects mismanaged governance in Jammu and Kashmir," said Taj Mohiuddin. Criticising the UT administration on undertaking anti-people measures, Vice-Chairman GM Saroori said DPAP has commenced its struggle against the anti-people decision as majority of the population stands deprived of the ration be it a city or rural Jammu and Kashmir.

"We need old Jammu and Kashmir where citizens enjoyed and cherished life without any curtailment be it ration or property tax which the government of the day is soon going to implement," Saroori said.

The memorandum which the

DPAP leaders presented to Divisional Commissioner Kashmir said at the time of popular government, the BPL families used to get seven kgs per head to the limit of 35 kgs and the APL families were getting 13 kgs per head at landed cost.

"Jammu and Kashmir being food deficit area and right from the time of Maharajas the subsidized ration was given to the people as they established 'Shahi' store and later CAPD implemented the supply distribution and it was the only state from last more than 100 years that the population was given subsidized ration which needs to be restored immediately," said the DPAP memorandum to Div Comm.

Expressing its resentment of ignoring majority of the population, the DPAP memorandum said the APL population constituting 70 percent of people can't be deprived of this basic human need which is food to survive amidst massive hikes in power, LPG, and other essential commodities in Jammu and Kashmir. The DPAP leadership which spearheaded Thursday's protest rally in Srinagar, included Vice-Chairman GM Saroori, Treasurer Taj Mohiuddin, Provincial President Kashmir Mohd Amin Bhat, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nazami, General Secretary Khalid Tufail.

District President Srinagar Amir Bhat, Provincial General Secretary Shafeeq Shabnam, District President Baramulla Shoib Lone, ex-MLA Gulzar Wani, Zonal President Central Kashmir Pir Bilal, Altaf Dar, Mushtaq Khandey, Kaiser Sultan, Ahmad Sartaj, Mir Munir and hundreds of party workers.

## Declare Pir Panjal region as a backward special category region to reduce regional imbalance: Javed Rana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

MENDHAR, JUN 8: Javed Ahmed Rana President JKNC Pirpanjal region and former MLA Mendhar tears on present dispensation over regional imbalance and income irregularities in the erstwhile state Jammu and Kashmir and urged the government to take necessary step to reduce it by taking immediate necessary measures.

Rana urged that the government should work to improve the per capita state income figures to reduce the regional imbalance and disparity by making land reform and redistribution of surplus and unused land by giving ownership right to the landless and under privileged classes to improve their level hard.

Rana said that Finance Commission of India must give due weight age to backwardness of a Pir Panjal region as an important livelihood for resource transfer from the

Centre to the backward and special category region of Pirpanjal and that may be in the shape of special central assistant for this backward region, in the state plan, Non Plan and allocation of fund for centrally sponsored schemes allocation of broth short term and long term credit from financial institution etc.

Javed Rana also emphasized a special area development programme in order to develop its hilly areas tribal area, border area drought prone areas specific plan scheme must be prepared with full development be formulated for the improvement of specific group such as marginal farmers and agricultural labourers for the inhabitants of backward region.

Rana said the government must ensure social security measures for the workers to be considered as an important step towards reduction of income inequalities.

Some social security provisions for

the workers engaged in the organized second workmen's compensation for providing compensation in case of any injury to industrial workers, maternity benefit for women workers and employees. Rana said that with the growing menace of unemployment problem in the Pirpanjal region, the Government of India must introduced some special employment programmes since the Fourth Plan onwards in order to provide some relief and scope for gainful employment to unemployed. These programmes include Crash Scheme for Rural Unemployment, the Drought Prone Areas Programme, Food for Work Programme, self-employment schemes for engineers, employment schemes for educated unemployment etc. The former Legislator urged the government to grant Backward Region with special status to Pir Panjal area with an objective of socio economic development of the region.

## PDP demands adequate exgratia of Deepak Kumar's family

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 8: Expressing grave concern over the deteriorating security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, Peoples Democratic Party on Thursday asked the government to provide adequate relief to the family of poor Deepak Kumar alias Deepu who was killed in a militant attack in Kashmir some days back.

After visiting the residence of Deepak Kumar alias Deepu, a delegation of the PDP called on Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and highlighted the economic condition of the poor family.

Deepu, who was killed in a militant incident on May 29, was the lone breadwinner of the poor family.

While submitting a memorandum to the Divisional Commissioner, the PDP delegation demanded adequate ex-gratia relief, ownership of land, and a pucca house for the family members of Deepak Kumar. The party also demanded a government job for one member of the family of Deepak Kumar.

During their visit to the residence of Deepak Kumar, PDP leaders extended their condolences towards the family, on behalf of its president Mehbooba Mufti and the family of JKPPD.

The situation at the house



where the family resides demonstrated the world family against the vagaries of life," the party demanded.

The party delegation pointed out that the Government previously awarded a compassionate appointment to the wife of Rahul Bhat who was killed last year in Budgam District. Besides adequate relief for Deepak Kumar, PDP emphasized on peaceful return of Kashmiri Pandit families to the valley

in a manner not supported by force or coercion.

The party observed the Kashmiri Pandits are part and parcel of Kashmir.

While pointing towards the increasing unemployment graph in Jammu and Kashmir, the PDP demanded issuance of a government order making its mandatory for all Industrial units and Power Projects to have a minimum 70 % of employees to be permanent residents of erstwhile State of J&K only.

The delegation comprised of A S Ren general secretary, Sukhvinder Singh, Satpal Charak, Rajinder Manhas, Ashok Jogi (all additional general secretaries) Balbir Singh state secretary Sunil Bhat president migrant wing, Virender Singh, Sonu Shpkesperson, Sobhit Sharma district president Jammu urban.

## AP demands more sanitation staff during Amarnath Yatra

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 8: Apni Party leaders today called on Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Mayor, Rajinder Sharma at his office to discuss issues of public concern.

The Apni Party leaders including District Vice President, Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Matttoo, and Provincial Secretary Vishal Jotshi met the JMC Mayor and discussed the public issues in municipal wards. During the discussion, the leaders requested the Mayor to depute more sanitation staff during the upcoming Amarnath Yatra in Jammu to ensure cleanliness.

They said that "The Corporation must depute more workers in the wards and especially in areas where the Amarnath Yatis would stay and visit the markets.

## NTA betrayed CUET candidates by allotting exam centers outside J&K: Vijay Sharma

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 8: Congress Seva Dal President Vijay Sharma Babbi has said that the National Testing Agency (NTA) has cheated the candidates of CUET by allotting exam centers outside Jammu and Kashmir. Along with the students, their parents are also facing difficulties. A large number of students will not be able to participate in it due to allotting the examination center outside. Vijay Sharma said that this step of the gov-

ernment is very wrong, it will adversely affect the future of the students. Vijay Sharma said that it was assured by NTA that centers for local students would be made in J&K only, but on the contrary, students of all districts of J&K have been allotted centers in outside states. One wrong move by the government has put thousands of students and their parents in trouble.

The students whose centers have been set up in Punjab or other states are in a dilemma. It will not be possi-

ble for poor students to go for exams in foreign states and they will not be able to study further. The decision of allotting the examination centers to other states was opposed from all sides, but even a lice will not crawl on the ears of the government. If the government wanted, it could have intervened in time and issued an order to the NTA that centers for the students of Jammu should be built here, but this was not done, now the youth of Jammu are facing the brunt of it.

## Material Testing Lab inaugurated at Bandipora

LABORATORY IS A MAJOR BOOST TO QUALITY CONTROL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL WORKS: C.E R&B

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 08: Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir, Er. Rafiq Ahmad Rafiq along with Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal/ Bandipora Er. Nisar Ahmad Lala in presence of Ex. Engineer R&B Division Bandipora Er. Assadullah Najar on Thursday inaugurated District Material Testing Lab at Nathpora Kalosa, Bandipora.

Ex. Engineer R&B Bandipora Er. Assadullah Najar informed that the testing lab is fully equipped laboratory with the latest technology equipment/ machinery used in testing for various construction works.

It was given out that project cost of the laboratory is \$7.26.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Engineer Rafiq Ahmad Rafiq said that the laboratory is equipped with technology to conduct concrete and soil

tests. He said that laboratory is equipped to conduct cube test, brick test, wood test, cement test and other necessary tests besides various kinds of soil tests to ensure quality material for developmental works.

He said the laboratory is a major boost to quality control for developmental works and will ensure effective quality control in execution of developmental works.



## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere - Albert Einstein

## JINDRAH IMAGES

## Need to work on health infra in Ladakh

Ladakh, the cold desert of the country, has always craved for a better infrastructure in every sector of life, reason the remoteness of the area and tough terrains. The region has a very limited working season owing to the harsh weather conditions for almost six months in any calendar year. Two vital highways connecting the region with the rest of the country remain closed during winters, which makes it difficult for transportation of essential equipment, goods and other material required for developmental activities. The region, which is already facing the shortage of manpower and infrastructure in the health sector, has shown least progress in developing infrastructure in this vital sector. A Parliamentary Panel recently expressed dismay over the failure of the UT administration to make a "substantial progress" in the establishment of a medical college at Spituk Pharka in Leh district after the lapse of three years. The project was approved by the Government of India in 2019 and the land measuring over 737 kanals has been allotted for the establishment of a new medical college. The detailed project report (DPR) for the construction of the medical college is still under process/examination. The panel has recommended that the Ministry of Home Affairs could take up the case with the concerned Ministry and Department on a priority basis to remove administrative bottlenecks and expedite the construction of the medical college. It has further suggested that the Medical College may commence its academic activities from the existing hospital of the UT so that the medical students of Ladakh can get the option of pursuing medical education in the UT. There was a proposal for setting up a 100-student intake Medical College at Spituk Pharka along with a hostel for students and a residential quarter for the staff. The area would be 71000 sqm and the medical college would include an Academic block, Lecture theatres, an Anatomy Department, Dissection Hall, Museum, Laboratories, Student common room, medical education unit, Histology Lab, Biochemistry Lab and Pathology Lab. Ladakh administration had, last year, disclosed that the region was facing a severe shortage of medical officers and doctors with nearly 60 percent of posts lying vacant. The total sanctioned strength of medical officers and doctors in Ladakh was 175 against which 100 posts in different health institutions were lying vacant which comes to over 57 percent. In order to bridge the huge gap between sanctioned and vacant posts of doctors, the UT administration of Ladakh has made it mandatory for candidates seeking benefit of reservation under ST quota to sign a compulsory bond to get admission in MBBS, BDS and post graduate courses. Under the guidelines, there would be a penalty to the tune of Rs 50 lakh for MBBS and Rs 30 lakh for BDS students in case they do not serve for five years and three years in the region, respectively. The UT administration, despite tough working conditions, should expedite the process of setting up a new medical college in the area. It will ensure better healthcare facilities in the region.

# THE SAGA OF DUBIOUS DEFENCE DEALS AND INCONCLUSIVE PROBES

The CBI's track record in this regard is as disappointing as the MoD's debatable decision-making.

PK VASUDEVA

**I**NQUIRIES by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into innumerable cases of questionable Indian material purchases over the past four decades have largely failed not only in securing convictions or conclusively proving criminality, but conversely, they have impeded military modernisation, in turn adversely impacting operational efficiency.

Beginning with the Bofors howitzer import scandal in the late 1980s, followed soon after by the interminably investigated purchase of German HDW Type 209/1500 diesel-electric conventional submarines (SSKs), anti-materiel rifles, air defence systems, surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), VVIP helicopters and other assorted equipment, the probe agency has come a cropper.

The latest such case it registered in late May was against Rolls-Royce, two London-based Indian expatriates — deemed 'middlemen' or agents — and 'unnamed' officials from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for supplying Adour Mk87 engines to power the licence-built BAE Systems Hawk 132 advanced jet trainers for the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force. The CBI registered this case a whopping 19 years after the deal was signed in 2004, and nearly a decade after launching its preliminary enquiry (PE) into the reportedly dubious purchase.

And while its outcome will only be known in due course, the CBI's past record in conclusively proving anybody's culpability in a raft of allegedly dodgy military deals inspires little confidence, as a cursory audit reveals, in its competence in probing suspect military acquisitions.

L'affaire Bofors, for instance, which was largely responsible for Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress' defeat in the 1989 General Election, lasted 25 years and cost the exchequer Rs 250 crore in investigations, but resulted in a nebulous outcome. It also led to the MoD deferring till 2012 the option to domestically licence-build the Bofors FH-77B 155mm/39 calibre howitzers based on blueprints that were transferred to the Ordnance Factory Board alongside the Swedish gun purchase.

This chronic delay exacerbated the Indian Army's dire artillery shortfall during the 1999 Kargil war and an extended period thereafter,



when it faced challenges from a recidivist Pakistan along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. Eventually, after the CBI came up with nothing, the MoD operationalised the howitzers' drawings to develop the upgraded 155mm/45 calibre Dhanush howitzers that are presently being inducted into service to make up for enduring artillery shortfalls.

Similarly, CBI investigations into the HDW submarine contract, which included the outright purchase of two SSKs from Germany and the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) licence-building the remaining two platforms via the transfer of technology, proved detrimental to the Navy's underwater asset inventory. It spawned what the Navy even today distressingly refers to as the 'lost decade' between 1995 and 2005, when the MDL's submarine construction facilities were rendered idle, predicated on the CBI's inquiries which, after some two decades, were terminated without an outcome.

However, this hiatus in submarine building led to the MDL's specialised submarine workforce, especially skilled underwater welders, seeking alternative employment abroad. And, in 2005, after India signed a deal with France to licence-build six Scorpene SSKs, the MDL had to resurrect its submarine construction facilities and re-induct a specialised workforce at a great cost. This fiasco also ensued when the

Navy's depreciated conventional underwater fleet was ageing, and it remains woefully inadequate even today.

The CBI's probe into the procurement of 12 AW-101 helicopters for the IAF from AugustaWestland in 2010 to ferry VVIPs — with regard to alleged contravention of the MoD's Integrity Pact — led to the termination of all contracts with its parent company Finmeccanica (later, Leonardo) and all its other 38 subsidiaries. This latter proscription included Italy's Whitehead Alenia Sistemi Subacquei that had been contracted to supply the Navy 98 Black Shark heavy weight torpedoes (HWTs) for its Scorpene, of which five have already been commissioned. Terminating the HWT contract, however, resulted in the Scorpene being armed with upgraded German-origin SUT torpedoes acquired in the mid-1980s that Navy officers themselves concede remain a 'poor substitute'.

Earlier, in 2008, the CBI's PE into the procurement of three Brazilian Embraer EMB-145 aircraft by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for its indigenous aircraft early warning and control programme had revealed that \$5.76 million was illegally paid as commission to an 'overseas agent' to facilitate the sale. The CBI, for its part, was reacting to a report by Brazilian newspaper Folha De S. Paulo, but then it seemed that the trail went cold. The CBI has now

filed a chargesheet against arms dealer Arvind Khanna, advocate Gautam Khaitan and businessman Anup Gupta in the case.

In another case, in late 2013, the CBI filed a closure report on its eight-year-long inquiry into alleged wrongdoing by South Africa's state-owned armaments maker Denel, to secure the contract to supply 1,000 NTW-20 anti-materiel rifles and 3,98,000 rounds of ammunition to the Army for an estimated \$40 million. In its report filed before a special CBI court in New Delhi, the investigative agency claimed it had failed to uncover any 'credible' evidence of corruption in the rifle procurement. However, Denel, which produced a range of competitively priced weaponry which India needed and could have acquired, remained blacklisted for years.

Another case pertained to the contract with Israel Aerospace Industries to locally manufacture Barak-8 SAMs for all three services in conjunction with the DRDO. The CBI also investigated terminated tenders for air defence guns once, and twice for light utility helicopters, but failed to ascertain culpability. It is nobody's case that corruption and transgression in military contracts should, in any way, be overlooked and not probed. But the CBI's overall track record in this regard is as disappointing as the MoD's debatable decision-making in building India's military capability.

## Behavioural change can turn the tide

TKARUN

**C**URBING demand is the solution to several key challenges that humanity faces, whether it's environmental sustainability or drugs, but political expedience has focused attention, for the most part, on the supply side. This must change.

BBC has reported that the Taliban are waging a war on opium cultivation in Afghanistan, the world's most prolific supplier of opium, morphine and heroin. Their gun-toting representatives are going around the land, destroying the poppy crop wherever they see it. Satellite images reportedly show an 80 per cent decline in the area under opium poppy in Afghanistan. The Taliban should be getting big congratulations from those waging a war on drugs and those running de-addiction and rehabilitation centres, right?

Global warming is a real problem. The most sustainable solution calls for, among other things, curbing consumption.

On the contrary, the people who are likely to chip in with congratulatory messages for the Taliban might be the cocaine cartels of South America, the fentanyl specialists in Mexico and the Chinese companies that ship fentanyl's precursor chemicals to Latin America without a wrinkle on their conscience.

As long as the demand for mind-altering substances remains strong, the supply would be forthcoming. If there

### Technology alone not enough to tackle climate change, drug menace



is a reduction in the supply of heroin, close substitutes would make up for the deficit — cocaine, derived from the coca plants of South America, or fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.

The US has been waging a war on drugs since President Nixon's time. The focus of the war has tended to be on the supply side, rather than on curbing demand. This is a choice that stems from political expedience.

Focusing on the supply lets America externalise the problem. Bad actors in other countries are the target, not the social maelstrom that drives young people to mind-altering highs with the

help of drugs. Clamping down on supply can deliver telegraphic footage of drug enforcement officers intercepting smugglers on the southern border, and highlight efforts in external assistance and diplomacy to induce foreign governments to curb the production and supply of drugs in their domains.

Focusing on the supply also helps the 'get-tough-on-crime' agenda, beloved of many politicians. Police departments get to act tough and conscientious, cracking down on criminal gangs that act as the last mile conduits of drugs smuggled into the country. All this helps the incumbent American

administration convince voters that it has been doing its bit to fight the drug menace.

Clamping down on demand, however, is far more complex. It entails challenging comforting illusions of middle-class existence. It calls for scrutiny of popular culture and the conduct of its icons. It demands harsh examination of the relations between parents and children, of accountability and discipline, of the responsibilities of friendship and kinship, raises questions about trade-offs between short-term pleasure and long-term pain, of developing the right values and social sensibilities in the young. It raises questions about what is taught at school, what is learnt and what ought to be the school experience. Worse, focusing on the demand side draws religion, its teaching and its practice into the mix. It calls for community leaders and elders, if not religious heads, to find and affirm the degrees of latitude acceptable around the totalising righteousness of prescriptive morality, for which the confusion of coming of age inevitably creates a need, to avoid pushing the adventurous to abandonment of morality altogether.

It calls for effective governance to enforce the law without fear or favour; it calls for sensible economic policies

that create jobs and the space for young people to expand their horizons, and keep despair out of social life.

It is far simpler to externalise the enemy and fight him outside your own society — so what if it will not work, and opioid addiction continues to mount!

A similar logic is at work in the domain of the environment as well. Global warming is a real problem causing heatwaves, forest fires, droughts, downpours, ever stronger and unpredictable cyclones, cloudbursts, floods, crop failures, rising sea levels, shrinking glaciers and other damage. Remedial action is called for. The most sustainable solution calls for, among other things, curbing consumption. Identification of happiness with ever-rising levels of consumption for the sake of consumption must be undone, and fulfilment must be found in matters other than material objects — at least after a minimum level of creature comfort has been achieved. The world has enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed, said Gandhi. The boundary between need and greed cannot be constant, no doubt. A daily shower, running water and en suite toilets were a luxury till the turn of the 20th century, even for the world's royalty. Norms have changed since then.

However, right now, the annual emission of greenhouse gases per capita is 17 tonnes for North Americans, less than 1.5 tonnes for South Asians and below one tonne for Africans, on a consumption basis. Yet, North Americans are asking South Asians to curb their emissions so as to save the planet! At the same time, North American cultural power feeds emulation of the North American lifestyle across the globe, including in the very same South Asia and Africa, where the local populace is expected to curb their emissions.

Fast fashion and the social media-driven conviction that no self-respecting young adult can afford to be seen in the same outfit on more than one major occasion — and every occasion is recorded for posterity — are just two of the most striking examples of the environment-negative trend that the rich nations' popular culture has imposed on the world and which must be resisted stoutly.

Fighting climate change calls for technology that would remove carbon dioxide from the air for possible commercial use in creating new products. But technology alone does not offer a solution to climate change.

Behavioural change and a deep shift in the value system underlying the behaviour are essential as well.

## Sanjay Kapoor says he had to be 'carried out of the theatre' after being mobbed at a screening of Raja

Actor Sanjay Kapoor made his debut with the film Prem in 1995, but it was his second film Raja that made him popular overnight. The actor recalled experiencing fame for the first time after attending a screening of the film in Mumbai. He said in an interview that he couldn't get out of the theatre after being spotted.

In an interview with Bollywood Hungama, Sanjay recalled wanting to watch the audience's reaction to his film, but ended up almost being mobbed by a crowd. He said, "It was incredible! I never realised how successful I was and how people had started loving me with Raja, or that Raja had become this superhit film. I wanted to experience it, and I went to Gaiety to watch it, and three-four months had passed since the film's release." The actor, who didn't have a

security team back then, recalled that his friends left him behind while exiting the theatre, and he had to take the help of some other people to escape the crowd.

"The buzz went around, and it was in Gaiety Galaxy, and you know it's such a small lane to come out. Thankfully, I knew some people, and they had to carry me out of the theatre and take me to the car. Until 7-8 years back there were no security guards. Today one actor is walking with 20 guards... I had gone with my friends, and they said, 'Hum tere saath nahi aayenge' (We will not leave with you). They went ahead and I got stuck, literally. They (theatre audience) were all being nice to me, but I didn't realise how things have changed. It was a normal thing for me to go to the theatre," said the actor, who will next be seen in Bloody Daddy.



## SGPC objects to Gadar 2 scene shot in gurdwara



The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee has raised strong objection to the shooting of a scene of Sunny Deol starrer Gadar 2 on the premises of a gurdwara.

The general secretary of the apex gurdwara body, Gurcharan Singh Grewal, said the movie's hero and heroine can be seen in a particular act in the gurdwara which was objectionable.

"Flower petals are being showered (on the actors). Moreover, Gatka (a Sikh martial art) Singh could be seen performing around them," said Grewal in a tweet.

Expressing displeasure, Gurcharan Singh Grewal said Sunny Deol and the director of the movie should understand that a gurdwara is not a place for shooting such a scene.

"We want to say that such pictures (a video clip) which are appearing is shameful for the Sikh community," the SGPC general secretary said.

In a clip which surfaced online, Sunny Deol, who is also a BJP MP, and actress Amesha Patel can be seen standing arm in arm and looking at each other at the gurdwara while Gatka experts are performing around them.

## Shahid Kapoor urges South Indian audience 'to be open' to Hindi movies: 'Hindi audience has accepted your films'

Actor Shahid Kapoor, who will be seen in Ali Abbas Zafar's Bloody Daddy this week, recently appealed to the South Indian audience to accept Bollywood movies with open hearts, just as the Hindi-speaking audience has 'wholeheartedly' accepted their films.

In an interview with Bollywood Spy, Shahid said, "The Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada audience should also watch Hindi films just as how the Hindi audience has accepted your films with an open heart, you all should also accept our films. Only then the cinema will grow, the audience should be open, and there should be acceptance from every quarters."

Citing the recently concluded season of



the Indian Premiere League as an analogy, Shahid added, "I feel everybody should work with everybody because when you watch the IPL, as an example,

there is a team from every state. There are also fifteen extra players sitting on the bench and waiting, and players are being prepared that way. So, when the Indian team is being made, you must have seen how now there is an India A squad and India B squad. Why do we have that? We had the power to go to the B squad also because we have so many good players. That only happens because everybody is coming together to add more value, so films should also be like that.

"...everybody should come together to add more value so more people go to the theatres. But everybody should have the same attitude" Shahid also compared Ram Charan and Jr NTR's RRR and Yash's KGF: Chapter 1 & 2 with the action films of Bollywood stars Salman

Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Amir Khan and Akshay Kumar.

Shahid said, "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our filmmakers were not able to shoot abroad for their big-scale action films, therefore such films were not released for some time... But otherwise, from Hindi cinema's standpoint of action films, our biggest superstars, whether it is Salman Khan or Akshay Kumar, or whether it is Aamir Khan in Ghajini, I think we have made very good action films. Hrithik Roshan is very, very good in action, War was fantastic."

Shahid's Bloody Daddy, directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, also stars Sanjay Kapoor, Ronit Roy, Rajeev Khandelwal and Diana Pentz. The film will start streaming on JioCinema from June 9.

## The Days review: Netflix's Fukushima mini-series lacks the artistry of Chernobyl



Detailed to the point of drudgery, Netflix's The Days is a Very Serious Show about the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster that gets so disappointingly lost in the weeds that it loses all sense of drama. Ostensibly a Japanese version of HBO's seminal mini-series about the Chernobyl disaster — Fukushima and Chernobyl are the only two nuclear accidents classified as level five on the International Nuclear Event Scale — The Days lacks much of that show's subtle artistry and clever socio-political sentiment.

As the title suggests, the eight-part drama is set in the days leading up to, during, and immediately after the accident, which was caused by a record earthquake that shook the very foundations of the nuclear plant, and resulted in structural damage that would quickly have a cascading effect.

Veteran actor Koji Yakusho (13 Assassins) plays the site manager Masao Yoshida — a middle-aged geny the sapper with a middle-manager role that would've likely led him to retirement. He's this show's equivalent of Jared Harris' Valery Legasov from Chernobyl (without any of the disillusionment and post-traumatic stress that perhaps led to Legasov taking his own life).

It's difficult to tell the exact timeline of events if you watch the show in one go. Episode one is designed as a typical disaster story; it ends with the earthquake and subsequent tsunami that set everybody on high alert. The next few episodes are dedicated to meticulous examination of the damage, the careful observation of rising radiation levels, and concerned planning about how to handle a potential fallout.

By the time the reactor actually explodes in episode six — this was the inciting incident in Chernobyl, by the way — you're either going to be mostly confused by all the detail that the show has been insisting you pay attention to, or too tired to continue.

But this curious structural decision is a key to engaging with The Days on its own terms. Unlike Chernobyl, which was mainly concerned with the consequences of not only a nuclear disaster but governmental deceit.

## 'Am I supposed to die unhappy?': Ashish Vidyarthi opens up about facing hate after re-marriage



Actor Ashish Vidyarthi recently announced his second marriage, and received a lot of love and support from friends and family. The 57-year-old actor married Guwahati-based entrepreneur Rupali Barua in a small ceremony in Kolkata recently. The actor said that the news of his marriage also invited several negative comments from trolls, who mocked his age.

In an interview with India Today, Ashish questioned the naysayers, and asked why he cannot seek happiness and companionship at his age. He said, "I read words like 'buddha-khosat (old)' and many more derogatory words. What is interesting is that it is a comment (being a buddha) that each one of us, whoever is saying that, we are passing on others who are older than us, and at the same time, we are giving that fear to ourselves, because each one of us, hopefully, will become old. We are telling ourselves, 'Hey, listen, don't do things just because you're old.' So, does that mean you're supposed to die unhappy? If somebody wants companionship, why should he not?"

## Por Thozhil movie review: Debutant Vignesh Raja delivers an engaging buddy cop film

There is a gripping moment in Por Thozhil when the prime suspect of serial killings in Trichy is stopped at a level crossing by a police inspector. He is scared to approach the suspect, but his senior officer Lokanathan (Sarith Kumar) carefully guides him over the phone. When the suspect says he is returning after a night show, he is asked to show the ticket. After a lot of searching through his car, he produces one. However, the senior officer on the phone is not convinced. The inspector, who has seen the film, is asked to casually strike up a conversation with the suspect about the fight sequences in the movie. It is a trap because the film doesn't have one, and this writing is just brilliant because Por Thozhil doesn't have one either.

Such streaks of brilliance are not something you get often in a genre film like Por Thozhil in Tamil. Por Thozhil Pazhagu (Learn the art of war), a line from Tamil poet Bharathiyar's Puthiya Aathi Chuvadi, is the inspiration for the title of the film, which is also a coming-of-age drama about an anxious cop. Instead of going for the entire line, just choosing Por Thozhil and

leaving Pazhagu is clever because the director trusts that the audience will understand the intention. He believes they will finish the line in their head, and that trust is seen in the writing as well, which is minimalist and doesn't try to walk you through everything under the sun like most of our films. Por Thozhil is not without expositions, but they are downplayed and forgivable.

Por Thozhil follows all the tropes of a buddy cop film to a tee. Lokanathan is the archetype of the veteran grumpy, misanthropic, reclusive, and brooding cop. He is asked by a senior officer, a friend, to mentor DSP Prakash (Ashok Selvan), a new member of the crime branch in Chennai. On that very day, they are given a high-profile serial killer case in Trichy. Two young women are killed with the same modus operandi, and the duo should find the killer before he strikes again. Lokanathan is hostile to Prakash and bullies him and exploits his anxiety to make him leave the mission. But Prakash is resilient, and the game is afoot.

The success of Por Thozhil lies in the simplistic approach of the makers. There's no fat here in terms of

heroism or romance. Vignesh just sticks to Lokanathan and Prakash and the story at hand. Maybe, the moral science lesson towards the end might have been an added weight, but even the preaching is done in a taut manner that you are not even given time to complain. Yet, the film is not without its problems. The biggest one is the characterisation of the psychopath, which was inconsistent and a bit contrived to aid the twist. To avoid spoilers, let me just say that it felt like a convenience rather than a real person. It was a bit off because the rest of the story is as genuine as it can get.

Writers Vignesh Raja and Alfred Prakash, who are otherwise pretty conscious of things, should have figured out another way out of the problem.

Nevertheless, Por Thozhil is an engaging crime thriller that holds your attention throughout, and a huge credit goes to the restrained performances of both Sarith Kumar and Ashok Selvan. When the script is doing all the talking, the two just deliver nothing more than what is demanded. When the film ended with the promise of a sequel, I was happy.



## DIMPLE KAPADIA: A VERSATILE PERFORMER WHO HAS REDEFINED PORTRAYAL OF OLDER WOMEN

Actor Dimple Kapadia was inspired to be an actor after watching yesteryear Bollywood diva Asha Parekh in the 1964 film Ziddi where she played a 'rebel without a cause'. Since then, by her own admission, Kapadia has been a "rebel without a cause" too.

Back in 1973, she let go of a flourishing career after the success of her debut movie Bobby, only to be Mrs Rajesh Khanna. And, after a failed marriage, she rebelled against the stereotype of married actors being less attractive and returned to

movies after a 13-year gap. Talking about her comeback in an interview with Rediff, she had said, "It is not the audience who rejects us; it is the people in the industry who believe that once you are married you are not desirable to the audience. I think I proved them wrong."

Dimple Kapadia didn't stop there.

Even as years went by, she made sure not to move away from the silver screen, as most of her contemporaries did. Instead, she focused on picking up roles which do not showcase an older woman as 'bechari'

That was also because she "didn't like to play 'have main dukharyi (oh I'm so sad)' type roles." She flouted societal norms of older women being confined to their homes, being a burden on their children or being sacrificial to keep her family first.

She picked roles which, if not central to the story, shined even in the background.

Dimple Kapadia photos from Dimple Kapadia turns 66 on Thursday. (Express Archive Photo)

Through the late 1990s and early 2000s, Kapadia portrayed

characters suitable for her age—such as that of an unhappy wife in an open marriage in Somnath Sen's Leela (2002) and a divorced-and-vulnerable mother in Farhan Akhtar's Dil Chahta Hai (2001).

Both the roles were written for her. Farhan had once accepted that he would have "scrapped" Dil Chahta Hai if Kapadia would have rejected the film because he wrote Tara only for her.

She appeared in a supporting role in Zoya Akhtar's Luck By Chance in 2009, and proved her timelessness as she delivered a

terrific performance as the super-ambitious yesteryear diva Nina Walia trying to launch her daughter in the industry. With every performance, Kapadia made it difficult for filmmakers to box her into a category. In between her meaningful performances, Kapadia also did a few smaller roles since they were the demand of her "bank balance".

While speaking at the Jaipur Literature Festival in 2018, the actor accepted that she gives her nod for a role either because it is very important for her or because of money.

# India is recognised as responsible development partner and a voice of Global South:President Murmu

**BELGRADE, JUN 8:** President Droupadi Murmu has said that India is recognised as a responsible development partner and a voice of the Global South on the global stage, reflecting the country's quest towards becoming a leading power.

Addressing the Indian community in the Serbian capital on Wednesday, she also said that new infrastructure is coming up across India at a breathtaking pace and the country hopes to be a developed nation by 2047, the centenary of its independence.

"India is undergoing a rapid and unprecedented transformation. India is the fastest growing major economy in the world. With a GDP approaching USD 3.5 trillion, we are on the way to becoming the world's third biggest economy before the end of this decade. India is confidently pursuing its ambition to be a developed country by 2047," the president said.

"We are going through a phase of massive development, infrastructure, digital, green energy and social transformation," she said in her address soon after her arrival here on a state visit.

On the global stage, India is recognised as a responsible development partner, a First Responder, and a voice of the Global



South, she said.

"Each of these aspects reflects our quest towards becoming a leading power," she said, referring to the leading role played by India on the issues related to climate action, counter-terrorism, connectivity, maritime security, financial inclusion and food security.

She said India as a civilisation believes in "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which means the world is one family. India's G-20 Presidency, which is based on the theme 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', reflects the country's centuries-old principle, she added.

The president said that early indications suggest that India's gender ratio is in favour of women and cited the results of the civil services exam in which top four positions were achieved by women.

Noting that India and Serbia are both ancient lands, the president said

that in the modern era, India's relations with Serbia were particularly defined in the context of the Non-Aligned Movement.

She said that the busts of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and Rabindranath Tagore in Belgrade, and the Josip Broz Tito Street in New Delhi, and the Tito roundabout in Jodhpur stand testimony to that historical connection.

Serbia has been a valuable partner in India's sustainable development cooperation programmes, she added. India and Serbia have always shared an understanding of each other's core interests, Murmu said, adding that based on this bilateral foundation, she would look forward to interacting with the Serbian leadership during her visit.

She also hailed the sports ties between the two countries and said tennis player Novak Djokovic is seen as a role

model and inspiration for millions in India.

"Several sports coaches from Serbia are helping Indian athletes and sports persons to improve their skills," he said. "We are touched by your admiration and love for India."

She also noted that Indian movies are popular in Serbia, and the European country has emerged as a new film destination for Indian filmmakers.

"I was very pleased to see the cultural performance by the children," she said, adding that many Serbians have a deep affinity for India's spiritual heritage, including yoga. "I am also told that Ayurveda is recognised here as a system for cure and treatment."

The president appreciated the Serbian Friends of India for their admiration and love for India. She said that their role in strengthening the friendship and understanding between India and Serbia is invaluable.

President Murmu, who arrived here from Suriname, was received by her Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic at the airport. Her visit is the first by an Indian President to Serbia. "President Droupadi Murmu was given a warm welcome on arrival in Belgrade.

# India's Samudrayaan project on track construction of manned submersible vehicle apace: Kiren Rijiju

**Chennai, June 8:** India's mission to send a manned submersible vehicle to a depth of 6,000 metres to explore the sea, part of the Samudrayaan project, is progressing as scheduled and the vehicle will be ready soon, Union Minister for Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju said on Thursday.

The indigenous mission, which the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) here is working on, will involve three people going to a depth of 6,000 metres under the sea in the submersible vehicle called 'Matsya 6000'.

"The Samudrayaan, comprising manned and unmanned exploration, is a very critical effort started by the ministry of earth sciences. The unmanned mission has gone beyond 7,000 metres, while the submersible for the manned mission is under construction," the minister said.

"I will be overseeing the progress of the construction with our scientists and engineers. I hope we will complete it on time," the minister told reporters here after speaking at the World Ocean Day celebrations at NIOT.

He said India will have to play a critical and leadership



role in exploration of the ocean and develop resources in a sustainable manner for a balanced ecosystem.

"Similar to space exploration, we need to go deeper into the ocean and do research. We must be prepared to go much deeper and make India proud... Life in the ocean and life on the land are directly connected," Rijiju said at the event and called upon people to rededicate themselves on World Ocean Day to contribute in a much better way to humanity.

"We must build our future more secure and enrich ourselves with better knowledge systems, live with dignity and respect

nature. God has been kind to us. Whatever has been gifted to us through nature must be preserved," the minister said.

Rijiju, who earlier in the day launched a coastal cleaning drive at Besant Nagar here, said the initiative would send out a strong positive message that the government is concerned about the lives on land as well as the ocean.

He called upon the NIOT scientists to showcase their research outcomes, as these are basically meant to benefit the people. Success stories should be told to people in a better and candid manner, he added.

He regretted that the blue economy's contribution to

the national GDP is less than 10 percent. "We are underperforming. Smaller countries with shorter coastlines have larger contributions to their national economy. This means India will have to ensure that oceans do not remain as a vast potent canvas but utilise the resources in the best possible manner," he said.

Secretary of Ministry of Earth Sciences M Ravichandran, Director of NIOT C A Ramadoss, Rear Admiral of Indian Navy Ravi Kumar Dhingra, NSS volunteers as well as representatives of the Norwegian Embassy along with the public participated in the beach cleaning drive.

# Court asks RS Secretariat to not evict AAP MP Chadha from official bungalow till it decides his plea

**NEW DELHI, JUN 8:** In an interim relief to AAP MP Rajgav Chadha, a Delhi court has directed the Rajya Sabha secretariat to not dispossess him of a Type-7 bungalow in Lutyns Delhi, which is usually allotted to lawmakers who are former ministers, chief ministers or governors, till the pendency of his application and without following the due process of law.

The court will now decide the maintainability of Chadha's application against the March 3, 2023 order of the Rajya Sabha secretariat cancelling the allotment of the bungalow to him on July 10. Nobody from the Rajya Sabha secretariat was immediately available for comments on the judicial order and the MP's petition.

Additional District Judge Sudhanshu Kaushik had on June 1, after hearing the arguments from both sides on the issue of maintainability, fixed the matter for July 10 for order.

The court had in April directed the secretariat not to dispossess Chadha of the bungalow till the pendency of the application "without due process of law".

"At this stage, I do not deem it expedient to comment on the arguments raised by the plaintiff that the allotment once made by the secretariat cannot be cancelled under any circumstances during the entire tenure of a

Member of Parliament," the judge had said.

However, I do find force in the second limb of the argument advanced on behalf of the plaintiff that a person cannot be dispossessed except by following the due process of law, the judge said.

"Since, the plaintiff (Chadha) is occupying an accommodation, which falls under the category of public premises, the defendant (Rajya Sabha Secretariat) is obligated to follow the due process of law," he said.

The judge noted Chadha's submission that the secretariat was acting in "haste" and there was a strong likelihood that he might be dispossessed without following the due process of law.

Chadha's counsel had urged the court to grant an interim order of injunction against the secretariat, claiming it was "hell bent" to evict Chadha from the allotted accommodation.

He contended Chadha will suffer irreparable injury, in case the injunction was not granted.

No orders have been passed by the estate officer and eviction proceedings have not been initiated, the court noted.

Chadha was on July 6 last year allotted a 'Type 6' bungalow at Pandara Park but he made a representation to the chairman of the Rajya Sabha on August 29 requesting for a 'Type 7' accommodation.

He was then allotted another bungalow on Pandara Road from the Rajya Sabha pool.

However, in March this year, the allotment was cancelled. Chadha sought an injunction to the effect that the secretariat be restrained from taking any further action in consequence of the March 3 letter and be restrained from allotting the bungalow to some other person. The AAP MP also sought Rs 5.5 lakh in damages from the secretariat for causing him mental agony and harassment. As a first-time MP, Chadha is entitled to a Type-5 accommodation in the normal course, according to the Rajya Sabha Members Handbook released in April 2022.

# ED questions TMC leader Abhishek's wife in coal pilferage case

**KOLKATA, JUN 8:** Senior TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee's wife Rujira was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday in connection with the coal pilferage case, officials said.

A panel of five officers, including those from New Delhi, interrogated Rujira for over three hours, they said. Rujira was stopped at the Kolkata airport on Monday when she was going to UAE with her two children. She was then served the summons for appearing before the agency at 11 am on June 8.

However, she reached the CGO Complex around 12:40 pm with her lawyer. She left the ED office around 4:20 pm following the questioning. Abhishek, the nephew



of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, alleged the "harassment" of his family was aimed at stopping his outreach campaign ahead of the panchayat elections in West Bengal. Tight security arrangements were made around the CGO Complex to prevent any untoward inci-

dent, a senior police officer said. Both CBI and the ED earlier questioned Rujira in the case. The CBI was probing the scam over illegally-mined coal from the abandoned mines of Eastern Coalfields, estimated to be worth thousands of crores of rupees, officials said. They said the crime pro-

ceeds were transacted through the Hawala route, while the ED was probing. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) alleged that the ED's action was a political vendetta by the BJP. "Whenever Abhishek Banerjee was summoned, he cooperated. But the way his family is being harassed is shameful. This is nothing but political vendetta by the BJP," TMC's state general secretary Kunal Ghosh said.

"The BJP is afraid of the TMC's 'Nabojwar' campaign ahead of the panchayat polls, and also wants to divert the attention from the train accident," he claimed. The state BJP said the CBI and ED were independent agencies, devoid of any political influence.

# Dehradun's Early Intervention Centre Preparing children with special needs for real world

**DEHRADUN, JUN 8:** Six-year-old Mohd Akdas was born with impaired hearing that affected his speech. Two years of treatment and therapy, and a cochlear implant later, he left his mother emotionally overwhelmed when he called her 'ammi' for the first time.

Akdas is among the 531 children with special needs who are preparing for the real world at the Early Intervention Centre of the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities here which is devoted to helping children overcome challenges faced due to disability.

"He is still getting used to it," said Akdas' mother, Shikha Parveen as she kept touching his ear repeatedly to feel the newly implanted device that helps him hear.

Akdas had the surgery recently and has begun hearing sounds in the last one month. Right now, he is undergoing counselling and training.

"When he called me ammi, I broke down. This was the first time he said the word," Parveen said, fighting back tears.

Parveen said she struggled for two years and went against her family members and relatives so that her son could hear and speak.

"I was told by my relatives that this is how (Akdas) is born and I should accept it. But I wanted to give him a chance at life," she said.

Parveen vowed to spare no effort in seeking treatment for her son and left her village in Uttar Pradesh to move to Dehradun two years ago.

After two difficult years, Akdas can finally hear, she said.

Cyprata S, special educator and trainer at NIEPVD said two types of training are offered at the institute — an individualised educational programme and a group therapy.

"In group therapy, we are training the children to adapt to regular school. So when we sit in a group and we sit

in a circle, we follow the same kind of rules like everybody has to sit and everybody has to do the same actions at the same time. So this is a classroom setup," she told PTL. As part of the individualised therapy, a specific programme is planned to meet the needs of a child, she said. The EIC at Dehradun is among 14 pilot cross-disability early intervention centres for children that were launched in 2021, she said. The centre provides screening and identification, rehabilitation, counselling, and therapeutic services among others for different disabilities under one roof and in a contiguous manner. Meanwhile, a mother of another child hoped that his child who is autistic and has attention deficit disorder will get cured soon.

"I come here every day for various activities that help him cope and socialise. I am hoping that with proper counselling he would be able to join a regular school," said the mother who did not wish to be named.

be done on what is a "very difficult" issue. "What we want to do is completely change the situation on migration," Darmanin said.

His Spanish counterpart, Fernando Grande-Marlaska — whose country has struggled to deal with an influx of people trying to enter from North Africa through Spanish islands in the Atlantic — warned that "if we don't reach that agreement, I think that all of us will be losers."

Even if a political agreement is reached Thursday, the member countries must still negotiate a full deal with the European Parliament, which has a different view of solidarity — one that requires countries to draw up detailed "annual migrant support plans" in case of emergency.

Lawmakers have warned that this is a last chance to solve the conundrum before EU-wide elections in a year, when migration is likely once again to be a hot-button issue.

Should the EU fail, the project might have to be abandoned or completely overhauled as it's taken up by the next European Commission — the bloc's executive branch — and the new members of parliament after next June's polls.

"If we miss this chance to make it right, I don't think we will have another," Spanish Socialist lawmaker Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, a leader on migration policy, said in April. "The kind of a message would be: Hey, listen, it's not going to happen. Not this time. Ever."



# Amitabh Ranjan Sinha visits Bandipora; Reviews progress on Jal Shakti Abhiyaan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA JUNE 08: Union Joint Secretary and Additional Financial Advisor, Ministry of Defense, Amitabh Ranjan Sinha, who is Central Nodal officer for Bandipora, today visited the district to review progress on Jal Shakti Abhiyaan besides conducted on spot inspection of various works being executed there.

He had an extensive field tour of the district to inspect various ongoing and completed works.

During the tour, Union Joint Secretary visited various sites including micro irrigation apple orchards at Shadipora and Amrit Sarovar site Chewa.

He also inspected Willar conservation works, JIM works, Jal Shakti Kendra PHE Sub Division Bandipora and various protection works at Nallah Madhumati.

During his visit, Amitabh Ranjan Sinha also chaired a meeting of officers to review progress on Jal Shakti Abhiyaan.

The meeting was attended by Chairperson District Development Council, Abdul Gani Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais



Ahmed, Vice Chairperson DDC, ADDC, Nodal Officer Coordination and other concerned. Speaking on the occasion, Union Joint Secretary said that today's visit was aimed to review progress on Jal Shakti Abhiyaan which is launched to ensure water sustainability in effective and coordinated manner.

He said lot of efforts are being utilized to implement Jal Shakti Abhiyaan successfully.

Amitabh Ranjan also appreciated the efforts of district administration for achieving 75 percent target for Amritsar works.

Chairperson District Development

Council, VC District Development Council highlighted various activities being carried out under Jal Shakti Abhiyaan.

Earlier during the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora apprised the Union Joint Secretary that out of total 47358 Rural Households in Bandipora, 32249 Households have been provided tap connections and the rest shall also be connected through JIM.

DC said that under JIM 195 works stand sanctioned, out of which, work has been started on 156 works.

He informed that district administration has formulated and submitted convergence action plan of Rs. 18 crore to UT government.

He informed that under JIM Jal Shakti Kendra (JSK) has also been established in the district and efforts are on to make more such centers in the district.

Dr. Owais said that Jal Shakti Department has completed Geo tagging of all 159 piped water supply schemes in the district.

DC also highlighted the activities being carried out in the district by various departments under Jal Shakti Abhiyaan.

# DC Doda inspects healthcare facilities in PHC Gundna

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 08: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan inspected the quality of medical services, attendance of staff and patient care in Government Public Health Centre Gundna in Medical Block Ghat, the other day.

The DC inspected the ward, OPD and other sections of the hospital and took stock of the medical facilities being provided to the patients.

Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Ab Hamid Zargar, apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the staff position and facilities being provided to the patients.

The DC also interacted with the patients to understand their healthcare needs and listened to their feedback regarding the quality of healthcare services provided by the hospital. The DC directed the hospital staff to take necessary measures to ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

Later, the DC along with the CMO also reviewed the progress of under construction work of new PHC building. They directed the executing agency to expedite the construction work and use quality material.

The DC's visit was aimed to assess the functioning of the public institutions in the area and identify the gaps that need to be filled to improve the delivery of essential services to the local community.

# DECC Doda organises career Counselling Session for ITI trainees, Students

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 08: In District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC) Doda, in collaboration with the J&K Skill Development Department, organized a counselling session here in the Conference Hall. More than 300 students from different areas of the district actively participated in the event.

Joint Director of Employment Jammu, Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik was the chief guest, who inaugurated the session.

Deputy Director of Employment Doda, Idrees Lone, along with representatives from DIC Doda, District Incharge of EDI Doda, and faculty members of ITI, guided the youth about different career options aligned with their skill sets within Jammu and Kashmir, as well as outside the region.

Necraj Kumar from DIC Doda, District Incharge of EDI and representatives from ALC Doda besides several other officers also participated in the counselling session.

They informed the participants about various self-employment generation schemes and youth-oriented initiatives implemented by DECC, such as TEJASWANI, MUMKIN and Spurring Entrepreneurship scheme.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, allowing the participants to engage with Dr. Khalid Malik, Jt Director of Employment Jammu. During the discussion, Dr. Malik emphasized the significance of registration, counselling sessions, job fairs and the JAKEMP portal. These platforms serve as valuable resources for information sharing between job seekers and providers.

Furthermore, the DECC provided the participants with a Google link for registration and assured them of future invitations to job fairs, enabling them to pursue their preferred career paths.

# RSETI Ramban trains 21 youth in Beauty Parlour Management

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUNE 08: State Bank of India Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Ramban today concluded a training program on Beauty Parlour Management here under the Entrepreneurship Development Program.

As many as 21 trainees complete the 30 day training in Beauty Parlour Management at Ramban.

During the training program, the trainees were taught different skills like Beauty Concept & Scope, Waxing, Retaining, Manicure & pedicure, Thermo Hair Facial, Aroma Therapy, Hair Cutting, Bridal Mahanadi, Hair colouring & smoothening, Entrepreneurship Competencies, Problem Solving Time Management, Book Keeping and Behavioral Game etc. Lead District Manager Ramban Abdul Rashid Sofi was the Chief Guest at the valedictory function and Officer from Employment & Counselling Centre Ramban Er. Lovepreet Singh was the guest of honor. They both interacted and made the trainees aware about different government schemes in Banks & JKEDI respectively.

Director Rural Self Employment Training Institute Ramban Bikanraj Singh also interacted and advised the trainees about benefits of Self Employment, Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Loan, Prime Minister Employment Generation Program (PMEGP), Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Program (JKREGP) etc. He also educated them about Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMBSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) & Tarun, Kishor, and Shishu Mudra Loan, schemes he wished them the best of luck for future endeavor.

# District level Bankers' seminar held in Reasi

JJ NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JUNE 08: A District Level Bankers' seminar on Agriculture credit linked schemes was held today in Reasi under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner, Babla Rakwal here in the DC complex conference hall.

The visiting officer Joint Director Agriculture inputs S. Arvinder Singh Reen was also present. Chief Agriculture Officer, Harbans Singh explained the procedure and scope of the credit linked schemes like KCC, PMFME, AIF, AHIDE, FIDE, credit guarantee scheme for PFO, etc.

The Joint Director Agriculture inputs elaborated in detail the objectives of holistic agriculture development program in 29 projects and its implementation through Agriculture credit to be given by various Banks.

# 7th round of HADP concludes in Ramban

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUNE 08: The Seventh round of ongoing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (Farmers Orientation programme- HADP) under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the theme 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' was held successfully across the district Ramban.

The campaign ended today on a positive note as an overwhelming response was received from the farming community in all blocks of the district.

Audio-visuals (AVS) aids were used to disseminate the information about different government sponsored schemes meant for the welfare of the farmers associated with Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Apiculture, Pisciculture, Sericulture etc. The resource persons from different departments raised awareness regarding various schemes among the participating

farmers. Informative booklets in 03 (three) languages regarding the scheme of HADP were distributed among the participants.

Moreover, farmers were also made aware about Daksh Kisan (online learning portal for skill development) and Kisan Sathi (IT Dashboard) portals regarding the digitalisation of various services/schemes. During the program, farmers also raised various queries, which resolved the concerned resource persons amicably.

The event witnessed a huge participation of farmers' mostly unemployed youth at each venue and 985 farmers were registered during the seventh round of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan for the baseline survey by the Skill gap study resource persons. The FRI members present at the occasion lauded the efforts of the departments for educating the farmers regarding the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan of their respective panchayats.

# District & Police Administration Budgam declares 05 villages as Drug Free/Nasha Mukht

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, JUNE 08: The District and Police Administration Budgam has declared five villages viz. Dandoosa, Bonen, Hardwail, Naroo and Khag as drug free/ Nasha Mukht villages of Budgam under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

These villages have achieved 100% drug-free status with the concerted efforts of District Administration, Police Administration, teachers of the School Education department, field

functionaries of Social Welfare department, FRI and convergent community participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo said a multi-pronged strategy involving strict enforcement, registration of FIRs, mass awareness generation, community mobilisation and destruction of poppy cultivation etc. have been used for implementing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan in Budgam. He said the District Administration is committed

to work towards drug-free J&K mission of Honourable I/C Manoj Sinha ji and shall implement the same in Budgam.

SSP Budgam, Tahir Gilani said that District police in close coordination with civil administration is keeping strict vigil over drug menace and strict penal action under law shall be taken against those involved in spreading this menace. Recently 48 cases have been registered and 69 persons have been arrested towards this end, he added.

# DC Kishtwar inspects patient care facilities in District Hospital

STRESS ON SAFE DISPOSAL OF BIOMEDICAL, OTHER WASTE

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JUNE 08: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav today visited to the district hospital and inspected patient care services including stocks of medicines, diagnostic facilities and sanitation.

He emphasized on disposal of biomedical waste as per the recommended protocol and strongly discouraged its open disposal. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Medical Superintendent Dr.

Yudhvir Singh Kotwal to coordinate with Municipal Council Kishtwar to ensure the appropriate disposal of biomedical waste, discouraging any open dumping practices.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner verified the attendance records and staff roster to check the compliance to the prescribed guidelines. He underlined the significance of punctuality and accountability of the hospital staff for delivery of quality healthcare services. Later, the DC extended his visit to different wards of the Township to

inspect the sanitation condition and civic amenities. He directed the Municipal Council authorities to take immediate measures to start disposal of waste within the wards and the surrounding areas of the hospital and in front of the shops. Any violation in waste management practices will be subject to fines and penalties as determined by the concerned authorities. Dr. Devansh Yadav highlighted the significance of maintaining a clean and hygienic environment in healthcare facilities and the surrounding areas.

# DDC Chairman Reasi hands over tricycles to specially-abled persons

JJ NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JUNE 08: Department of Social Welfare, District Reasi on Thursday organized a mega Camp in co-ordination with Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) of India here in Sports Stadium to provide different aids to the specially-abled persons.

The event was oriented to distribute necessary aids and appliances to specially-abled people of the district including Tricycles, Wheel chairs, crutches,

Rollators, Smart Phones, Smart Canses, Cerebral Palsy Chairs and Hearing aids.

The distribution camp was inaugurated by Chairman, District Development Council Reasi, Saraf Singh Nag and Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Babla Rakwal. Additional District Development Commissioner, Jyoti Rani Salathia; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Abdul Star; District Social Welfare Officer, Pallvi Sharma and Sandeep Mehra, chairman MUSKAAN Charitable Trust also joined the event.

On the occasion, the DDC chairman stressed on provide better facilities to the children with special needs so that they can get a better education. He said providing better education and healthcare facilities to such individuals should be the priority for all. He assured that all required measures shall be taken to ensure a better education for these individuals. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated ALIMCO and the Social Welfare Department for facilitating the specially-abled persons under different

schemes. The DC also urged the people to come forward and take benefit of the social welfare and other schemes launched by the UT and Central Government for their upliftment. The aids were provided to the beneficiaries after proper assessment conducted at a camp organised by the SW department and ALIMCO in 2021. As many as 321 specially abled people from all blocks of the district have been provided aids and appliances worth Rs 23 Lakh approximately.

# Kisan Sampark Abhiyan reaches out to over 2 lakh farmers in 1873 panchayats of UT

DAKSH KISAN, KISAN SATHI BECOMES MAJOR ATTRACTION FOR FARMERS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 08: With just seven rounds completed, KISAN SAMPARK ABHIYAN has reached out to more than 2 lakh farmers of Jammu and Kashmir. The programme, which still has 12 more rounds to go till 31st August 2023, has sprung surprising number of farmers who are converging at the venues to listen and watch to what is going to be most pragmatic programme ever envisaged in agriculture and allied sectors not only the UT but in whole of the country.

A turning point in the history of agriculture sector is being witnessed in the UT of J&K through two major initiatives, DAKSH KISAN and KISAN SATHI. DAKSH KISAN is a first of its kind online hybrid skilling programme designed exclusively for farming community. Over 27000 farmers have been regis-

tered under DAKSH KISAN PORTAL till now and around 8000 farmers have been enrolled in skilling course of their choice. To date, this, around 2000 farmers have already progressed to advance level of completion of the online skilling course. DAKSH KISAN is a Learning Management System (LMS) for skill development of the farmers. A first of its kind in the country, DAKSH KISAN, has been developed by Agriculture Production Department, where 121 skilling courses as per the agro-climatic zones of the J&K UT are available for free to the farmers. A simple scan of the QR code at the back of pamphlet provided to farmers during Kisan Sampark abhiyan takes the farmer to DAKSH KISAN Portal where he can register for free and undertake any skilling course of his/her liking.

The video lectures under the LMS are available in Kashmiri, Urdu, Dogri and Hindi and textual material is available in Hindi Urdu and English. Besides, specialised modules on business development and financial management have also been included to ensure that the farmers are not merely trained but become a skillful entrepreneur. After completion of online courses, the farmers shall be sent for 5-7 days to Krishi Vigyan Kendras in their respective districts for practical hands-on training in their chosen skilling course. On successful completion of the skilling course, the farmers shall be provided Certificates by SKUAST J/K. Farmers have particularly shown great enthusiasm in KISAN SATHI the IT Dashboard of the schemes under HADP, developed by APD. A simple scan of the QR codes on the pamphlets provided to farmers during the kisan Sampark abhiyan takes the farmer to the

KISAN SATHI Portal where he can register easily and there is no need for visiting any office for applying under any of the schemes. A total of 5754 farmers have registered themselves under the KISAN SATHI PORTAL and more than 3000 online applications have been received till date from farmers under various schemes, of which, 11 applications already stand approved and rest are at various stages of processing.

A baseline survey/skill gap study of farmers is also being carried out simultaneously during the Kisan Sampark abhiyan. The data of around 1.92 lakh farmers has been captured till date using IT tools. Baseline analytical tools are being deployed using AI to ascertain the state of agriculture in the UT, which shall be of immense help to planners to devise suitable interventions for having a holistic development of Agriculture and farm-

ers in the UT. All this has been made possible due to massive outreach of the Kisan Sampark abhiyan which was launched on 24th April 2023. A total of 1873 panchayats across all districts of the Union Territory have been covered till date under the abhiyan. The Orientation programme is being organised simultaneously across all the districts of the UT. The programme has been designed to be conducted on first three days of every week. An exhaustive District specific Calendar has been issued by the Government. The Resource persons for the orientations are Officers and Officials drawn from the Agriculture, Animal/Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Sericulture and Fisheries Departments, who were trained beforehand during the 641 training sessions which were held across all districts during the months of January to April.

## DC Rajouri chairs District-Level Bankers' Seminar hosted to address Credit Needs in Agriculture and Allied Sectors

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JUNE 08: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today presided over a seminar convened to discuss credit requirements in agriculture and allied sectors in consonance with the Holistic Agriculture Development program.

The event was held as part of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan and with the objective to bridge the gap between farmers and bankers and fostering the flow of credit to the agriculture and allied sectors.

Representatives from different banks operating in the district, as well as officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Sericulture and Fisheries departments, participated in the seminar. During the program, an overview of the various schemes and programs available for farmers was provided by the District



Development Manager (DDM) of NABARD. The significance of credit in enhancing overall productivity and income for farmers was highlighted. Farmers were also acquainted with various credit-linked schemes, including Kisan Credit Cards, AIE, AHIDE, FIDE, PMFME, ODOF, NLM, HADP and encouraged to avail

the benefits of these schemes.

Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Director of Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu, emphasized the importance of promoting wool production in the district and urged farmers to establish Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for wool.

He emphasized that the promotion of wool production could significantly benefit farmers and boost the rural economy.

Additionally, he shed light on several government schemes and programs aimed at improving the welfare of farmers, urging them to take advantage of these opportunities to enhance their livelihoods. Creating awareness among farmers about these schemes and programs was also emphasized. Addressing the participants, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, stressed the importance of timely and adequate credit for farmers to facilitate the adoption of modern technology and enhance productivity. He underlined the significance of agriculture credit-linked schemes, emphasizing that they aim to assist farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs in promoting sustainable agriculture practices and increasing productivity.

The Deputy Commissioner reaffirmed the District Administration's commitment

supporting the farming community by implementing progressive initiatives and providing comprehensive assistance. The administration remains steadfast in its efforts to create an enabling environment for farmers, empowering them to thrive and contribute to the overall growth of the region.

The seminar also included discussions on the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). The session covered various steps involved in FPO formation, including cluster identification, diagnostic study, feasibility analysis, baseline assessment, business planning, mobilization of farmers, organizing and formalizing, resource mobilization, business operations, assessment, and audit.

Overall, the seminar served as a platform for all stakeholders to discuss and understand the challenges faced by farmers in the district, and to explore ways to address them.

## Horticulture Planning & Marketing Department organises farmers awareness camp at Khoon

J1 NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 08: Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department Udhampur today organised an awareness camp for farmers, FPOs and Cooperatives here at Panchayat Ghar Khoon.

Sarpanch Khoon Panchayat, ward members, Area Marketing Officer, Officers from Agriculture & allied departments, DNO & DRP PMFME and Manager J&K Bank Khoon branch were present in the awareness camp. Area Marketing Officer Udhampur asked the farmers to come forward and avail the benefits of different schemes in the Agriculture and allied sectors. He informed that the PMFME scheme has been launched by the government under Atm Nirbar Bharat Abhiyan and offers facilities like easy Bank finance, 35% subsidy, complete hand holding for registrations like FSSAI, Udhyan, preparation of DPR, labelling, packaging, branding and marketing.

He added that the Khoon area has vast scope for processing of milk, maize and jaggery.

## DIET Banihal organises series of Janbhagidari events, promotes NIPUN, FLN

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BANIHAL, JUNE 08: DIET Banihal organised a series of events under G20 Janbhagidari and promoted NIPUN FLN. The aim and objective of these events was to spread awareness regarding G20, FLN, NEP 2020 and to involve all stakeholders in realising the goals and targets of NIPUN Bharat mission. Besides, the main objectives of these Janbhagidari events is to instil a sense of pride among stakeholders about the G-20 presidency, the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) with focus on Blended Learning.

As a nodal agency of this Janbhagidari events at district level, DIET Banihal organised various activities/ programmes including a series of rallies across district at school and cluster level where the stakeholders, PRIs, students and teachers actively participated and raised awareness. The slogan of these rallies was to make India NIPUN and global knowledge hub by ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN).

## Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 08: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDC, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Bhalla, Dandi, Bhaderwah, Dalian and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 11 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Industrial area of Bari Brahmana and Narbada line shall remain affected on June 11 from 7 am to 9 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Jakhni Dairy Farm, Pathi, Deik and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 11 from 6 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Jagti, Nagrota, Chibba, Sainik Colony and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 11 from 6 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Main Bazar, Ward No. 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Taraf Sanji, Jari, Bhagthali, Jai, Court, PHE Installation, Paliwandi and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 11 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Hiranagar Town, Chakra, Bobbiya, Mathre Chak and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 12 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to JJO Reliance Office shall remain affected on June 12 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Baspur, Sai Kalan, Khanachak, Kotli, Nikowal, Kalyana and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 12 from 6 am to 10 am.

Meanwhile, the Superintendent, Engineer (Distribution) JPDC, O&M Circle, Kathua has informed that the power supply to Barnoti to Sakta Chack shall remain affected on June 09 from 7 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Industries under Feeder 2nd and 4th shall remain affected on June 09 from 5 am to 9 am. Likewise, the power supply to Industries under 2nd, 4th and 8th Feeder shall remain affected on June 10 from 5 am to 9 am. Similarly, the power supply to Supwal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 10 from 6 am to 10 am. Likewise, the power supply to Krishna Colony, Indira Colony and Karan Nagar shall remain affected on June 09, 10 and 11 from 7 am to 10 am.

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## SWD Kulgam organises Awareness programme on drug abuse at GDC Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, JUNE 08: Social Welfare Department (SWD) Kulgam in collaboration with the District Administration Kulgam and Government Degree College Kulgam today organized a day-long awareness program on drug abuse in the College conference hall.

Principal Government Medical College Anantnag, Dr. (Prof.) Tariq Syed Qureshi was the chief guest on the occasion.

Programme was also attended by resource persons from Addiction Treatment Facility centre of GMC Anantnag.

Principal Government Degree College Kulgam, Prof. Syed Eazaz Hussain Rizvi, extended a warm welcome to all the participants and emphasized the significance of conducting such programmes especially for college students.

The participants included students of Government Degree College Kulgam, particularly the MCC and NSS volunteers, as well as the college faculty members. Meanwhile Khurshud Ah Ganai, former Advisor to the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, virtually addressed the program.

He commended the efforts of the Principal and staff of the Government Degree College Kulgam along with Social Welfare Department Kulgam for consistently taking the lead in organizing such programs.

Resource persons from Drug de-addiction centre Kulgam and experts shed light on various aspects of the drug menace including its social, psychological and clinical dimensions.

## World Environment Week: Debate, Painting competition held at ANMT School Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 08: As a part of World Environment Week 2023, the District Health Society Doda today organized a debate and painting competition at ANMT School Doda.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ab Hamid Zargar was the Chief Guest while the Principal ANMT School Anusuya Bhan, Medical Officer Leprosy Dr. Javed Ahmed

Parray & Zabeer Gattu delivered lectures on World Environment Week and educated the participants about the conservation of environment.

The CMO said that the day serves as a platform for individuals, communities and government to come together and promote sustainable practices and initiatives.

He said during the Week various programs are organized across the district, including clean-up drives, educational programs, awareness workshops, and seminars focusing on environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The CMO further stressed on encouraging individuals and organizations to take concrete steps towards a more sustainable future.

Faizan A Tramboo conducted the proceedings of the programme.

He said during the Week various programs are organized across the district, including clean-up drives, educational programs, awareness workshops, and seminars focusing on environmental conservation and sustainable development.

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## DDC Doda reviews progress of Jal Jeevan Mission schemes

J1 NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 08: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, who is also Chairman of District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM), conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing projects of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADDC), Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Superintendent Engineer of Hydraulic Circle Doda, and Executive Engineers from the Jal Shakti, Mechanical, Ground Water, and Electrical Divisions.

Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers joined the meeting virtually and were present at their respective construction sites.

During the meeting, it was reported that out of 185 tendered projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission, 17 projects have been allotted, a Letter of Intent (LOI) has been issued for one project and ten projects are in the process of being allotted. Work on the ground was underway on 169 projects.

The DDC was also briefed about the progress of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs). As per the Integrated Management Information System (MIS) Portal, out of the total 111,298 rural households, 61,571 have been provided with FHTCs, which accounts for approximately 55.32% of the target. In the review meeting, the DDC issued instructions to all the Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, and Junior Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department, emphasizing the completion of civil works for all allotted schemes before July 31, 2023.

## DDC Doda holds meeting with NHIDCL authorities to review progress on Khellani Tunnel, Highway Project

J1 NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 08: Deputy Commissioner of Doda, Shri Vishesh Paul Mahajan on Thursday chaired a meeting of NHIDCL authorities to review the progress of work on tunnel and highway projects in the district.

The meeting held in the DC's office chamber, focused on evaluating the progress of the Khellani tunnel and the Goha-Khelli-Khannabal National Highway

work on the Goha-Marmat National Highway-244 is progressing well, with the workers giving their best performance to complete the project on time. Various bottlenecks and issues affecting the progress were discussed and the DC directed the concerned officers to take the matter seriously and find proper solutions to overcome these hurdles.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of coordination and dedication in

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## District level Badminton, Tug of war tournament inaugurated at Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUNE 08: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ramban today inaugurated the District Level Badminton and Tug of War Tournament for U 14 and U 17 Boys and Girls here in the District Police Lines.

A total of 169 boys and girls participated in today's tournament. The event was organised to promote sportsmanship, talent, and healthy competition among the youth of the district.

The opening ceremony witnessed the presence of ZPEOs of Banihal and Khari and other officials of YSS department Ramban. This grand event marked a significant milestone in fostering the growth of sports at the grassroots level and providing a platform to young participants to showcase their skills.

The District Level Tournament encompasses multiple categories, including Under 14 and Under 17 Age Groups for both boys and



girls, ensuring equal opportunities for participation and recognition.

ZPEO Banihal Zone YSS Ramban at Venue addressed the audience during the inauguration ceremony expressing their gratitude to the participants, and all those involved in organizing this sporting extravaganza.

The YSS department highlighted the commitment of the department to identify and nurture talented individuals, providing them with the necessary infrastr

structure and support to excel in their chosen sporting disciplines.

The tournament promises to be an enthralling display of skills and sportsmanship, as young participants compete for the coveted titles in Badminton and Tug of War matches filled with strategic moves, precise shots, and remarkable displays of talent from these talented youngsters.

The Youth Services and Sports Department Ramban extends its gratitude to the District Administration, heads of the institutes, staff members, and Technical Officials who have extended their support for this event.

## District-wide cultural show unveils remarkable talent of school students in Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 08: In a remarkable display of talent and understanding of Culture, students from various educational institutions of ten zones of Doda District participated in a cultural activity aimed at providing them a platform to showcase their hidden talent.

The event, attended by distinguished guests, including heads of different institutions, PRI members, and DIET faculty members, was a resounding success. Notably, retired educationists and senior citizens of different parts of the district also took part, adding to the vibrant atmosphere.

The occasion witnessed the participation of 290 teachers and 313 community members, all of whom eagerly encouraged the students.

The event served as a perfect opportunity for these young performers to shine, with Sakshi from HS Gagla Zone Bhagwah emerging as one of the winners in their respective activities. The

enthusiasm and dedication displayed by the students left a lasting impression on the audience.

By organizing such cultural activities district-wide, the educational authorities aimed to provide a stepping stone for the talented students to reach higher platforms and gain recognition beyond the district level.

The event not only highlighted the rich cultural heritage of the region but also fostered an environment of inclusivity and appreciation for the arts. It served as a reminder of the immense talent present among the youth, deserving wider recognition and support.

The district-wide cultural extravaganza brought together students, educators, community members, and esteemed guests, creating a vibrant and memorable experience for all involved.

The successful event undoubtedly marked a significant milestone in promoting the hidden talents of students from diverse backgrounds.



## ADDC reviews implementation of self-employment generation schemes in Kishtwar

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, JUNE 08: Additional Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Sham Lal today chaired a meeting of different departmental heads and representatives to evaluate the implementation of the Self-Employment Generation Schemes in the district. The meeting focused on assessing the progress made in various sectors and the progress achieved under the schemes offered by departments such as Agriculture, allied sectors including Horticulture, Handloom, Handicrafts, Fisheries and others.

Representatives from the banking sector were also present to discuss the sector-wise linkage under the Annual Credit Plan and were directed to prepare a comprehensive plan for effective implementation. The ADDC Kishtwar urged the Lead District Manager (LDM) to share sector-wise linkages under Schemes and collaborate with the concerned department to ensure an intensified awareness campaign. He stressed the Departmental heads to sensitize their field functionaries about the proper handling of the beneficiaries

in rural areas so that hassle free benefit is availed by the beneficiaries. The objective is to maximize the reach and benefits of the schemes among the populace. The meeting emphasized adopting a target-driven approach to provide maximum assistance under the self-employment generation schemes. Necessary directions were given to bankers and department heads to join forces and work diligently to extend the benefits of the schemes to the grassroots level, ensuring an effective and efficient implementation process. ADDC Kishtwar under-

scored the importance of dedicated efforts to achieve the intended goals, emphasizing the need to serve the community with utmost dedication and commitment. During the meeting, ADDC also reviewed the preparation of seminar on agriculture credit linked schemes to be held in district on 10 June. The meeting was attended by CAHO Kishtwar Dr Sanjay Kumar, CHO Kishtwar Sajid Mustafa, CAO Kishtwar Amjed Hussain, DDM NABARD Nikhil Sharma, besides representatives of Concerned Departments and LDM Kishtwar.

## PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar celebrates Commerce Raising Day with Newsletter release and Alumni meet

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 08: Commerce Department of Padma Sri Padma Sachdev College for Women Gandhinagar today celebrated Commerce Raising Day by releasing its maiden Newsletter 'VANIJAYA' and the hosting of an engaging alumni meet. The momentous occasion marked a significant milestone for the department, highlighting its dedication to foster excellence in commerce education and cultivating strong connections with its alumni network. The Commerce Department, established in the college in the year 2013, has shown an upward trend of its growth chart during its journey of 10 years. In conjunction with Commerce Raising Day, the Department unveiled its maiden Newsletter. The initiative is in line with the Department's commitment to academic excellence, holistic education and the overall development of the stakeholders. As a testament to the enduring rela-



tionships forged with esteemed alumni, the Department hosted an exciting alumni meet. The event aimed to foster a sense of camaraderie, create a platform for professional collaboration and strengthen the bond between the alumni and the commerce department. Head of the Department, Prof. Mamta Gupta expressed her enthusiasm for the event saying, "Commerce Raising Day" is a significant occasion for us to reflect on our achievements and celebrate our collective growth. The release of our Newsletter and the alumni meet are essential components of our efforts to engage with our stakeholders and create a thriving community of commerce professionals. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest of the day, Dr. Satinder Singh, appreciated the effort of the commerce department for organizing this three in one celebration day. He applauded the hard work of the students in bringing up the maiden issue of the newsletter of the department 'VANIJAYA'. He also advised the alumni to stay more connected with their juniors and establish this healthy practice of hand holding. Dr. Sudhanshu Sharma, the guest of honor, shared with the students that the mool mantra of success is paying respect to teachers and elders. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Minu Mahajan, Principal of the college, congratulated the H.O.D., Commerce and her team of faculty, staff and students for the wonderful celebration. She also remembered and expressed her gratitude to Dr. Kiran Bakshi for her hard efforts for starting Commerce as a full-fledged programme in the college. The whole program was planned and conducted under the supervision of Dr. Deepthi Abrol. Prof. Rashmi ensured discipline during the event. It is to put on record that the contribution, effort and enthusiasm of the students of the Commerce Department was exemplar-

## Director Sports flags off group of 108 member contingent for 66th National School Games

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, June 8: Director Youth Services and Sports, Subash Chander Chibber on Thursday flagged off a 108-member contingent to Bhopal to participate in the National School Games here at an impressive, colourful and well attended function held in Youth Hostel Nagrota. The contingent comprising the athletes from four sports disciplines is proceeding for Bhopal to participate in 66th National School Games, being held under the aegis of School Games Federation of India (SGFI). The Director Sports, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, was accompa-

nied by Deputy Director Central, Jitender Mishra and a galaxy of dignitaries. A total of 90 athletes (under-19 boys and girls) and 18 officials across Jammu and Kashmir are taking part in four sports disciplines in this mega sporting event to be held at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh from June 10, 2023 to June 13, 2023. The sporting disciplines include Football, Volleyball, judo and Table Tennis. Two Football teams comprises 36 players, while two Volleyball teams comprise of 24 players and two Judo teams include 20 players and 10 players will take part in Table Tennis. While speaking on the occasion,

Subash Chander Chibber said that it was great to see athletes participating in the sporting events at the national level after a gap of three years, adding that covid restrictions across the country had forced the organisers not to organise competitions for all these years. He hoped that the J & K contingent would do well in all the sports disciplines. Chibber advised the young sports persons to give their best and keep the UT's flag high at the national scene. The Director Sports said that these sports persons serve as ambassadors of the Union Territory. While advising the players to preserve sporting

spirit and sanctity of the game, Chibber said that sports and games, apart from helping youth to showcase their sporting skill, also help them not to fall prey to drugs and other allied social evils and not to derailed from the mainstream. He further said that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir was committed to promote sports in every nook and corner of the Union Territory. Earlier, in his welcome address, the Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports, Jitender Mishra gave the details of the contingent and highlighted the achievements of the Department.

ships forged with esteemed alumni, the Department hosted an exciting alumni meet. The event aimed to foster a sense of camaraderie, create a platform for professional collaboration and strengthen the bond between the alumni and the commerce department. Head of the Department, Prof. Mamta Gupta expressed her enthusiasm for the event saying, "Commerce Raising Day" is a significant occasion for us to reflect on our achievements and celebrate our collective growth. The release of our Newsletter and the alumni meet are essential components of our efforts to engage with our stakeholders and create a thriving community of commerce professionals. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest of the day, Dr. Satinder Singh, appreciated the effort of the commerce department for organizing this three in one celebration day. He applauded the hard work of the students in bringing up

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (M) GROUND WATER DRILLING DIVISION JAMMU

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. GWD/12 of 2023-24 DATED 07.06.2023

On behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms/contractors with Jal Shakti Department Jammu who have sufficient experience in the field of drilling and are well equipped with drilling equipments.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Qty.	Estimated cost (value of work) (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Validity of Rates
Deep Drilling, Development and Stabilization of 200 mm dia mini Tube wells (on EPC Mode) By ODEX Method at Mahayaya Wellness Park Jammu	Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	1000.00 (Non-Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through e-challan under the receipt head 0215 in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div. Jammu payable at Jammu mentioning name of work.	01 No.	Rs. 25.85 lacs	@ 2% of the quoted rates in shape of Fresh CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE (M) GWD Division	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024

- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 07.06.2023 to 17.06.2023.
- The pre bid meeting if desired by the participating firms shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 10.06.2023 (300 hrs).
- The bids shall be submitted/uploaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 12.06.2023 (1400 hrs) to 17.06.2023 (1800 hrs).
- The complete bidding process shall be online and scanned copies of the following documents will have to be uploaded before due date:-
  - Copy of treasury e-Challan/receipt for Rs. 1000.00 against the cost of tender document under the receipt Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu indicating name of work to be executed. It may be noted that the receipt of the e-challan should be of the date after the issuance of publication of the e-tender.
  - The tenders shall be accompanied with an earnest money of 2% of quoted rates in the shape of CDR/FDR, from a scheduled Bank payable in JAMMU. The CDR/FDR shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu, valid for a period of 12 months from the last date of submission of bids. The earnest money deposit shall be refunded in favour of unsuccessful tenderer immediately after finalization of the tender, whereas it shall be retained in case of successful tenderer till signing of agreement and furnishing of performance security
  - Copies of tender documents, terms and conditions duly signed and stamped (each page) by bidder.
  - Scanned copy of Experience certificate of having completed one similar work during last five financial years. The experience certificate shall have been issued by an officer of the rank not below an Executive Engineer of any Government Department/Semi Government/PSUs.
  - Scanned copy of Registration of Water Well Drillers issued by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu. In case the bidder is not able to furnish the Registration with the cover 1st of this bid document, he can produce the same before the opening of cover 2nd of this bid document.
  - Scanned copy of the latest Income tax return certificate.
  - Scanned copy GST return in FORMGST-3B of the latest quarter.
  - Scanned copy of documentary proof of ownership or on hire basis of requisite machinery like Air compressor, direct/reverse Rotary Drilling Rig. In case of a firm having these machine/s arranged on hire basis the firm shall produce a copy of an agreement with the actual owner (Registered Drilling Firm) of the machine for lease of the machinery and expertise, duly attested by a Magistrate First class valid for a time period of not less than 06 months from the last date of submission of bids.
  - Average Annual financial turnover during any three financial years out of the last 05 years, ending 31st March of previous financial year, issued by a registered Chartered Accountant under his seal and signature shall be Rs. 25.00 lacs.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 19.06.2023 (1400 hrs). If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working day during the office hours.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working or as to be decided by tender opening committee.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.
- Account Head: JSCL - Deposit
- AAA order No. 27-AA/JSCL of 2022 Dated 07.02.2022.
- Status of Funds: Available
- Technical Sanction No. CFFJ/Accts/5638-39 Dated 28.11.2022

GWD/999-1001 DATED: 07.06.2023  
DIP/J-2894/23  
JAL SHAKTI MECH. G.W.D. DIVISION JAMMU

## MAM College and JKEDI organizes 2nd day workshop on Capacity Building on Entrepreneurship Development programme

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, 8 JUNE: Department of Business Administration, Maulana Azad Memorial College, Jammu in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) successfully conducted a comprehensive and impactful 2-day Capacity Building Workshop on Entrepreneurship Development programme aimed at fostering an entrepreneurial spirit and empowering the students of 2nd Sem of Maulana Azad Memorial College, Jammu. The workshop, held on the 7th and 8th of June 23, brought together aspiring entrepreneurs, and seasoned mentors to provide valuable insights and guidance to the participants. The 2-day workshop featured diverse sessions and interactive activities, all



designed to provide a holistic understanding of entrepreneurship and its practical implications. Esteemed speakers and industry experts shared their expertise on various topics, including ideation, market research, business planning, funding strategies, marketing, and scaling a startup. Participants also had the opportunity to engage in hands-on exercises, group discussions, and case studies, enhancing their problem-solving abilities and fostering a collaborative envi-

ronment. Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Rakwal, Principal, Maulana Azad Memorial College, Jammu lauded the efforts of the Department of Business Administration for conducting a workshop on such a pertinent area as it fosters the spirit of entrepreneurship and equips young minds with the necessary skills to transform their ideas into successful ventures. Dr. Majid Manzoor Khan, Associate Sr. Faculty, JKEDI and Dr. Vinod Kumar, Teaching Associate, JKEDI were the resource

persons for the workshop. The workshop was organized under the supervision of Dr. Bharti Salathia, Head, Department of Business Administration. The entire workshop was coordinated by Prof. Meena Gupta. Prof. Ajay Viridi and Prof. Shiv Kumar were part of the organizing team. The 2-day workshop concluded with the distribution of certificates of participation to all attendees, acknowledging their commitment to personal and professional growth.

## DDC B'la presides over Bankers Seminar for Credit in Agriculture & Allied Sectors

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, JUNE 08: In a bid to bridge the gap between banking institutions and the development departments under Agricultural Diversification Project (ADP), the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Shrish Ashar today presided over Bankers Seminar for Credit in Agriculture and allied sectors at Dak Bungalow, here. Large numbers of farmers, FPOs, heads of financial institutions besides functionaries of other concerned departments were present in the seminar. During the programme, a detailed discussion was held on various issues including identification of beneficiaries, flow of credit for farmers under

Holistic Development Agriculture Programme (HADP), assistance under Government sponsored schemes, performances of banks under District Credit Plan (DCP), monitoring in-potential areas and stressed on better coordination between banks and government departments for bringing improvement in CD ratio. She directed for ensuring balanced lending in all key sectors to promote equitable growth and also emphasized upon the heads of the financial institutions to spread awareness with regard to the welfare schemes sponsored by them among masses so that people can avail benefit for their socio-economic development. The DDC stressed for a self-reliant and sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture sector.

To facilitate and uplift poor farmers with credit linking schemes, the DDC impressed upon the bankers to put in added efforts to make ease in credit facilities for the farmers by focusing on potential areas and stressed on better coordination between banks and government departments for bringing improvement in CD ratio. She directed for ensuring balanced lending in all key sectors to promote equitable growth and also emphasized upon the heads of the financial institutions to spread awareness with regard to the welfare schemes sponsored by them among masses so that people can avail benefit for their socio-economic development. The DDC stressed for a self-reliant and sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture sector.

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## One Day Bankers Credit Seminar under HADP held at Ganderbal

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, JUNE 07: One day Bankers credit Seminar under the banner of 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was today held in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal. The seminar was presided over by the District Development

Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambar and was attended by the district level functionaries of all the banks (public/ private sector banks) besides representatives from various Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and progressive farmers of the district. The District Nodal Officer, Dr. Mohd Haider (DSHO Ganderbal) organized the event in collaboration

with District Development Manager, NABARD, Junaid Ahmad Hakim who presented a powerpoint presentation to apprise the bankers about the need for enhanced credit flows to Agriculture and allied sectors. The event started with a welcome note from the District Nodal Officer wherein he welcomed the chair and participants and apprised the participants briefly about the programme.

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# Alok Kumar addresses NAAC Assessors Orientation Programme at Women's College

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 8: A two-day 'Assessors Orientation Programme' organized by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and hosted by Directorate of Colleges, Higher Education Department, commenced at Government College for Women, M A Road with Principal Secretary, Education, Alok Kumar, formally inaugurating the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary expressed hope that the orientation programme would prove beneficial for all the stakeholders and help in enhancing the quality of education. He said the assessment and accreditation exercise conducted by NAAC ensures that the higher educational institutions comply with the standards of quality in terms of teaching-learning processes, research, infrastructure, and student services among other parameters.

The orientation programme is being attended by Principals of various colleges from Kashmir as well as Jammu division.

Members of the visiting NAAC expert team included Dr. G P Upadhaya, Dr. Neelish Pandey, Dr. S Srikanth Swamy, Dr. P Siva Kumar and H V Chandrashekar. On the occasion, Principal Secretary



launched and inaugurated several initiatives of the host college. He launched e-journal 'Dossier of Muses' (International Journal of Literacy Studies) and released print edition of the college magazine 'The Pamposh'.

On the sidelines of the event, Alok Kumar also inaugurated the 'Centre for Research and Innovation' a multi-disciplinary Science research laboratory.

He inaugurated multi-disciplinary research lab in Social Sciences, water management lab and Culture lab.

Principal Secretary inaugurated an exhibition held under 'Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development Programme' to showcase the skill and innovation efforts of college students.

Earlier in his special address, Cabinet Secretary, Government of Sikkim, Dr. G.P. Upadhaya, said one of the major concerns in higher education sector has been lack of requisite skill set among the educated youth which renders them unemployable.

He said the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) aims to address this issue in a holistic manner.

Adviser NAAC, Dr. B S Ponnudurai,

said NAAC has to consider multiple factors during the assessment and accreditation and referred to the challenges inherent in the exercise. He referred to the legal challenges handled by NAAC while stressing on the important role played by the assessors.

Referring to significance of NAAC, Director Colleges, Professor Yasmeen Ashai referred to the need for aligning the assessment and accreditation process with NEP-2020.

"NAAC is playing a crucial role in making quality the defining element of higher education in India. It has encouraged self-evaluation, accountability, autonomy and innovations in higher education," she said.

In her welcome address, Principal of the host college, Professor Ruhi Jan Kanth said, "NAAC has encouraged self-evaluation, accountability, autonomy and innovations in higher education." She also referred to the initiatives taken by the institution for creating robust research and skill development ecosystem in line with NEP 2020.

Dr. Abina Habib moderated the proceedings of the session while Dr. Sameer Koul presented vote of thanks.

Later, the students of Music department of the host institution presented college tarana.

# Thana Diwas Celebrated across PD Handwara

JJ NEWS SERVICE ADIL AKBAR



HANDWARA: Handwara Police organised Thana Diwas at Qalamabad, Vilgam, Kralgund, Zachaldara and Chodul.

The programmes were conducted by concerned SDOs, SHO and ICP. The events were attended by senior citizens, civil society members, members of the trading community, among others. The main focus of the events remained on issues pertaining to drug abuse, moral and social crimes, use and misuse of social media and responsible use of internet. The participants were forthcoming in their suggestions against drug abuse, addiction and social crimes. The participants were, in turn, advised to identify early signs of drug addiction among their family and acquaintances so that requisite counselling or medical attention could be given in a timely manner. They were also advised to monitor the use of social media by minors in the interests of their safety and health.

# Dream run of J&K athletes continues

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 8: Four J&K Taekwondo players and an equal number of fencers made it to the World University Games-2023. The selected athletes include Shanaz Parveen, Tashi Tundup, Kushagra Sharma, Achutam Dev Singh in Taekwondo, and Javed Ahmad, Mayank Sharma, Riskhika Khajuria and Riya Bakshi in Fencing. All these athletes have a good record to back their selection for the prestigious games. Besides putting up an excellent show during the selection trials

held at Guru Nanak Dev University, all the players bagged gold and silver medals earlier.

All the selected athletes will represent the country in the 2023 FISU World University Games to be held in Chengdu, China later next month. Before their departure to China, selected Taekwondo players will train in a month-long camp being conducted in Amritsar for the purpose.

Pertinently athletes were training under the tutelage of Atul Pangotra, Taekwondo coach and Tshotu Lal Fencing Instructor with J&K Sports Council.

Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul has congratulated the selected players and their coaches for living up to both reputation and expectation. Meanwhile, Sports activities were organized under various verticals today as well. The opening ceremony of the Masters' Cup T20 Cricket Tournament being organized by Veteran Cricket Association J&K in coordination with J&K Sports Council commenced in MA Stadium Jammu. The championship was inaugurated by Prasanna G Ramaswamy, Commissioner Secretary

Transport J&K who was flanked by other officers on the occasion along with many former cricketers. Meanwhile, J&K UT Women's Chess Championship concluded at Hotel Nek in Jammu today.

The top 4 players will represent J&K in the forthcoming Women's National Chess Championship to be held in Gujarat later this month. Arushi Kotwal emerged as the champion in the event while second and third positions went to Manasvi Gupta and Ashwini Raina respectively and Sonali Manhas settled for fourth

place. Ashok Singh Janwal Sports Officer Jammu presided over the function as the chief guest. He distributed cash prizes and trophies among the players. Atul Kumar Gupta, Joint secretary of AJCAF and working president of AJKCA, and Baldev Raj, President of AJKCA were also among others present on the occasion. The events held in district Roost under the banner of MY Youth My Pride continued for the second day today where Tug of War and Carrom competitions were organized in Government Higher Secondary School Katra.

# Demolition at Dashmesh Nagar, Digiana carried out as per HC verdict: JMC Commissioner

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 08: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Rahul Yadav has said that the demolition of a House by Jammu Municipal Corporation at Saw Mill Road, Dashmesh Nagar, Digiana was undertaken by Jammu Municipal Corporation as per the High Court Verdict.

The house was raised by one Ramesh Chander Gupta s/o Durga Prasad Gupta, and the said person levelled allegation against JMC that it has forcibly demolished his house without serving any notice to him.

Responding to his allegation given in the media, the Commissioner, JMC stated that JMC had issued Notice under section 7(3) in the year 2009 and in response to which Ramesh Chander Gupta approached the Hon'ble Tribunal and in the year 2012 he lost the case from Hon'ble Tribunal and verdict was given in favour of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The said Ramesh Chander Gupta filed an appeal against the verdict of Special Tribunal in the High Court and ultimately the verdict was given in favour of Jammu Municipal Corporation by the High Court after 10 years.

The Commissioner, JMC further clarified that the demolition was undertaken on the basis of verdict of the High Court and the allegations levelled by Ramesh Chander Gupta are totally baseless and not based on facts.

Further he clarified that cost of demolition and debris removal is the responsibility of person who carried unauthorized construction and the same shall be recovered from him.

# DC Udhampur reviews implementation of AB-PMJAY Sehat Scheme

STRESSES ON GENERATING MASS AWARENESS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 08: To review the progress of registration of beneficiaries and generation of golden cards under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana -Sehat Scheme, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya today convened a meeting of officers of health and other allied departments, here in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Detailed deliberations were held on various aspects which included progress under Ayushman Bharat scheme, beneficiaries registered and golden cards generated, beneficiary identification system, IEC activities, block wise target/achievements, Issuance of health cards, Bottlenecks in implementation of Sehat scheme etc.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Anil Manhas gave a brief about the achievements of AB-PMJAY Sehat scheme in the district.

The DC reviewed the Block wise progress of Registration and generation of Golden cards and asked the concerned to expedite the process and ensure 100% saturation of all the beneficiaries in the district.

The DC directed the health department to start IEC activities on mission mode to generate awareness in the district to encourage the public for registration under Sehat scheme. CMO was directed to activate ASHAs workers for mobilize the general public regarding registration and generation of Sehat Cards. The DC stressed on Health and other allied departments to work in co-ordination to achieve the targets in the shortest possible time.

Another meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya regarding the functioning of Jan Aushadi Kendras in the District at Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur. The meeting was apprised that the government has sanctioned 04 Aushadi Kendras for the district Udhampur. To stop the unnecessary prescription of drugs by doctors, the DC directed the CMO to ensure for conducting prescription Audit in the District. The DC said that the aim of Jan Aushadi Kendras was to make quality medicines available at affordable prices for all particularly the poor and weaker section of the society.

# Ganderbals' 'Wayil bridge' emerges as vital link between Kashmir, Ladakh

Facility symbolizes brighter future of seamless travel, economic growth and prosperity

JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, JUNE 8: The first semi-arch 'Wayil Truss Bridge' on Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir has emerged as vital link between Kashmir and Ladakh which has significantly helped the J&K administration in easing journey on the highway. The people have expressed high appreciation to the UT government and all other stakeholders for establishing this unique engineering marvel in the region.

According to bridge experts and engineers at World Bank funded Technical Assistance and Quality Audit Control (TAQAC), the construction of this prestigious bridge was sanctioned under the World Bank funded Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTRFP) with a cost of Rs 23.79 crore. Assistant Executive Engineer JTRFP, Showkat Ali Shah, who was instrumental in conceptualizing the bridge, said that it was heartwarming to see the project proving to be a boon for the people who are reaping the benefits. Reflecting his ideation days on the project, Shah said that he along with TAQAC technical staff went to several places across the country to understand



several other technical nuances about this kind of the project. He said that project has undergone three-tier quality checks including environmental, civil and mechanical which make it safe project. "This is a very strategic road. People of this area have been facing lot of issues due to lack of a vital link. This bridge will be instrumental in giving a big fillip to development profile of Kashmir," Shah maintained.

"This bridge (Wayil) spans over 110 meters and weighs over a 700 metric tons mild steel for super structure," he said, adding that "before this all attempts to construct the bridge at the spot on the same foundation pattern were left halfway.

The construction of the bridge was a long pending demand of the locals as well as the travelers as it is the only main link connecting Srinagar with Leh. "This was our long pending

demand from last many years. The pending works of the bridge used to create lot of traffic chaos in this part. Not only the locals were suffering, but the pilgrims, yatis and tourists visiting various areas here have to bear the brunt," said, Mushtaq Ahmad, a local from Wayil Ganderbal. "We are highly thankful to the dedicated engineers and officials of JTRFP who have been part of this project. This has brought a new lease of life for a population of around 4 lakh. This marks the beginning of new dawn in Kashmir with development on top priority of the government," he added. Local stakeholders have also lauded the government saying that the construction of permanent bridges over nallah Sindh at Wayil would now ease the traffic snarls due to which the commuters, travelers and pilgrims were facing inconvenience.

# UP Legislative Assembly's PMC interacts with Secretary JKLA, other officers

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 08: Parliamentary Monitoring Committee (PMC) of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly headed by Anupama Jaiswal today interacted with Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly (JKLA), Manoj Kumar Pandit and other senior officers at Legislative Assembly Complex here.

The PMC is on a study tour to Jammu & Kashmir with an aim to foster greater understanding and cooperation between the two legislative bodies, enabling exchange of knowledge and best practices in governance.

During the meeting, the members of Committee held productive and insightful interaction with Secretary J&K Legislative Assembly and exchanged ideas on the issues pertaining to Legislative bodies. The deliberations between them also focused on several key aspects, including legislative procedures, committee systems, parliamentary monitoring, and governance mechanisms.

The meeting also exchanged ideas and experiences thereby providing an enriching platform for both parties to learn from each other's successes and challenges, ultimately strengthening the democratic processes within their respective regions.

During the interaction, the members of PMC of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor, Chief Secretary and Secretary Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir for facilitating this study tour and providing them all possible assistance during their stay here.

The members highlighted that the collaboration between the two legislative bodies is anticipated to foster a long-lasting partnership, facilitating continuous engagement and the sharing of expertise for the betterment of governance practices in both Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

# Yasha Mudgal for stringent action against poor performing J&KSCARD branches

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 8: Cautioning of stringent action against poor performing bank branches, Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal, today exhorted upon all entities of J&K State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Limited (J&KSCARD) working in Kashmir division to step up efforts for achieving the set targets in time.

Commissioner Secretary, while chairing a meeting regarding review of functioning of J&KSCARD branches opera-



tional in Kashmir division, said that no laxity would be tolerated on part of any of the branches of

this prestigious institution as far as the public interests are concerned. She asked all concerned

to devise an effective mechanism to further streamline working of their respective units so that the set targets are achieved and the people are benefitted.

She also directed for constitution of a review committee comprising General Manager and others to monitor the status of poor performing branches on regular basis. This will help identify the existing issues affecting functioning of these branches besides improving their performance, she added. She said that the Committee will submit its report before end of the first quarter.

Commissioner Secretary had a detailed discussion on various vital issues which inter alia included Reserves, Deposits, Loan and Advances, CD ratio, Recovery against NPAs, Loan disbursed, Cash Liquidity and related matters. Among others present in the meeting Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K, Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Director Finance Cooperative Department, Additional Secretary Cooperative Department, Managing Director J&KSCARD, Managing Director Jammu Rural Bank and others.