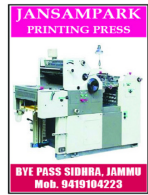




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LG visits Baltal; reviews status of preparedness of Shri Amarnath Ji annual pilgrimage through Baltal route

J1NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JUN 14

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited Baltal today and reviewed the status of preparedness of Shri Amarnath Ji annual pilgrimage through Baltal route.

Before on-site inspection, a review meeting was held at Sonamarg that was attended by Dr Mandep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Mandep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and senior officials of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Civil Administration, Police, CAPPS and Army.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the arrangements put in place for healthcare, electricity, communication, water supply and sanitation, weather forecasting, disaster management, security grid and all other basic necessities for the pilgrims.

He directed the officials to ensure Yatra Base Camp has adequate number of doctors,



staff, equipment, medicines and oxygen cylinders. BRO was instructed to mobilize resources and finish all works before commencement of Yatra.

Since Yatra is in difficult terrain at an altitude where the oxygen levels are low, healthcare facilities, care around the dock must be ensured, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor impressed upon the officials to ensure communication services on yatra route and night air services. He further directed for fitting tented accommodations with fire extinguishing equipment.

Overall arrangements for Yatra have been upgraded. All the concerned departments to take necessary steps for making the pilgrimage convenient, safe and hassle-free.

At Yatra Base Camp in Baltal, the Lt Governor inspected the ongoing work at DRDO's Hospital and other facilities for the pilgrims.

It was informed that the hospital will be made functional by 17th June.

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary Tourism Department; Dr Raghu Langer, Secretary Planning, Development

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LG Sinha addresses J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides UT-Level camporee at Sonamarg



J1NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JUN 14

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides UT-Level Camporee at International Youth Hostel, Sonamarg, today.

He called upon the youth to join the campaign against drug addiction and help the administration to eradicate this menace from society.

"Youth power is infinite source of energy that is always ready to serve, always ready to make a difference,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

India's Moon Mission Chandrayaan-3 Scheduled for July: Dr Jitendra Singh



AGENCIES
AMROHA (UP), JUNE 14

India's coveted Moon Mission Chandrayaan-3 is scheduled to be launched in July, most likely in the second half of the month.

This was disclosed by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh in response to a question asked by media persons on the sidelines of a massive public rally addressed by him here today.

The Union Minister said, if things go as planned, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will launch its ambitious Chandrayaan-3 mission which is aimed at demonstrating critical technology to land the Spacecraft on the South Pole of the Moon. Earlier this year, he said,

Chandrayaan-3 Spacecraft successfully completed the essential tests that validated its capability to withstand the harsh environment that the Spacecraft would be facing during its launch and the subsequent journey.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India's earlier lunar mission, Chandrayaan-2 had earned India a place of pride and supremacy in the world arena by identifying for the first time ever, the presence of water on the surface of moon. This input was noted with great significance even by the world's premier Space agencies like the USA's NASA, he said.

Permit me to mention that Chandrayaan-3 is a follow up mission to Chandrayaan-2. Living upto the theme of "Science of the Moon", the scientific instruments on the lander and the rover in the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Under C2S programme, Jammu IIT to design advanced chip for implantable pacemaker



J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 14

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India (GoI), under the Chip to Startup (C2S) Programme, has awarded a significant grant of Rs 4.8 Cr for Implantable Pacemaker Chip title.

Sources in the IIT Jammu said that Assistant Professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Jammu, Dr Ambika Prasad Shah in collaboration with

researchers from IIT Indore, ABV-IITM Gwalior, IET-DAVV Indore, and SGSITS Indore has secured a significant funding of Rs 4.8 cr for IPACE-CHIP project.

"The primary objective of the project is to design an advanced chip for an Implantable Pacemaker utilizing SCL 180nm/TSMC 130nm CMOS High Voltage, Low power, BCD PLUS technology," sources said.

They revealed that the IPACE-CHIP, once

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Fix responsibility about missing revenue maps; start online Girdawari forthwith: Chief Secretary

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 14

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today reviewed the overall implementation of various schemes for development of Agriculture in J&K and exhorted upon the officers to fix the responsibility for misplacing 392 revenue maps (Mussavis) and initiate the process for recreating the same at an earliest.

The meeting was attended by Advisor & Chief Knowledge Officer, Ministry of Agriculture,



GoI; ACS, Agriculture Production Department; Commissioner Secretary, IT; Commissioner, Survey & Land Records; Director, Remote Sensing besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary laid emphasis on early

implementation of J&K Digital Agriculture Mission (Agristack) and said that the premise of missing of such a significant record is unacceptable and needs to be looked into seriously. He asked for carrying out a thorough investigation

into the matter for fixing the responsibility for misplacing these maps. He also directed that these records be recreated without loss of time.

Regarding the Geo-referencing of

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

India accomplished journey from red tape to red carpet in 9 years of Modi rule: Amit Shah

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUN 14



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said India has accomplished a journey from red tape to the red carpet in nine years of the Narendra Modi government and created a hassle-free business environment, making the country a preferred FDI destination.

Shah also said Prime Minister Modi has

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

NIA court rejects plea by Waheed Para for permission to travel abroad to pursue YALE peace fellowship 2023

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 14

A special court designated under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, Srinagar has dismissed an application filed by People Democratic Party (PDP) youth leader, Waheed Ur Rehman Para seeking permission to travel to United States



of America (USA) to pursue a 3-month Peace Fellowship Programme at YALE University, Barabdench reported.

The Court noted that Para has been accused of having close links with foreign and local terrorists, as well as of funding, aiding, and supporting terrorist activities and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai assumes command of Chinar corps in Srinagar



J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 14

Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai on Wednesday assumed command of the strategic Kashmir-based Chinar corps.

A Defence Ministry statement said, "On taking over the command, he paid homage at the Chinar Corps Memorial at Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar.

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Nitin Agrawal takes charge as new Director General of BSF

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUN 14

Recipient of the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2015, senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Nitin Agrawal on Wednesday took charge as a new Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF), which claims to be the largest border guarding force in the world.

Agrawal, a 1989-batch IPS from Kerala cadre, has held various prominent positions in the Kerala Police as well as serving

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Narco-Terror module busted in Rajouri-Poonch range, eight arrested

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 14

Security forces have busted major narco-terror modules in Rajouri-Poonch range in Jammu by arresting eight persons in past two weeks, officials said.

ADGP Jammu, in a tweet, said that the police and other security forces in Rajouri-Poonch range cracked major narco-terror modules with the recovery of 44.47 Kg Heroin and some weapons including one

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

MeT predicts more Rains in J&K

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 14

The Meteorological Office on Wednesday predicted more rain and advised farmers that weather will not be favourable for carrying out farming operations for the next four-five days.

The MeT predicted that a brief spell of rain or thunderstorm may occur on Wednesday at scattered places of Jammu and Kashmir towards afternoon or evening. Rain lashed several parts of Kashmir in the early hours on Wednesday.

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Around 53 Lakh tourists explore Jammu Region in first 4 months this year

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 14

Emerging as most favourable destinations, the picturesque hot-spots of Jammu region witnessed huge footfall of the tourists not only from all over the country but also from abroad as around 53 lakh tourists have visited in the first four months of this year.

The visitors explored the famous as well as virgin destinations of Jammu region among which Bhaderwah, Patnitop, Sanasar, Mansar, Surinsar were among the most favorites.

Official sources said that from January to April this year, a record 52.69 lakh



tourists visited parts of Jammu region.

"Tourists influx has increased manifold in Jammu region with the highest number of tourists visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Cave Shrine," official sources added.

They said that this year in the first five months, 38.47 lakh pilgrims visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, adding, "Jammu region

is popular for pilgrimage tourism apart from that people also explore other destinations famous for leisure tourism, adventure tourism, health and wellness tourism, border tourism and much more."

Sources said in total in the first four months, 52,69,473 domestic and 43 foreign tourists/pilgrims visited the Jammu

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Natrang's Children Theatre Camp-2023 setting new trend of creativity



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 14: Children at Natrang's Theatre Camp-2023 is exploring new benchmarks by setting endless possibilities of creativity and innovation. The most noteworthy feature of this year's camp is that it is being monitored by Padamshree Balwant Thakur himself. He was away for the last four years on a foreign posting as the cultural diplomat of India to South Africa and Mauritius and this year's participants are extremely lucky to have got the opportunity to share and explore a new world of creativity through the new innovative methods which he acquired having worked globally. New horizons of creativity are being turned inside out by experimenting alternative ways of self-exploration through the vibrant devices of theatre. Natrang organises a children theatre camp every year for forty-five days since the year 1990. This is the only professional platform for children in Jammu where children get an out of world exposure of creativity, art, aesthetics, innovation and culture. They are provided immense opportunities to explore their immense hidden abilities. While discussing details of this initiative of Natrang, its director Balwant Thakur informed that everywhere the work of creativity with children is being done as a fashion. Everywhere one can find some activity being organised in the name of art and theatre but in Natrang, highly experienced and professionally trained people work in a strategic devised manner in infusing creativity amongst participating children. While others after school hours remain attracted to the idiot box (Television/smart

phones or may be sleeping at home, the Natrang Theatre camp children have found an amazing space where they are equipping themselves with multiple abilities and qualities. Theatre is not only making them confident but is also enriching them with intellect and infusing in them the art of self-expression.

Natrang is the only theatre organisation of the country which have been running a weekend club for children. This club works on Saturdays and Sundays and children get diverse kind of training in personality development, public speaking, organizing the self and self-exploration through theatre.

Natrang is all set to devise a year-long theatre training programme to make children aware of their own self-actualization with the help of experts training them. The curriculum of this year-long theatre programme is conceptualized and designed by Padamshree Balwant Thakur who has provided a new dimension to the Children Theatre of the Country with his highly innovative Children Plays like 'Rang, Badalti Duniya', 'Bhag, Beta Bhag', 'Hum Hain Naa Udaan', 'Mere Hesse Ki Dhoop Kahan Hai' and 'Aap hamare Hain Kauri'.

In the past the experts to work with children have been coming from National and International institutions like, National School of Drama New Delhi and London International School of Performing Arts.

The regular faculty include, Sumeet Sharma a National Awarded and also Masters in Dramatics, Suresh Kant, a veteran theatre artist who has an experience of 35years of working with children and Gauri Thakur, a young theatre director

who is Master of English literature with specialization in English Drama. Other than this many other experts of different art-fields like Music, Dance, Painting etc come as visiting faculty to impart vast knowledge and exposure to the participants. Theatre not only trains actors or directors, but it teaches many skills which help its trainees to excel and lead in any field they opt as a career. As Natrang is doing regular Children Theatre in J&K for the last 33 years. In these years Natrang has trained, inspired and motivated thousands of children till now and most of them have excelled brilliantly in various fields be it acting, management, civil services, medicine, engineering, judiciary, social work etc. It clearly establishes that no matter, what you aspire to become in life, the confidence, spontaneity, self-exploration, creativity, reasoning and discipline you imbibe while experiencing theatre, acts as your ultimate strength and the motivational force for you to succeed and excel in every sphere of life. Natrang takes pride in not only giving a new cultural and intellectual identity to this region but also identify to produce best of the human resource through these kinds of creative initiatives.

The children who are participating in the workshop include Shaqafatimah, Tasmia Shaqfat, Akshit Basur, Samrat Sharma, Adeesha Soham, Raaga Sharma, Adeesha Singh, Ruhaan Chandan, Jayaditya Singh, Supria Gorka, Shalajia Sandhu, Shambhavi Sharma, Sharvil Mahajan, Shranaya Mahajan, Javir Singh, Reet Gupta, Aryan Gupta, Adira Gupta, Davik Gupta, Mehak Chib, Abhiraj Sharma, Sadhya Sharma, Aravika Shan, Meghna Shan, Daiwik Shan, Advik Sharma, Tanmay Chopra, Tanishka Chopra, Aarav Vashisht, Aadhya Thakral, Kavya Jandial, Jeevan Sharma, Arindam Kohli, Aarohi Kohli, Saanchi Dutta, Dwijesh Dutta, Riaan Gupta, Manavi Bhushan, Anadika Pandoh, Kavyaansh Gandotra, Shanaya Gupta, Aravaya Sharma, Audvik Badyal, Kamakhya Bali, Vidhanshi Jamwal, Viyaan Sharma, Nitya Sharma, Prial Ashok Gupta, Droan Dushyant Kohli, Anmol Sharma, Kushan Malhotra, Prayag Wadhwa, Abhay Sharma, Pulkit Jayve, Nayonika Katal and Agastya Koushal.

Shakti Parihar, Neelam Langeh address Beneficiary Sammelan in Doda West

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 14: Senior BJP leader and former Minister Shakti Parihar and Neelam Langeh, former MLA and President BJP SC Morcha J&K today addressed Beneficiary Sammelan of Doda West (53 Constituency at Community Hall Doda. The program was organized as part of Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan to celebrate 9 years of Modi Govt at the Centre. The Sammelan saw the participation of hundreds of beneficiaries who shared their experiences and expressed their gratitude towards the Modi government for the various welfare schemes and initiatives launched for the betterment of general public.

In his address, Shakti Parihar highlighted the various developmental works undertaken by the

Modi government across the country and how the benefits of these initiatives have reached the grass-root level. He urged the beneficiaries to utilise the benefits of the schemes and work towards building a better future for themselves and their families. Parihar said "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government has achieved numerous milestones in the last 9 years.

The BJP Government at the Centre has made significant progress in transforming India, he said, adding that the farmers' welfare schemes, creation of new jobs, Start Schemes, providing affordable housing to the poor are some of the remarkable achievements. We are committed to carrying forward this momentum of development and progress in the times to come."

Neelam Langeh, in her address, spoke about the various initiatives launched for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) and how these schemes have brought a positive change in the lives of the SC/ST community.

He also urged the beneficiaries to take advantage of the schemes and urged the government to continue working towards the upliftment of the marginalized sections of the society. The former Legislator said "The Modi government has made significant strides in providing equitable development and empowering the marginalized communities. The launch of various schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India, and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao have brought about a transformative change in the country.

JKTPO organizes Walmart Vriddhie, Commerce onboarding drive in Srinagar



JJ NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 14: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the guidance of Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department and supervision of Managing Director JKTPO, organized a successful onboarding drive on Walmart Vriddhie at JKEDI, Palampur today.

More than 45 local entrepreneurs participated in the drive and 25 were registered on-spot from various sectors including Handloom and Handicrafts, Agro and Food, manufacturing sector and others. Pertinently, JKTPO is continuously organising such promotion activities including onboarding on e-commerce platforms to enable local entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products across the world.

The onboarding drive is a significant milestone in the continued efforts of JKTPO and Walmart Vriddhie to foster economic growth and promote digital commerce in Jammu and Kashmir. These workshops have helped create awareness about the benefits of leveraging the power of e-commerce through Walmart Vriddhie and expand their reach beyond traditional boundaries. During the event, it was observed that local entrepreneurs hesitate to register for GST which is primary document for registration on any e-commerce platform. However, the same misconception of GST registration and its advantages such as GST refund, Input tax credit in B2B trading, was briefed and cleared by the officials. As of now, 100+ sellers have completed registration and learning process of onboarding, of which, 20+ sellers are live on Walmart Vriddhie platform. Similar onboarding drive for Jammu division shall be held on 16th June 2023 at Udhog Bhawan.

JKTPO shall continue the spree of such events to endorse e-commerce onboarding of potential entrepreneurs and boost the socio-economic scenario of J&K.

Tony anguishes over sidelining of local JKAS, JKPS Officers in J&K Administration

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 14: DDC Member Laranji Singh Tony expressed his disappointment against the present LG Administration in Jammu and Kashmir for sidelining local officers of the JKAS (Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service) and JKPS (Jammu and Kashmir Police Service) for high-ranking positions such as SSP (Senior Superintendent of Police) and Deputy Commissioners.

In a statement issued here today, Tony emphasized that it is crucial for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to recognize that their highly capable children have been overlooked by the present corrupt regime. He voiced his concern over the blatant neglect of local officers

who are qualified and competent to serve in higher positions.

"IAS and IPS officers lobbies are enjoying the plum postings in the Union Territory by sidelining the much more local competitive JKAS & JKPS officers," he added. Tony highlighted the unfortunate sidelining of minorities in both the police and civil administration. He pointed out that in the present scenario, it is rare to find local officers from JKAS or JKPS occupying senior posts.

Additionally, he highlighted the underrepresentation of minor minorities in the JKAS and JKPS services, adding to the need for fair and inclusive recruitment practices.

Tony appealed to the Union Home Minister to prioritize and address this pressing matter. He

urged the Central Government to give due attention to the concerns raised, especially as Union Ministers frequently visit the region to address local issues. It is imperative that these significant issues are addressed seriously and rectified to ensure a fair and transparent administration in Jammu and Kashmir, he added. The senior political leader underlined the importance of upholding meritocracy and ensuring equal opportunities for deserving local officers. By rectifying the present situation, the administration can foster an environment that encourages the growth and success of talented individuals, thereby benefiting the overall development and governance of Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

NC seeks compensation for students forced to appear for CUET outside J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 14: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference asked the government to compensate all J&K based students who were compelled to appear for the Common Undergraduate Entrance Test (CUET) outside the state.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary JKNC Jammu, criticized the government's decision to hold the CUET 2023 outside the JKUT. He said that students residing in far-flung areas have spent thou-

sands of rupees on traveling, food, and accommodation to appear in the CUET exam by going to the other state. This decision by the government has caused immense difficulty and frustration to the students and their families, he added.

Pertinent to mention here that the government has yesterday announced that students who were not able to appear in the CUET exam outside the state will be given admission in subjects and colleges of their choice, the senior NC questioned why such a decision was not taken earlier.

The senior NC leader urged the

government to provide admission to J&K based students in local colleges of the JKUT and compensate all such students who were forced to appear for the CUET exam outside the JKUT. He strongly believed that the government should prioritize the convenience and well-being of students and ensure that such unjust decisions are not taken in the future, causing further stress and hardship to the students and their families. The LG administration is a bureaucratic setup which is anti people which is clear in the mind of civil society in J&K UT, Mr Bashir Ahmed, he added.

Javed Rana bats for collective fight against drug menace in Pir Panjal region

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 14: Javed Rana former MLA and President NC Pir Panjal Zone on Wednesday appealed to all stakeholders to come together for collective fight against drugs and substance abuse in the Pir Panjal region claiming that the issues has become alarming and is eating up the vitals of society.

He was addressing a meeting of NC workers and office bearers of Mankote Block, who highlighted the issue of drugs in the region.

Rana said that drugs are being supplied in the region under a well-

knit strategy to ruin the future of the youngsters as it seems to be the ploy of enemies of nation to provide drugs to every household in the region through a network of peddlers as the situation has already turned critical. He said that substance abuse and addiction affect individuals, families, and communities, and it often requires collaborative efforts to tackle the problem effectively. He laid stress on cooperation among governments, law enforcement agencies, religious leaders, healthcare providers, community organizations, social workers, political parties of all shades,

and individuals in raising awareness, preventing drug abuse, providing treatment and support to those affected, and implementing effective law enforcement strategies. He said, "By working together, we can make progress in combating drug-related issues and promoting healthier communities". He alleged that its part of ploy to keep the Pir Panjal region backward by making its youth defunct and directionless. He urged the higher ups of J&K Police to constitute a special team capable of taking to task those elements, who are peddling drugs and ruining the future of youngsters.

Commissioner Secretary I&C chairs SLC meetings, approves 13 CII claims, 117 applications under New Central Sector Scheme

JJ NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 14: Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, today chaired two separate meetings of Secretary Level Committee to approve applications for grant of registration and sanctioning of Capital Investment Incentive (CII) claims under New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu and Kashmir. Director General, Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Anoo Malhotra and Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir, Mehmod Ahmed Shah deliberated upon incentive claims and registration cases.

During the meeting, the Committee sanctioned 13 cases of CII claims amounting Rs 2242.44 lakh, of which, 09 CII claims amounting Rs 2188 lakh pertained to Jammu division and 04



CII claims amounting Rs. 54.44 lakh pertained to Kashmir division.

The Secretary Level committee approved total 117 applications (90 applications of Jammu division and 27 of Kashmir) for registration under New Central Sector Scheme. The total financial outlay of the approved units for registration involved is Rs 2967.27 crore (approximately). Commissioner Secretary stressed upon grounding of new investments and directed all the concerned officers and General

Managers to expedite the process of registration and incentive claims under NCSS. Director General, Industries & Commerce, Jammu and Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir along with senior officers of both the Directorates of I&C including Director Finance, Joint Director of Directorate I&C, Jammu, concerned General Managers, DIC's of both the divisions and General Manager, JKDFC, Gowhar Afri attended the meeting.

Medical Check-up Camp for Inmates of Palaash Children's Home conducted at Kishtwar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

Kishtwar, June 14: A medical check-up camp for the inmates of Palaash Children's Home Boys, operated by the Social Welfare Department Kishtwar, was conducted today under the supervision of Dr. My Mir, Chief Medical Officer (CMO).

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) team from the Health and Family Welfare Department conduct-

ed the health checkup of the children. The camp was organized on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav and managed by District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Zubair Ahmed Lone and Superintendent Palaash Children's Home Boys, Rajesh Sharma.

The RBSK team from the Block Medical Officer (BMO) office comprising Dr. Shehzad Khan, Medical Officer of RBSK, Ankush Sharma,

Pharmacist and Saima Iqbal, Female Multipurpose Health Worker (FMPHW) conducted the routine check-up of the inmates, ensuring their health and well-being. Free medicines catering to their specific healthcare needs were also provided to the inmates.

This initiative aimed to provide comprehensive healthcare services to the children to address any underlying health issues and ensure their overall well-being.

DIG Traffic interact with Office Bearers of CCI



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 14: On the request of President Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sh. Arun Gupta, DIG Traffic Sh. Shridhar Patil, IPS visited Chamber House alongwith SSP Traffic Rural Sh. Vijay Kumar and SSP Traffic City Sh. Faisal Qureshi and interacted with the Sr. Members of Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

While expressing gratitude and thanks to Shridhar Patil, IPS, DIG Traffic for sparing his valuable time to interact with Office Bearers and Sr. Members of CCI, they said that our Transporters, Traders and Industrialists are facing lot of problems after unloading their trucks at Srinagar and proceed back to Jammu and request for instituting appropriate measures for its streamlining. The condition of the highway and bottlenecks there to, are known to the administration and stakeholders, yet some appropriate measures will be helpful for free flow of the downward traffic.

The upward and downward movements of load carriers are on alternate days. The upward convoy movement from Jammu to Srinagar is regulated forward from Nagrota-Jajjar Kotli-Udhampur-Jakahani

barriers. In such an arrangement the trucks reach the destination next day morning in a smooth manner.

However after unloading are made to halt for a day at Mir Bazar. Thereafter the trucks are also made to halt at boni-gum and in this way it takes 8 to 10 days to cover the distance of 20-25 km from Mir Bazar to Qazikund. Further due to landslides unsuitable road conditions and inclement weather they are forced to halt at vulnerable stretches. Which adds another 2-3 days in time line.

In addition, another reason for piling of the trucks at the above barriers is that the trucks for down movement are lined up and not allowed to break the queue, but the local trucks with Registration Digits (of 01) /drivers are reported to be proceeding from the wrong side and from numerous lateral/feeder roads to the new tunnel, thus bypassing all the barriers.

Such trucks when reaching the New Tunnel get preferential way down where the trucks are released in a phased manner due to the road/tunnel capacity/safety limitations, while the queues at the barriers keep on getting longer. It may be

appreciated that in such a scenario, all of this activity is creating cascading and debilitating effect on the turnaround time and recycling of the trucks, is considered avoidable wastage of man hours, under utilisation of the precious human and mechanical resources and at micro level it translates into undue administrative and physical inconvenience to the truckers, financial loss to individual drivers as also to business establishments; all impacting the business environment negatively. We further suggest that the ONLY empty trucks of 12/14 tyres category be permitted to take a detour from Shopian via the Mughal Road on to Jammu to partially address the situation. This arrangement was in place in the year 2022-23 but no more allowed now.

Arun Gupta also pointed out that the Amarnath Yatra is going to start from 1st July 2023. We request that the Transport Department should not disturb and penalize pilgrims tourist during Amarnath Yatra Period. We further request not to penalize those who are making efforts to facilitate the pilgrims by way of providing them eating facility etc.

During interaction Sh.

Arun Gupta also said that with the construction of the flyover from Canal Road to Muthi the businessmen of the Canal Road are feeling harassed as the traffic police did not allow the vehicles of the customers to be parked outside their shops/establishments rather they immediately penalize the customers for parking their vehicles there. We request to come up with a solution so that the traffic in this area plies without any hurdle and also the customers who visit there for shopping purposes get suitable parking facility for their vehicles.

While reacting Sh. Shridhar Patil, IPS DIG Traffic said that the issue regarding movement of Commercial vehicle from Jammu to Srinagar and from Srinagar to Jammu shall be resolved within 2-3 days and the issues of Amarnath Yatra and Canal Road Parking will be resolved after discussions with the concerned officers on duties in these areas.

Arun Gupta also lauded the commendable work done by Sh. K.K.Gandhi our member and a peace dove(Grubler Taube) which will travel across India and finally reach back to Austria during the pre Christmas season. Today Mr. Gandhi handed over the peace dove to Sh. Ajay Mather, President Jt Ma Hallein(NGO)in Chamber House.

India has changed during 9 years of BJP govt: Ashok Koul

PM Modi has deep concern for minority welfare: MP Khatana

J I NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, JUN 14: Bharatiya Janata Party today held a massive (public rally) as part of its month long. The event was chaired by General Secretary Organization, Ashok Koul ji who was accompanied by MP Khatana, Chairperson Waqf Board J&K, Dr. Darakshah Andrabi, Ex-Minister & General secretary Sunil Sharma, Ex MLC Surender Ambarad, Prabhari and Incharge Lok Sabha Baramulla Constituency, M Anwar Khan, District President Baramulla, Gh Mohi U din Sofi, Prabhari Baramulla, MM War.

Program was organised by Incharge Program and Prabhari Kupwara Mohammad Anwar Khan. Lashing out against the previous govt. Sh. Ashok Koul urged people to give one chance to BJP in Jammu & Kashmir and see the transformation in governance, transparency and development scenario.

He said that previous MLAs and MPs just looted their voters and served their own, kith and kin's interests.

Here is your MP Gulam Ali who is visiting every nook and corner of Kashmir, meeting hundreds of dele-



gations and trying to redress your problems," Ashok Koul said. BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiated an integrated plan for bringing back peace in J&K, improve infrastructure, connectivity, and roads besides other projects.

General Secretary BJP J&K Sunil Sharma said "BJP leadership has taken care of the aspirations of country's citizens their empowerment, faster connectivity, more jobs, better education and improved quality of life," he said, the Good Governance model of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, encompasses these broad themes into simple takeaways

which have the potential of transforming India in the near future.

Dr. Darakshah Andrabi said PM Narendra Modi respects women a lot and has bestowed upon her with a huge responsibility by nominating her as chairperson J&K Waqf Board. BJP govt has delivered a deadly blow to corruption and unaccountability if Rs.100 are released for common man, it reaches to the bottom, she said adding the DBT(Direct benefit transfer) has made it sure that the benefits are reaped by the last man in the row and middlemen have been rooted out.

Ex-MLC Surender Ambarad also highlighted the achievements of govt.

PNB MetLife Launches Insurance Awareness Drive in J&K and HP

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 14: PNB MetLife, one of India's leading life insurers, has launched an initiative to grow insurance awareness in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. In line with IRDAI's State Insurance Plan to improve awareness and understanding of insurance among rural and semi-urban areas, PNB MetLife awareness drive has so far reached 180 areas in Srinagar, Jammu, Budgam, Shilma, Mandi, and Dharamshala. Leveraging tools such as road shows, bima rath camps and nuklad natak, the insurer has been educating communities about the importance of financial protection and the benefits insurance can offer in helping people to live life confidently and achieve their long-term financial goals.



Commenting on the initiative, Ashish Kumar Srivastava, MD and CEO, PNB MetLife, said, "I strongly believe that the IRDAI-initiated awareness drive is a crucial step towards improving financial literacy and promoting financial inclusion, contributing to the nation's financial growth and development. We, at PNB MetLife, are committed to

working as an industry to bridge the financial protection gap in India and empowering the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to build a more confident future."

As part of these efforts, PNB MetLife has launched Bima Shivir (insurance camp) to educate communities, including existing policyholders about the features of protection coverage, policy benefits, and the need for life insurance. To date, PNB MetLife has run 109 camps across these two states with more than 1,100 participants.

The insurance awareness drive is an important step towards promoting financial inclusion and ensuring that more people have access to insurance services. With IRDAI's guidance on such innovative initiatives, PNB MetLife is striving to make insurance accessible to all.

JKAACL inaugurates a 20 day long Summer Children's workshop

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 13: Under the able guidance of Sh.Bharat Singh (JKAS) Secretary JKAACL a 20 day long Summer workshop commenced here today.

Sh.Kavinder Gupta former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir in the presence of participating in a Children from various educational institutions and their parents inaugurated 20 day long summer Painting, Dance and Theatre workshops here today at K.L. Saigal Hall in the premises of JKAACL, Jammu.

After lighting the traditional lamp, Gupta congratulated the Academy for organising special activities in view of summer vacation and also wished the children very best for learning the basics of various arts like Music, Dance, Theatre and painting from the seasoned artists of national reputations of Academy



and outside who are experts in their respective fields. He said, "Through this workshop, the children will have the opportunity to explore and excel in the different fields of their choice and will also interact with other children on the single platform".

Dr.Sudhir Mahajan, SDI, JKAACL and in charge Divisional office Jammu while welcoming the Chiefguest, parents and Participating Children of the summer camp said, Academy workshop aims

are not to produce painters, dancers and actors but to sensitise themselves about their surroundings and themselves for being good human beings with the blend of courage, confidence and sensitivity through actively participating in various arts.

Dr.Shahnawaz, Editor Cum - Culture officer Gojri in his vote of thanks to the Chief guest also congratulated the Children and their parents

for using the holidays in a meaningful purpose as these types of workshops provide an opportunity to think logically, and also develop sensitivity towards art, literature and culture besides human values. The internal experts are Dr.Sudhir Mahajan, Anil Tickoo, Sanjeev Gupta, Bhupinder Singh and Pankaj Gupta while Ankush, Akash Dogra, Neeraj Kant, Suresh Kumar, Rakesh Kona, Divam have been engaged from outside.

Building a Healthy India is priority of Modi Govt: Divya Jani

VISITS ANGANWARI CENTRE AS A '9 SAAL BEMISAAL' CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING & NUTRITIONAL AWARENESS

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 14: Divya Jani, President BJP Mahila Morcha Jammu South today emphasized that building a healthy India is the next priority of the Modi government. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the government has launched various healthcare initiatives to enhance the well-being of the Indian population.

The BJP leader was speaking during her visit to Anganwari Centre as a part of ongoing '9 Saal Bemisaal' campaign of Modi Government at the Centre.

In this regard, Divya Jani along with General Secretary Meeta, Alarima, Mandal President Sangeta and Sushila Poonam visited an Anganwari Centre and distributed Halwa among the children.

Divya Jani said that the aim of today's program was to raise awareness among women who are running Anganwadi centers about healthy and nutritious food.



Anganwadi centers are government-sponsored child and maternal care centers in India that provide various services, including nutrition and health education.

Divya Jani also emphasized the ill effects of junk food and the importance of avoiding the consumption of items such as chips, biscuits, cold drinks, and other packaged foods.

The BJP leader also shed light on the holistic nutritional scheme called Poshan Abhiyan (also known as the National Nutrition Mission) launched by the Narendra Modi government to address the issue of malnutrition among underprivileged children in India.

At last, Divya Jani highlighted that in the nine years of governance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the focus on building a healthy India has been a key priority.

"The government has launched various healthcare initiatives, including the National Nutrition Mission (Poshan Abhiyan), to address malnutrition and improve the overall well-being of underprivileged children. The visit to the Anganwadi Centre as part of the '9 Saal Bemisaal' campaign symbolizes the commitment of the Modi government to create awareness and promote healthy eating habits among women running these centers. By prioritizing the health of its citizens and emphasizing the importance of nutritious food while discouraging the consumption of junk food, the government aims to pave the way for a healthier and brighter future for India," she said.

Similarly, the power supply to Ramghar Town, Trindyan Riddima and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 15 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Nai Mohalla, Bhagat Mohalla, Tali Mohalla and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 15 and 16 from 6 am to 10 am.

Zila Sanik Board Udhampur Conduct Awareness programme for ESM, Widows & Veer Nari's

J I NEWS SERVICE

PANCHARI, JUN 14: Zila Sanik Welfare Office (ZSWO) Udhampur on Tuesday conducted an awareness programme for Ex-ServiceMen (ESM) and Veer Nari's from remote areas of Tehsil Panchari at Govt.Model Higher Sec. School Panchari. The awareness programme cum interaction session



was aimed to address grievances of ex-service-men and resolve various pension anomalies and other grievances of the veterans. The objective was also to provide comprehensive

resolution of grievances and make them aware about the latest benefits and welfare schemes.

A large number of ESM including Veer Nari's and War widows participated in the programme.

The lectures were delivered by Col Sukbir Singh Zila Sanik Board Officer and representatives from Zila Sanik Welfare office Udhampur.



FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG visits Baltal...

and Monitoring Department and Sh Shyambir, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal were also present.

LG Sinha addresses...

"always ready to embark on adventurous pursuits, always ready to innovate, invent and always ready to transform the society for greater good," said the Lt Governor.

Young Scouts and Guides through community services, Scout movement can assist PKRs and ULBs in making J&K UT drug-free, he added.

"Highlighting the key initiatives of the government for empowerment of youth, the Lt Governor said, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, the youth are being provided with countless opportunities in various sectors to fulfil their dreams and become responsible citizens.

"Our Youth, Scouts and Guides are always aspiring to give birth to new consciousness to the society so that no one is left behind in the journey of development and prosperity," observed the Lt Governor.

"The century old tradition of Scouts and Guides has become the symbol of discipline, selfless service, social harmony, courage and duty. By following the ideals of Mahatma Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya ji, they are shaping the future of the country, the Lt Governor said.

Youth is the energy that is creating new path for development of a modern society with ecological and economic sustainability. Industry 4.0 technologies, new tools of artificial intelligence are empowering the younger generation and enabling them to contribute in nation building," he added.

At the Sampore, the Lt Governor lauded the Scout and Guides for displaying exemplary courage during COVID Pandemic. He also acknowledged their contribution in the smooth conduct of Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela.

With the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', Scouts and Guides are playing a stellar role during community service and social empowerment in far flung areas, he added.

"The Lt Governor appreciated the Bharat Scouts and Guides for providing a unique platform for the youth to learn the priceless values of life through experience, field work and selfless service of the society.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated Scouts and Guides, and encouraged them to connect more youth with Scout movement.

He assured every assistance and cooperation from the UT Administration in their endeavours of community service.

Ms Gulshan Ara, Commissioner J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides presented a detailed report on the UT-level Campore.

Scouts and Guides also shared their learning and experience in the camp.

Senior Officials, Guide Captains, Instructors, Scouts and Guides besides Principals, teachers and students from various schools were present.

India's Moon Mission...

Chandrayaan-3 would be capable of studying the various aspects of Moon including the Lunar environment and thermo-physio properties. But at the same time, another experimental instrument incorporated in Chandrayaan-3 Mission could be capable of studying different aspects of the Earth as well, thus prompting the simultaneous theme of "Science from the Moon".

Earlier, addressing a mammoth public rally here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, various public-centric schemes brought by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last 9 years are not only meant for transforming the lot of those sections of society who did not receive their due attention in the earlier regimes, but in the long run these are going to create socio-economic transformation as well as change our social culture and behaviour.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, many of the public-centric initiatives undertaken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi like for example Rozgar Mela, StartUp India, Mudra Yojna, etc., have been conceived with great degree of sensitivity and compassion, and are designed to reassure the youth that they are being provided a level-playing field with equal conditions to highlight the spirit of capability and hard work.

In the case of women, Dr Jitendra Singh said, schemes like Ujjawala and Swachhta (toilets) are meant to accord the Indian women convenience and safety with reverence and dignity.

Under C2S programme...

successfully developed and tested, will be incorporated into the next-generation commercial product of Shree Pacetricon Ltd., with an array of enhanced features.

"The Ministry's Chip to Startup Programme is an integral part of the Indian government's vision to establish the nation as a global hub for Electronic System Design and Manufacturing," sources said adding that the initiative aims to foster a robust semiconductor ecosystem encompassing various facets such as design, manufacturing, packaging, testing, and related services.

"The successful collaboration between Dr. Shah, IIT Jammu, and esteemed institutions highlights the spirit of cooperation and innovation that drives the Indian academic and research community," they said.

Sources added that the successful outcome of the IPACE-CHIP project has the potential to revolutionize the field of cardiac care and implantable medical devices, showcasing India's technological prowess on the global stage.

Sources added that the Startups will also be promoted in Jammu and Kashmir under the implantable pacemaker chip project.

"The startup will be introduced within two years and it will be also used for types of applications like biomedical, aerospace etc," they said.

Sources said that Jammu and Kashmir would get most of the benefits of start-ups, adding, "along with this, chips will also be made for ISRO." (AGENCIES)

Fix responsibility about...

cadastal maps of revenue villages, Dr Mehta

observed that it should actually make the process of demarcation easy and more accurate. He also advised devising the SOPs/guidelines for resolving any issues or gaps arising from migrating the record from traditional system to modern systems.

He also emphasised on carrying out seasonal Girdawari (crop survey) digitally, capturing the actual record on ground in a more accurate manner. He further noted that in order to create the farmer's registry, a mechanism should be devised to register actual cultivators so that the objective of Agristack is met successfully.

Dr Mehta remarked that the aim of this Agricultural Mission is to provide timely assistance to the farmers. He also said that it should be a means to extend credit facility etc to farmers with minimal human interface.

The ACS, APD, Atal Dulloo informed the meeting that the Agristack is a major initiative to digitally push Agriculture towards new paradigm. He said that it provides an ecosystem for facilitating delivery of various services to farmers.

He said that with its successful implementation a farmer would get access to the right advice at the right time regarding crop selection, crop health, selling of produce, access to inputs, loans and market besides benefits to public different beneficiary oriented schemes for development of the sector.

The Commissioner, Survey & Land Records, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan apprised the meeting that the progress in digitization of land records is satisfactory. He said that the progress in computerization of land records is more than 96%.

Moreover it was given out that Geo-referencing of 72% cadastral maps has been completed till date. It was further revealed that both the scanned and digitized data is available in public domain. The computerized records can be translated into multiple languages as per the requirement of the user, the meeting was apprised.

Later on the Chief Secretary chaired the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) meeting of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) under Krishonnati Yojana, RKVY, MIDH and PMKSY.

The Chief Secretary laid emphasis on saturating possible benefits to farmers under these Schemes. He also asked for implementing the specific schemes in the areas where the results are likely to yield maximum benefits to public.

Dr Mehta also laid stress on promoting Millets as a 'super food'. He asked them to utilize the opportunity of Shri Amarnathi Yatra for its promotion. He also asked them to converge these schemes with the 'One District One Product' and Amrit Sarovar scheme for enhancing their impact on ground. He also asked for giving more focus to the production of pulses, cereals and oil seeds so that J&K contributes to reducing import these from outside.

He enquired about the ways for enhancing the per capita income of farmers. He directed the Agricultural Universities to formulate a farm income tracking system so that its monitoring becomes possible. He took this opportunity to ask for making an export plan for all the crops grown here. He emphasized that the District GDP measurement is essential to take concrete steps for propelling UT on the path of progress and development.

He impressed upon the Agricultural Universities to make timely interventions to curtail the spread of certain diseases like leaf miner, etc., the means of which are made by orchardists. He enjoined upon the Deputy Commissioners to seek assistance from SKUAIST in order to safeguard their areas from any damage by these pests.

On the occasion the ACS, APD, Atal Dulloo informed that together with Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) the CSS are going to bring substantial change in the Agriculture sector. He maintained that these schemes aim at enhancing the overall productivity of our cultivable lands. He said that the yield gap is going to lessen with each passing year through implementation of these programmes.

He further informed that the Department is introducing the Millet cultivation on 1100 ha of land first time in the valley. He said that the Department is planning to introduce certification of organic crops through PGS system valid throughout the country. He stated that the Department plans to introduce the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for certifying organic crops recognized throughout the world.

The meeting considered Annual Action Plan under seven components of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) including RKVY, Soil Health & Fertility, Rain fed Area Development, Per Drop More Crop, Agriculture Mechanization, Prarampratag Krishi Vikas Yojana, and Sub-Mission on Agro Forestry. The Annual Action Plan (AAP) to the tune of Rs 66.05 Cr was approved for funding by Government of India.

Similarly the AAPs for 2023-24 under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (Rs 12.50 Cr), Food & Nutrition Security and National Mission on Edible Oils (Rs 10.29 Cr), Seeds & Planting Material (Rs 9.43 Cr) now rechristened under the new Krishonnati Yojana were deliberated upon in the meeting.

The AAPs for Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) accounting to Rs 47.78 Cr with the funding pattern of 90:10 by Centre and UT was also approved. In addition the AAP for Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) having components like Har Khet ko Pani, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and Watershed Development was also discussed.

It was revealed that these schemes have multiple objectives aiming at increasing the overall productivity, replacement of seeds, providing assured irrigation facilities, better marketing facilities, value addition of crop produce, increasing soil fertility, besides creating employment opportunities for youth.

India accomplished...

unleashed India's aspirations to drive growth in the "nine years of ease of business".

"India accomplished a journey from red tape to the red carpet in the last 9YearsOfEaseOfBusiness. PM @narendramodi ji introduced an efficient tax system, investor-friendly policy, and easier approvals to create a hassle-free business environment, making India an FDI destination," he wrote on Twitter.

"The home minister said whether it is 'StartUp India', 'Stand Up India', PLI or digital transformation, a whole-of-the-government approach to facilitate growth has

spurred innovation and development. (AGENCIES)

NIA court rejects...

organizations. For these alleged offences, Para has been charged with various provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which are punishable with death and imprisonment for life, it was observed.

For these alleged offences, Para has been charged with various provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which are punishable with death and imprisonment for life, it was observed. For life, special judge, Sandeep Gandotra held that there are genuine apprehensions that Para may flee India and disrupt the collection of evidence against him.

"Not only the trial of the case will get hampered which is at evidence stage but there are genuine apprehensions of the applicant fleeing from the country and him trying to disrupt the collection of evidence in the USA for which MLAT request has been sent through government of India," the order said.

On May 25, 2022, Para was granted bail by the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh subject to various conditions. These conditions included that he cannot leave Jammu and Kashmir without the prior permission of the trial court. Further, he was also ordered to surrender his passport before the investigating officer.

In light of these conditions, Para moved the NIA court for permission to travel abroad and the release of his passport citing his selection as Inaugural Peace Fellow of the YALE Peace Fellowship, 2023, which is slated to start in September and end in November this year.

The Public Prosecutor (PP) objected to the application, contending that the Fellowship was a means to impede the ongoing investigation and trial against Para. The PP also asserted that there was a statutory bar under Section 51 of the UAPA on granting Para permission to travel since his passport is deemed to have been impounded.

The special court rejected the PP's contention with respect to Section 51, UAPA opining that, as per this provision, the trial court has the discretion to decide how long a passport ought to be impounded for and even to release it, depending on the particular facts and circumstances of the case.

However, the Court proceeded to reject Para's application in light of the fact that the investigating officer and trial, which is at the evidence stage, against him would get hampered if he were allowed to travel abroad.

Lieutenant General Rajiv...

"The Lieutenant General addressed and interacted with the troops of Chinar Corps and exhorted them to continue to work with unflinching dedication and perseverance in pursuit of peace and stability in Kashmir. He also urged the ranks to take additional steps required to connect with the citizens in order to jointly work towards peace and development.

According to the statement, Lieutenant General Ghai, an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, was commissioned in December 1989 into the Kumaon Regiment and has had an illustrious military career spanning 33 years during which he has held various prestigious command, staff and instructional appointments.

"As Colonel General Staff, he has served in the Divisional Headquarters for Counter Insurgency Operations in J&K and Brigadier at Military Operations Directorate in Army Headquarters. In his command tenures, he has commanded a Battalion in the Western Sector followed by command of a Brigade and a Division on the Northern Borders.

"He is a postgraduate from the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington (Tamil Nadu), and has done Higher Command Course, Army War College, Mhow, and National Defence College, New Delhi. Prior to this appointment, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai held an important appointment as Northern Command as Major General Staff," the statement said.

On assuming command, Lt Gen Ghai conveyed his greetings to the citizens of Kashmir.

"He reiterated his commitment to closely work with various instruments of civil administration and society to further the cause of peace and prosperity in Kashmir. He expressed hope at the improved security parameters in the Valley and is optimistic that even the ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control will further enable improvement of the overall security situation.

"He called for the civil society to come forward and jointly work with the security forces to address the scourge of terrorism.

"Lieutenant General Ghai said that, together with the support of all community members, Kashmir will move a step closer to its glorious past while leaping forward in the development barometers," the statement said. (AGENCIES)

Nitin Agrawal takes...

as Deputy Inspector General in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), and Inspector General in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

He took charge from CRPF Director General Sujay Lal Thaoson, who has been holding the additional charge of the BSF for the last five months after the retirement of Pankaj Kumar Singh in December 2022.

Prior to assuming the role of Director General of the BSF, Agrawal served as Additional Director General (ADG) Central Zone and as ADG Operations in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He was promoted to the rank of ADG in 2014 while serving with the ITBP.

Agrawal holds a B.Tech and an M.Tech degree from IIT Delhi, along with an M.Phil in Social Science from Punjab University.

Acknowledging Agrawal's outstanding contributions to the field of law enforcement, the Central government honoured him Indian Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2007 and the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2015.

After lying vacant for five months post the retirement of Pankaj Kumar Singh in December 2022, the country's prestigious BSF got its new chief on Sunday after the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the Ministry of Home Affairs proposal of appointing Agrawal as the new Director General of the force last week.

The BSF is the country's premier security force primarily tasked to guard the 3,323 km of India-Pakistan

Emerging as NEET '23 topper in J&K | Pulwama native Abdul Basit is an inspiration to many aspiring medical students

JN NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUN 14

With an exceptional achievement in securing All India Rank (AIR) 113 in the UGC National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), Abdul Basit, a native of Pulwama has emerged as the topper from the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Basit, a young and talented student hailing from the picturesque Chawkalan area of Pulwama in southern Kashmir, has become a source of pride and inspiration for the entire region.

In an interview, Basit expressed his surprise and delight at his remarkable feat. "I wasn't expecting that I'll be the topper from J&K. It's totally amazing for me," he exclaimed with a smile that reflected his humility and genuine gratitude.

Basit attributed his success to his focused approach towards his studies. Unlike many of his peers, he had consciously avoided the distractions of social media platforms, devoting most of his time to his studies.

"Most of the time, I was spending with my books, with no use of social media except WhatsApp," he revealed, emphasizing the importance of discipline and self-control in achieving one's goals.

While acknowledging his own efforts, Basit was quick to recognize the invaluable support and guidance he received from his family and his uncle. He humbly stated, "For achieving this, there is much more contribution of my family and my uncle." The COVID-19 pandemic posed its own set of challenges, with schools and coaching centres shut

and a 4,096 km international border with Bangladesh apart from rendering a variety of duties in the internal security domain. The BSF has over 2.65 lakh personnel working in various capacities. (AGENCIES)

Narco-Terror module...

AK 47 Rifle, two Pistols, eight Grenades and 13.2 lakhs cash. "Eight accused arrested in past two weeks," the ADGP said.

MeT predicts more...

"From 15-17th, light to moderate rain or thunderstorm is likely at scattered places of Jammu and Kashmir. Some places in Jammu region like Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Samba etc. are likely to receive moderate to heavy thundershower during 15-16th (60% chance)," the MeT spokesperson said.

The weather department advised farmers that weather will not be favourable for carrying out farming operations for the next four-five days.

The weather is likely to improve from June 17. Kashmir has been witnessing erratic weather this year and the temperature mostly has been hovering several degrees below normal. Even in June, people here are seen wearing woollen clothes.

Last night, Srinagar recorded 15.2 degree Celsius. The night temperature in Pahalgam, a popular tourist destination, was 9.8 degree Celsius and the ski resort of Gulmarg registered 7.5 degree Celsius.

Jammu recorded a minimum temperature of 25.9 degree Celsius.

Around 53 Lakh...

region out of which, highest were in the month of April.

Sharing figures, official sources said that in January, 9,32,890 domestic tourists, three foreigners,

in February 7,37,954 domestic tourists, five foreigners, in March 16,45,231 domestic tourists, 23 foreigners and in April 16,57,399 domestic and seven foreigner tourists visited parts of Jammu region.

To woo tourists to the Jammu region, Directorate of Jammu Tourism will be boosting the adventure sports including paragliding for which the applications have also been invited from the aspirants for professional training in handling the adventure sports activities.

Administrative Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah on June 5 at a function in Basohli, had said that the Department of Tourism is committed to promoting Basohli as a major Tourist Destination of J&K and the Department shall make all endeavours to bring it to the global tourist map with modern-day State of the art facilities and infrastructure.

All critical gaps that need to be worked upon, shall be addressed by the Tourism Department, especially under the aegis of 'Swadesh Darshan' and other similar schemes of the Union Tourism Ministry, Dr Shah had said. (AGENCIES)

People well convinced of concern of BJP and Modi government for J&K: Raina



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 14: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Ravinder Raina, along with Vice Presidents Sham La Sharma and Surjit Singh Salathia and former Minister Chander Prakash Ganga, chaired a meeting of senior leaders at party headquarters to discuss the preparation for the successful conduct of the scheduled June 23 rally of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to be held at Jammu.

Ravinder Raina, in the meeting, said that the party leaders have to mobilize the public for the rally by holding meetings in small groups with different sections of society in Jammu to seek their support for ensuring maximum participation of the people from all the sections of society, including those associated with different professions and working in different fields. "The people of J&K are well convinced that it is

the BJP and Narendra Modi government that have been concerned for the peace, development and prosperity of J&K and there is no doubt that people will come to listen to the Union Home Minister, but still the party leaders have to approach them as a courtesy", said Ravinder Raina.

Ravinder Raina further said that Amit Shah has contributed a lot to abrogate Article 370 and to ensure the full integration of J&K with the Indian Union and the people of J&K are thankful to him and the Modi government. Ravinder Raina, while discussing the required preparations for the upcoming rally, asked the senior party leaders to meticulously divide the work among themselves regarding various requirements for the conduct of rally. He also asked them to share the details of blue print in the next meeting. Senior leaders including Yudhvir Sethi, Harinder Gupta, Sukhmandan Kumar, Prof. Garu Ram, Vikram Randhawa, Rajeev Sharma, Dr. Krishan Lal Bhagat, Vikas Choudhary, Kashmiria Singh, Indrajit Sharma, Pramod Kapahi, Rekha Mahajan, Ved Sharma, Puneet Mahajan, Surinder Choudhary, Hari Om Sharma, Ajay Sharma and others attended the meeting.

Manjit Singh demands 24/7 electricity in Jammu plains

J I NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, JUN 14: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today demanded 24/7 electricity supply in Jammu region in view of soaring temperature in the summer season. Addressing a public meeting here, the Former Minister said that raised the issue of being confronted by the people across the plains of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, and Udhampur with regard to the unscheduled power cuts. "These power cuts have affected normal life because the curtailment is taking place for hours together in rural as well as in urban areas of Jammu plains," he said.

He said that the people are unable to bear the scorching heat wave whereas the PDD has failed to ensure round the clock supply of the electricity despite assurances that the consumers would get 24/7 electricity supply in the metered areas.



"However, the PDD has not been able to fulfill its promise. The required electricity is not being purchased by the PDD citing various reasons but they forget that they collect revenue from the electricity consumers in the shape of electricity charges yet the electricity is not being supplied," he said.

He said that the Govt should take a strict action against the officials of PDD for not projecting the required electricity that is to be purchased for J&K. Instead, the PDD has restored to unscheduled long hours cuts that have caused uneasiness among

the general masses. He said that the long hours power cuts also affect the water supply system especially in the Kandi belt and people remain without tap water supply during the summer season. "With constant power cuts, the extra pressure is put on their pocket as they have to hire private water tanks to supply them clean water," he added.

He also stated that the farmers in villages also face similar problems because water pumps do not work without the electricity. "The paddy season is approaching and the

farmers are unable to water their fields," he stated.

He demanded that the Govt should ensure that the people get the electricity which was promised to them. He reminded the people that the LG administration is not answerable to the people. Therefore, holding of assembly elections is a must to end the growing issues of the people. If the Apni Party forms the next Govt, he said that they will provide 500 units of electricity free of cost during summer season, and 300 units during winters in Jammu region.

BJP Prioritizes Startups and Business Growth in Jammu: Vibodh



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 14: Today, as part of the ongoing Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan, Vibodh Gupta, General Secretary Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), J&K and former MLC, met with leading businessmen, industrialists and their officer bearers in Bari Brahmna, Vijaypura, and Samba. Vibodh accompanied by former Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta, Narayan Singh, Kashmiria Singh, Neeraj Anand, Sham Langer and Rikki Gupta visited the office of Association of Industries

Gangyal President Rajesh Jain, Laghu Udyog Bharti President Parveen Pargal, BBIA President Lalit Mahajan and Prominent Businessmen of Samba. During the interactive session, Gupta reaffirmed the party's commitment to supporting startups, industrialists and businessmen and expressed the party's determination to prioritise their needs. The BJP leader also emphasised the vital role played by industrialists and the business community in driving the prosperity of the Union Territory. He acknowledged their significant

contributions to the economy, employment generation, and overall development of Jammu and Kashmir. Vibodh shed light on the various initiatives undertaken by the Modi government, which have significantly impacted the business landscape in the Union Territory. He highlighted the remarkable progress achieved through schemes such as the Mudra loan, which has provided crucial financial support to entrepreneurs and budding startups. The incentives provided by the government have played a pivotal role in fostering the

growth and development of industries in Jammu. Vibodh strongly asserted that the Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan, a massive outreach campaign, has been initiated to engage with various sections of society, including businessmen and industrialists, to understand their concerns and aspirations. The BJP aims to strengthen its bond with the people, gather valuable feedback, and work collaboratively towards the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir.

Former Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta maintained that the BJP remains committed to encouraging the business community and creating employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir. He also reiterated that BJP is determined to empower every section of society to pave the way for a prosperous and vibrant future for the Union Territory.

BJP's self-centered and opportunistic approach towards J&K People: Rattan Lal Gupta

Slams Saffron Party for misleading and betraying the people on development front

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 14: J&K National Conference today criticizing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its self-centered and opportunistic approach towards the people of J&K. Gupta emphasized that the Saffron Party has shown no concern for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their aspirations.

In a statement issued here today, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of JKNC criticized the government at the Centre for misleading and betraying people of Jammu and Kashmir on the name of development. He said that the BJP claims to have developed the UT but the ground realities are in stark contrast to their claims.

The people are still grappling with issues like lack of basic civic amenities, poor infrastructure, unemployment etc."

Rattan Lal expressed grave concern over the lack of basic amenities in the region, which is the fundamental rights of every citizen of the country. He said that the situation across the Jammu region has deteriorated to such an extent that women/ Children are demonstrating on the roads due to the scarcity of drinking water. Several protests have been witnessed from



Lakhanpur to Rajouri, Poonch and even so called parts of the capital Smart City due to the water scarcity with people decrying for basic amenities.

The senior NC leader criticized the government for working without any planning and laying water distribution pipes without having a source of drinking water and the works of most of the water supply schemes are stopped or left incomplete due to non availability of funds in the region specially the kandi belt of Jammu, Samba and Kathua causing people to suffer significantly.

The senior NC leader raised serious concern about the dismal condition of power scenario the regular supply of which always remained affected due to substandard trans-

formers, wires and other material used in power distribution system. So far health sector is concerned that too in a very bad condition. The public health centers and village dispensaries across the region which are facing acute shortage of doctors. He said that in rural areas, the health centers are being run by paramedics, putting people at the mercy of God.

Furthermore, he also pointed out that the road conditions in Jammu region are in deplorable condition, causing daily accidents and the loss of precious lives. The Jammu to Sunderbani and Kalakote roads are in poor condition. Likewise the road conditions of Chenab valley are also in bad shape and also accidental prone areas.

Lastly, he raised serious concern over the damages caused by the recent earthquake in the Pir Panjal Range and Chenab valley caused great loss to the people and urged the government to provide adequate compensation to the affected people.

The Provincial President criticized the BJP for not holding elections to end the political stalemate in the UT, adding that the BJP's approach to the UT has been purely opportunistic and self-centered. The Saffron Party has shown no interest in the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir he said.

SMVDSB partners with DTDC for a robust Prasad delivery mechanism

J I NEWS SERVICE

KATRA, JUN 14: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has entered into an agreement with the M/s DTDC Express Limited, New Delhi (Desk to Desk Courier & Cargo) an Indian courier service firm having stout network nationally as well as internationally, for providing logistics, packing and door to door speedy delivery of Prasad Boxes to the devotees of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji across the country.

This initiative of the Board undertaken as per the directions of Sh. Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT shall facilitate and will greatly help devotees in speedy receipt of Prasad, said the Chief Executive Officer.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board today flagged off the vehicle of Prasad through this courier service to various destinations at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra in the presence of Manish Jain, Director Sales, M/s DTDC Express Limited.

In this regard, five categories Prasad of denominations of Rs.100/-, Rs.300/-, Rs.500/-,



Rs.1100/- and Rs.2100/- have been incorporated for the delivery through M/s DTDC by the Board which can be booked either through the official website of the Shrine Board i.e. www.maavaishnodevi.org or through mobile app of SMVDSB. The firm shall also provide insurance of each and every consignment and facilitate devotees with the digital tracking.

Besides, the firm shall ensure that Prasad reaches the doorstep of the devotees in North India within 48 hrs, once the booking is being confirmed. In addition, the firm shall also do packaging of Prasad Boxes

for sale at five dedicated Prasad Kendras cum Souvenir Shops and 07 counters in existing establishments made operational in the last 10 months. A one such Modern Prasad cum Souvenir Counter was inaugurated on June 6 at Jammu Airport for the facilitation of the devotees by the Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt Governor, JK-UT).

Pertinently, Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT Shri Manoj Sinha, formally launched the 'Pooja Prasad' home delivery service for the devotees throughout the country on 21 September, 2020 during the Pandemic and there-

after SMVDSB has taken several measures for enhancing the efficiency of the operation of door-to-door delivery of Prasad boxes by minimising the delivery time with real time tracking of Prasad.

Among those present on the occasion were Navneet Singh, Addl. Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Sunil Sharma; Dr. J.C. Mehra, Jt. Chief Executive Officers; Vishayjeet Singh, Dy. Chief Executive Officer; Ajay Salaan; Vipin Bhagat, Asst. Chief Executive Officers, SMVDSB; Girish Dua, Head Project Business, DTDC and other officers & concerned staff from SMVDSB & DTDC.

Sports infrastructure strengthened under Modi Regime: Col Mahan

Chhij Mela concludes, draws massive participation at Plassi

J I NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JUN 14: Col Mahan Singh, DDC Chairman Kathua, highlighted the significant improvement in sports infrastructure under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at the Chhij Mela in Plassi, Kathua, Col Mahan Singh emphasized the government's focus on strengthening sports facilities and promoting sports activities across the country. This underscores the commitment of the Modi regime to enhance sports infrastructure and provide opportunities for athletes to excel. The efforts made in this regard have played a pivotal role in bolstering the sports sector and encouraging the growth of sporting talent in India, he added.

The DDC Chairman Kathua was the chief guest on the final day of the two-day Chhij Mela held at Plassi in Basohli Sub District.

The event witnessed an impressive participation of over 30,000



enthusiastic individuals.

The second day of the event kicked off with a captivating cultural program by renowned Dogri singer Sars Bharti and her group. More than 5,000 participants, predominantly women and youth, graced the occasion. Ms. Sars, known as a social media youth icon, delivered a splendid performance that left the audience in awe.

Col Mahan Singh also extended a warm welcome to the participants, including wrestlers from various states and artists.

The Dangal event, eagerly anticipated by the residents, lived up to its reputation as the best Dangal in the region. The wrestlers showcased their skills and enthralled the crowd with their remarkable performances, adding to the excitement of the Chhij Mela.

DDC Member Tajinder Galdy, Darshan Singh, Satpanch Ramsh Chander, Capt Harman, PC Sharma, Ram Chand Ex BDO, and others were present. Their presence further enriched the vibrant atmosphere of the Chhij Mela.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Vibrant PRIs to ensure inclusive development

In recent years, the rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir have shown great vibrancy in terms of developmental activities. The benefits of centrally sponsored schemes have started percolating down to the neediest and poorest of the poor in villages. This should be attributed to the extension of 73rd Amendment to Jammu and Kashmir for empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) post-abrogation of Article-370. A lot of thrust has been given on de-centralization of funds under three-tier Panchayati Raj system. Unfortunately, these three tiers of the system are yet to work in full coordination with each other, resulting in discord and disharmony. The Sarpanches, who constitute the first-tier of Panchayat Raj system, are unhappy with chairmen of Block Development Councils and District Development Councils, alleging that they are being ignored and by-passed by these bodies while formulating development plans for their respective blocks and districts. In one of the incidents, the Sarpanches of block Pargwal have come out openly against the BDC for preparing development plans unilaterally and not taking them into confidence. Their plea is that all development plans prepared by the Block Development Council Pargwal should be cancelled as the same were formulated unilaterally in gross violations of the guidelines of Panchayati Raj Act. The plans were prepared unilaterally by a coterie of people who don't want inclusive development of the block. We request the UT administration and the Deputy Commissioner Jammu for immediate cancellation of these plans so that the new plans are drafted with the unanimous consent of all members of the BDC Pargwal. Another area of concern is the non-action on the part of officers concerned who turn a blind eye to these violations. To avoid this disharmony and discord, the Sarpanches, who are the members of the BDCs, should be consulted and taken into confidence before finalizing development plans. It will not only help in carrying out inclusive development but also ensure effective implementation of 3-tier Panchayati Raj system in Jammu and Kashmir. The UT administration had earlier started conducting Social Audit of all the works executed under centrally sponsored schemes in all 4291 Panchayats in order to ensure transparency and accountability. This process needs to be continued and implemented effectively so that accountability is restored. Apart from this, some additional schemes of the rural development department and other departments should also be brought within the ambit of Social Audit. The government should put in place a well-devised mechanism to immediately plug all loopholes without any delay so that no one is allowed to siphon off the public exchequer. The benefits of all welfare schemes should percolate down to the needy and poor people in far-off areas of Jammu and Kashmir, with the consultation of grassroots representatives of people. It will help the government in making PRIs more vibrant and dynamic institutions.

ALL RELIGIONS ONLY TEACH PEACE

PACHU MENON

At a time when religions are influencing politics across the globe, the contention that religious actors and institutions have gained political influence, marshalling religious arguments to justify their activities, cannot be overlooked. "Moreover, religion has inspired a multitude of world events, ranging from horrific terrorist acts to altruistic responses to the refugee crisis." (Religion and World Politics)

Let us accept the fact that religion is a creation of man, arguably a matter of convenience, one which would enable him to lead an honourable life within the constraints of an orderly society and a concept that would enable him to differentiate between good and vile deeds. With righteous and evil attributes of personality clearly emerging with the evolution of man, the perception of sins and virtues became a gateway to the thoughts of a Supreme Being, an omnipotent presence overseeing our existence. Thus God was born! Needless to say, man created God in his own image!

The impression of the gods too started changing with time. Fire and water gave way to animals and birds. Any notion that was scary and was unexplainable manifested in Godly forms. Natural calamities and other disasters were the consequences of displeasing the Gods. To appease them, the idea of sacrifice was mooted. The ushering in of the era of mumbo-jumbo saw the need for a special class of people who could decipher the signs of the Gods. This saw the birth of high priests, who were thought of as a privileged class due to their proximity to the Gods. The rise of this priestly rank in the hierarchy of power assumed alarming proportions, and soon commoners were alienated from their own Gods. Considering that modern times have seen large-scale violence in the name of religion, many feel the world would be better off without it. I sincerely feel religion has been grossly misused by vested interests to give a convenient excuse for their materialistic motivations. The culture of any region is an amalgam of all the social and religious beliefs that makes for the temporal identification of the inhabitants.

With religious fervour being kept alive by age-old scriptures that dictate the modalities of worship, one is compelled to believe in the potency of religious texts that have time and again been cited or misquoted for appropriate or unfortunate reasons. With the study of the scriptures being the prerogative of the aforementioned 'restricted sect', obviously the elucidations of the sacred texts would be time-and-need based - altering interpretations to carry favour from royals, which turned oppressive when it came to the hot polio! The trend continues to this day, with an exception that the expounders of the 'Word of God' may not necessarily be 'men of God'. The Gita, the Quran and the Bible have become texts that are being researched and analysed day in and day out, with exponents presenting their own views and putting up their own theories. A host of spiritual television networks, in Hindi, English and vernacular lan-

guages, have exclusive telecasts of sermons inspiring inner strength, peace and happiness, spiritual growth and the powers of the mind, delivered by men who profess to have an in-depth knowledge of various religious texts.



Undoubtedly, the business of consciousness and spirituality is a thriving venture these days!

All that is fine; what is disturbing is the tendency of the present generation to move away from God and put undue stress on 'His words'. This brought about the advent of a host of peripatetic proselytisers, whose masquerades as the authority on various scriptures have gone unquestioned. The current crop of spiritual teachers and their knowledge of religious texts have ensured them a staunch following. Be that as it may, it is the devotion shown to mere mortals than the Omnipotent which has come as an unbelievable fact. Of late, one has suddenly woken up to facts about Islam that wouldn't have been forthcoming in the last few decades.

The problem lies in the laying bare of the Quran for public deliberations. Verses from the Holy Text have been crudely misappropriated to perpetuate myths that the religion promotes violence. A Holy writ that could have been the apt reasoning in the period it was conceived in need not necessarily apply verbatim in a future age. Strict adherence of the Sacred Commandments without proper understanding and misinterpretation of the basic tenets of the religion amounts to fanaticism. This statement of belief is very dangerous, an affront to any religion, and this is precisely what is happening!

Islam comes from the root word 'salaam', which means peace. It means submitting one's will to Allah. Thus Islam is a religion of peace, which is acquired by submitting one's will to the will of the Supreme Creator, Allah. At such a

time when religion is being overshadowed by virulent commentaries by orators who appear to incite a benign public with their senseless translations of the revered books, even the Bhagavad Gita and the Holy Bible have not been above reproach. With insinuations of these divine manuals promoting violence and protection more than the practice of one's faith, the misinterpretations of the texts have assumed precedence over matters spiritual. This could well be the justification for the communal conundrums that have become the order of the day!

Let us now look at an apt example of an incongruity brought about by distortions of the original text! When Islamic fundamentalists claim to be engaging in 'jihad' perpetrating heinous terror activities on an unsuspecting public, the assertions by moderate Muslims that 'jihad' is an internal fight against the enemy, the evil within one's self, becomes a Mahatma Gandhi, in one of his many jottings, questioned the wisdom in doubting the essence of the Bhagavad Gita with relevance to violence. The Mahabharata war, within which the divine message is revealed, gives the impression that the Gita recommends war. Although the essential theme of the Gita is apparently a heartrending battle, it would be wrong to say that it promotes violence. On the contrary, it uses the context of a war against one's family, elders and teachers specifically to show how even in the most difficult of situations one can be situated perfectly in transcendence.

The Bible, likewise, condones violence in any form. In the New Testament, war is seen as evil; Jesus Christ emphasised peace. "If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also," "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you", "Be at peace with all men," and "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with Good" are among the advice one comes across in Christian texts. All sacred books promulgate a theory of peace and forgiveness and the several similarities in expression and meaning between them should convince mankind that, though born in different ages, prophets and messiahs were blessed with an uncanny instinct to see the truth.

For instance, if in the Gita, Lord Krishna is seen telling Arjuna that, "I am the beginning and the middle and the end of things (Ch. X. 20)," the New Testament, Bible, says, "I am Alpha, Omega, the beginning and the ending" (Rev. 1.8).

When man unwaveringly swears by Gita, Bible or Quran that he will speak "only truth and nothing but the truth" in a court of law, he is according to the ultimate truth that these holy scriptures define his moral conscience. In any way one looks at it, down the years, the Gita, the Bible and the Quran have allegorically taught humankind to strive for an upright and practical existence. The vade-mecum of various beliefs, if seen and understood in the correct perspective, gives one an insight into the simplicity that defines life. Yielding to undue stress on the type of religiosity being advocated these days, man is making an inglorious exit from the spiritual path and enforcing a religious order that will demand a bloody oblation - the sacrifice of the soul

INDIA NEEDS A TRADE PACT WITH EU

MAJ GEN ASHOK K MEHTA (RETI)

EU and India first began negotiations for a free trade agreement in 2007 before the talks were kept in abeyance because of a chasm in ambition between the two major parties. The European Union (EU), with as many as 27 disparate nations from the European continent, is by far the biggest single unified market which any trading nation would love to do business with as it ensures hassle-free transactions and commercial engagements of humongous proportions to the lasting benefit of both parties. No doubt, in line with the current languorous global world economic outlook, trade as an engine of growth and prosperity is not that efficient, with many a country taking shelter under insular policies to protect its own domestic industries from the cold blast of competition. For India, which successfully crafted a wider free trade agreement with the United Arab Emirates and Australia in the last couple of years besides a dozen FTAs with countries such as Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore, India-ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations), South Korea, Japan, Malaysia and Mauritius to an agreement on SAFTA involving neighborhood nations, the one with the EU

remained a work in protracted progress for decades now! The EU and India first began negotiations on a free trade agreement in 2007 before the talks were kept in abeyance because of a chasm in ambition between the two major parties.

EU is India's third largest partner, accounting for Euro 88 billion worth of goods in 2021 or well-nigh 11% of India's total trade. For EU, India is the 10th largest trading partner, accounting for 2.1% of total trade in goods in 2021. Trade in services between the EU and India reached Euro 30.4 billion in 2020. The EU's share in foreign investment stock in India reached Euro 87.3 billion in 2020, up from Euro 63.7 billion in 2017, making the EU a leading foreign investor in India. According to a reply to a query in the Lok Sabha in the budget session of Parliament, minister of state for commerce Anupriya Patel said India's total trade with the EU during the first 10 months of fiscal 2022-23 (April to January) amounted to \$108.9 billion with a positive trade balance of \$12.4 billion in India's favour, against \$116.4 billion with a positive trade balance of \$13.5 billion in India's favour during 2021-22. So, Indian exporters have been doing exceptionally well in the vast unified EU markets during the last two years when the world economy



and trade were disrupted by the pandemic fallout. This also underlines the need to preserve the momentum, reflecting the high stakes entailed if both the markets become barrier-laden, both non-tariff and tariff, going forward. That is the reason why India and the EU formally relaunched negotiations on a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial free trade agreement in last June, besides rolling out negotiations on an investment protection agreement and on an agreement on geographical indications (GIs) to safeguard the goods peculiar to each trading party. The GIs pact, once wrapped up, would bolster rural communities and help preserve the cultural heritage of both sides, besides paving the way for simplified access to quality products for consumers on both sides and

assessment of the EU by international trade bodies, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), is helpful in sifting the details to draw appropriate and relevant inferences for our policy makers to respond to the emerging scenario. The WTO released its trade policy review of the EU most recently in the first week of June in Geneva. The WTO's 15th trade policy review of the EU examined critically the developments and practices since the last review in 2020. Members taking part in the discussions highlighted the impact of EU policies on them by broadly appreciating as promoting growth diversifications and the sustainability of value chains. As a result, GDP growth resumed in 2020-21 and accelerated further last year.

A considerable number of members in their intervention adverted to the EU's environmental and climate policies and those concerning digital transformations, which cut across sectoral WTO disciplines. Stressing that these initiatives should not result in barriers to trade, they nonetheless lauded the broader goals of achieving clean climate and improving the environment. They pointed, in particular, as a matter of concern the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), green taxation and green government procurement. India, too, referred to these areas

and singled out the Deforestation-Free Commodities Regulation that have potentially a negative impact on trade. Many members pertinently underlined improvements that could still be made on non-tariff barriers through advance notice of proposed measures and opportunities for comments and further engagement in matters pertaining to conformity assessment of standards and technical regulations. Equally, many members noted that the safeguard measures on steel had been in place for several years and their recent extension was of particular concern. Also, they zeroed in on the EU's intellectual property regime, including the implementation of the unitary patent system and the expansion of the number of products liable to GI protection. Members raised a raft of other crucial issues with a whopping impact on trade, including the Regulation of the Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), the Waste Shipment Regulation, the Anti-Coercion Instrument (ACI), the Revised Enforcement Regulation, the European Critical Raw Materials Act, the Cyber Resilience Act, the Net Zero Industry Act and the Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework. That the EU is important for all trading nations

can be seen from the opening statement at its trade policy review by director general, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission, Sabine Weyand when she said that "EU trade with the rest of the world represents over 16% of world trade, counting both goods and services. This is more than the EU's share in global GDP, meaning we punch above our weight in the area of trade. The EU is the world's largest single trading entity and the number one trading partner for 53 countries around the world that represent almost half of the world's GDP". Today the EU has, as of end-December 2022, the largest network of regional trading arrangements (RTAs) in the world with 44 pacts in place. Besides, it is also engaged in negotiations for new RTAs with New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia and to update and deepen the extant ones with Chile and Mexico. So as India is proceeding with a revived FTA pact with the EU, it should go the extra mile to ensure that it stitches up such mega deal before long so that the resultant win-win situation for the commercial alliance through cooperation and openness would be immense to the stakeholders, in general, and to India, in particular, as it has no comfort of belonging to any big and major trade alliance of salience.

7 superfoods you can eat daily for longevity



Everyone promotes a balanced diet, but having meals with all the nutrients is not possible. One food might be a rich source of fibre or protein, but might be lacking in certain vitamins. Another one could be full of antioxidants, but again might not be a good source of certain minerals needed by our body. That's why there are superfoods, which are beneficial for your body.

HealthShots connected with Dr Shaikh Shafi Bhat, Consultant Internal Medicine, Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals, Moradabad, to know all about superfoods. What are superfoods?

According to Dr Bhat, superfoods are foods that have a very

high nutritional density. This means that they have the power to give you a substantial amount of nutrients with less calories. They contain a high volume of minerals, vitamins and antioxidants – everything that your body needs. Antioxidants, which are natural molecules found in specific foods, help to neutralise free radicals in our bodies. Free radicals are natural byproducts of energy production that can harm our bodies. Antioxidant molecules decrease or reverse the effects of free radicals that have close links with health problems such as:

Here are some products that you can try:

- Heart disease

- Cancer
 - Arthritis
 - Stroke
 - Respiratory diseases
 - Immune deficiency
- Superfoods to eat daily
- You can add colour to oatmeal with berries or sack on nuts. Here are some of the superfoods you can eat every day!
1. Blueberries
 - Be it fiber, manganese, vitamin K or antioxidants, it's all there in blueberries. They may lower blood pressure and prevent heart disease.
 2. Goji berries
 - These are a small red berries high in vitamins C and E, along with different types of flavonoids. Want to have

healthy liver, eyes, and kidneys? Have this superfood and enjoy its health benefits.

3. Leafy greens
- If you want to dig into leafy green superfoods, go for kale,

7. Seeds
- Sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, chia seeds or flaxseeds are some healthy options that you can have as snacks. Eating seeds has been linked to lower rates of

HEALTHY EATING IS ALL ABOUT PICKING THE RIGHT FOOD. THAT MEANS EAT SUPERFOODS EVERY DAY TO GET MAXIMUM NUTRIENTS.

spinach and collard greens. These foods are rich in vitamins A, C, E, and K, and also contain an abundance of carotenoids, iron, magnesium, potassium, and calcium, says the expert.

4. Salmon
- The high omega-3 fatty acid content in salmon and other fatty fish like trout and herring, can reduce cholesterol and decrease the risk of abnormal heartbeats (benefits of eating fish).
5. Nuts
- Nuts like walnuts and almonds are a good source of plant protein. They also contain monounsaturated fats, which might help in reducing the risk of heart disease.
6. Cruciferous vegetables
- These include vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collard greens, kale and turnips. Cruciferous vegetables are an excellent source of fiber and contain phytochemicals like indoles, nitriles and thiocyanates.

cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure as well as cholesterol.

Who should avoid eating superfoods daily?

The expert says that extra care should be taken while eating superfoods if people have a chronic disease.

- People with kidney disease should take leafy vegetables with caution, as it can dangerously increase potassium in them and even lead to cardiac arrest.
- Got liver disease? Then don't take animal protein, including fish in excess amount. It can cause hepatic encephalopathy, which is the loss of brain function when a liver that's damaged doesn't remove toxins from your blood.
- Oxalate containing foods like nuts should be avoided if you have kidney stones. It can contribute to kidney stones, so don't have them.

Mental Health: Try These Remedies To Reduce Stress

The following recommendations might be useful for some people, while it might not be able to reduce all types of stress.



Many people frequently endure stress and worry. Everyday stresses such as those related to work, family, health, and finances can often lead to higher stress levels. However, a person's susceptibility to stress is influenced by variables like heredity, social support, coping mechanisms, and personality type, thus some people are more susceptible to stress than others.

For the sake of one's general health, chronic stress from daily life should be reduced as much as feasible. This is due to the fact that persistent stress is bad for your health and raises your risk of developing ailments including heart disease, anxiety disorders, and depression.

It's critical to realise that stress is not the same as mental health conditions like anxiety and depression, which call for professional medical care. The following advice may help persons with certain issues, although it may not alleviate all forms of stress.

These home remedies can help reduce your stress levels.

1. Drink herbal teas

Making tea can be relaxing for some people, but consuming various herbal teas and other beverages can also be calming and anti-anxiety. For instance, studies have shown that chamomile helps to lessen the signs and symptoms of generalised anxiety disorder. An adaptogenic Ayurvedic herb called ashwagandha has long been used to lessen anxiety. Even though the long-term effects are yet unknown, recent research have verified its effectiveness.

2. Massage yourself

If there isn't a licensed masseuse around, consider giving yourself a hand massage for immediate calm and relief from a racing heart. In general, hands can hold a lot of strain. To ease tension in the shoulders, neck, and scalp, smear some lotion on your hands and begin massaging the base of the muscle under your thumb.

3. Journal daily

Finding a technique to communicate your worry can help you feel more in control of it. Journaling and other forms of writing, according to some studies, may improve people's ability to manage their anxiety. For instance, a study discovered that keeping an emotion-based journal may lessen mental health issues and enhance general wellbeing.

4. Count backwards

Try counting carefully from one to ten and then back again to calm yourself when your worries are out of control. When you're preoccupied on memorising what number comes before seven, it's difficult to stress out about an upcoming exam or job interview.

5. Try aromatherapy

Stress and anxiety can be lessened by inhaling calming plant essential oils. Consider experimenting with different possibilities because some scents suit different people more effectively than others. Lavender may be especially beneficial in treating anxiety problems, according to limited evidence.

6. Meditate

Full awareness of the present moment, which involves observing all thoughts without judgement, is one of the fundamental objectives of meditation. Your capacity to deliberately endure all thoughts and feelings will grow as a result, which might bring to a feeling of peace and satisfaction. A key component of CBT, meditation is believed to reduce stress and anxiety.

NATIONAL PROTEIN DAY: EVERYDAY TIPS FOR HEALTHY PROTEIN CONSUMPTION

WHILE IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSUME ENOUGH PROTEIN, IT IS ALSO CRUCIAL TO ENSURE THAT THE SOURCES OF PROTEIN ARE HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS. CHECK OUT SOME EXPERT APPROVED TIPS FOR HEALTHY PROTEIN CONSUMPTION.

Protein is an essential macronutrient that plays a vital role in building and repairing tissues, regulating hormones, and supporting a healthy immune system. While it is important to consume enough protein, it is also crucial to ensure that the sources of protein are healthy and nutritious. Despite its many benefits, many people struggle to consume enough protein in their diet, which can lead to a host of health problems.

That's why National Protein Day is an excellent opportunity to focus on incorporating more high-quality protein into your daily routine. Whether you're a vegetarian, vegan, or meat-eater, there are plenty of delicious and healthy protein-rich foods to choose from. (Also read: Protein power: Check out these best sources of protein for a morning boost.)

On National Protein Day,

Soumava Sengupta, CEO, BUILD, shared some tips with HT Lifestyle for healthy protein consumption.

1. Choose lean protein sources: Lean protein sources such as chicken, turkey, fish, and legumes are excellent options for healthy protein consumption. They are low in saturated fat and provide important nutrients like iron, zinc, and vitamin B12.
2. Incorporate plant-based proteins: Plant-based proteins such as tofu, tempeh, nuts, and seeds are great sources of protein for vegetarians and vegans. They are also typically high in fibre and other important nutrients.
3. Don't forget about eggs: Eggs are an excellent source of protein, as well as vitamin D, vitamin B12, and choline.
5. Aim to incorporate eggs into your diet in a variety of ways, such as scrambled, hard-boiled, or in omelettes.



4. Use protein powder wisely: Protein powder/whey proteins can be a convenient way to add protein to your diet, but it is important to choose a high-quality, minimally processed brand. Additionally, be mindful of added sugars and other additives in protein powders.
6. Balance your meals: When planning meals, aim to include a source of protein, carbohydrates, and healthy fats. This will not

only help ensure that you are getting enough protein but also help keep you feeling full and satisfied.

6. Snack smart: Snacks can be a great opportunity to sneak in some extra protein. Some healthy protein-packed snack options include Greek yogurt, string cheese, and hummus with veggies.
7. Watch your portions: While protein is important, it is also

important not to overdo it. Aim for a portion size of about 3-4 ounces of lean protein per meal.

8. Stay hydrated: Drinking enough water is important for overall health, including proper digestion and absorption of nutrients like protein. Aim to drink at least 8 cups of water per day.

Incorporating healthy protein sources into your diet is essential for overall health and wellness. By choosing lean protein sources, incorporating plant-based proteins, and balancing your meals, you can ensure that you are getting enough protein to support your body's needs.

Additionally, snacking smart and watching your portions can help you avoid overdoing it on protein. With these everyday tips for healthy protein consumption, you can feel confident that you are providing your body with the nutrients it needs to thrive.

Mental Health: 5 Lifestyle Changes To Uplift Your Mood And Confidence Everyday

Home LifestyleMental health: 5 Lifestyle Changes To Uplift Your Mood And Confidence Everyday

Mental Health: 5 Lifestyle Changes To Uplift Your Mood And Confidence Everyday

As with physical health, tending to mental health is an ongoing process and can be improved with simple daily practices. Here are 5 suggestions to get started.

Mental health: 5 Lifestyle Changes To Enhance Your Mood And Confidence on Day-to-Day Basis

Everyone agrees that Mental Health is as important as physical health, but do we really do enough to take care of our mental health on a day-to-day basis? Some basic ways of living that have been inherent to our culture have been proven scientifically effective for maintaining good mental health.

As with physical health, tending to mental health is an ongoing process and can be improved with simple



daily practices. Here are 5 suggestions to get started.

5 Lifestyle Changes To Uplift Your Mood And Confidence Everyday

1. Sleep hygiene: sleep is essential to maintaining good emotional and physical well-being. A minimum of 7-8 hours of uninterrupted sleep at

night should be considered non negotiable to prevent sleep debt that we often try to cover up through mid day

AS WITH PHYSICAL HEALTH, TENDING TO MENTAL HEALTH IS AN ONGOING PROCESS AND CAN BE IMPROVED WITH SIMPLE DAILY PRACTICES. HERE ARE 5 SUGGESTIONS TO GET STARTED.

naps or long sleeping hours over the weekend. There's indeed some value in a good night sleep.

2. Healthy diet: this seems more common sensical to physical well being, but unrelated to mental health. A good healthy diet with nutritious foods goes a long way in keeping our gut health, which is directly related to mental health. You would have noticed that when you're having a stressful day at work or feeling anxious before exams, the butterflies in the stomach are a real thing, and subsequent complaints of gastritis, acidity and constipation are not uncommon.

3. Leisure: All work and no play can make the human mind dull. Burn outs which are characteristic of the fast paced contemporary society are a result of lack of time for leisure and extra curricular activities that we stopped engaging in as we get busy with work/exams and our general living. When we don't get time to indulge in things we enjoy, our brain receptors responsible for pleasure are not being stimulated enough. Moreover, unwinding and resting are also good ways to slow down and enjoy me time.
4. Social interaction: There's some value in picking up the phone and calling that old friend you have not connected with in a while. Humans are social beings who have a strong

need for belongingness. When this basic need is eroded in a fast paced life, our mental health can suffer.

Indian culture which is rich with festivals throughout the year provides us with opportunity to experience social interactions. So next time you avoid going to that Diwali or Christmas party, think twice.

5. Exercise: the Indian way of living has always incorporated some basic yoga asanas (postures) and pranayams (breathing exercises). Simple stretching and breathing that is ancient in our culture has now proven to be effective for good mental health by western science. So, next time you feel stressed out, you may find some ways of being healthy in our yoga culture.



Amit Shah announces 3 major schemes worth Rs 8000 cr for disaster management

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday announced three major schemes worth over Rs 8,000 crore that would cover the modernisation of fire brigade services in all states, flood mitigation in seven major cities and prevention of landslides in 17 states.

Addressing a meeting of the Ministers of Disaster Management of states and Union Territories, Shah also appealed to ensure there is zero loss of life due to any disaster anywhere in the country.

"For the modernisation and expansion of fire brigade services, about Rs 5,000 crore assistance will be given to all states. We have prepared a detailed plan and will be forwarding it to you. To mitigate the danger of floods in urban areas, in seven major cities — Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Pune — Rs 2,500 crore will be given. Its detailed plan will be sent to you.

"To deal with landslides in 17 states, about Rs 825 crore will be given by the central government," he said.

The home minister said everyone's aim should be to ensure that no life is lost due to any disaster.

"All of us together, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all the chief ministers are working on the ground. We will have to work more and



Shah said during COVID-19 pandemic, under the leadership of PM Modi, along with the chief ministers of the states, the country successfully faced the worst epidemic of the century.

preparations. Disaster management is not a new concept in our country. There are documents available from Chanakya's Arthashastra to the state administration of mythological times, all of them talk about disaster management," he said. Shah said during COVID-19 pandemic, under the leadership of PM Modi, along with the chief ministers of the states, the country successfully faced the worst epidemic of the century.

In that difficult time, it is an excellent example before the world how the Centre, the states and the people could fight against a disaster on all fronts together, he said. He said earlier, the country's approach on the disaster was relief-oriented and reactive and it used to work only on relief and rehabilitation.

In the last nine years, everyone came together and has implemented early warning system, prevention, mitigation and preparedness based disaster

management, he said. Responding some state ministers' suggestion for enhancing compensation to farmers who face natural disaster, the home minister said the Central Government would examine it seriously but states should also enhance their budgetary provision for it.

Talking about the model fire bill, disaster prevention policy, thunderstorm and lightning policy and the cold wave policy formulated by the Central Government, Shah said majority of the states have either not implemented them or work plans have not been formulated. (PTI)

He appealed to all states to work on them on priority and appreciated those who have already implemented or formulated the work plans. Shah said under the 'Aapda Mitra' scheme, one lakh youth volunteers are being prepared in 350 disaster-prone districts and this has yielded good results to deal with many disasters which is positive and encouraging.

US has necessary capital and technology while India offers both scale and talent: Amb Sandhu

WASHINGTON: Describing the India-US ties as a "partnership like no other", the Indian envoy here has said the US has the necessary capital and the technology know-how while India offers both the scale and the talent which make this relationship a stock which anyone can bet on.

The remarks by India's Ambassador to the US Tarunjit Singh Sandhu came during his address to the annual India Ideas Summit of the US India Business Council.

The tagline for the India-US relationship which I like the most, is 'a partnership like no other'. And you may think that this is what, good diplomats say, about every relationship. Believe me: this is unique! Sandhu said in his address to the Indian and American corporate leaders.

"United States has the necessary capital and the technology know-how while we offer, both the scale and the talent. This is a stock, which anyone would, bet on" Sandhu said. Over the last month, there has been a flurry of activities in the bilateral ties. "You take any day, there is a delegation from India in the US or an American visitor in



India. Even as I speak, NSA Jake Sullivan is in New Delhi," he said.

There is an "unmistakable energy", a drive and a desire to get things done across sectors, he said.

"It was just in the end of January this year, in this very building, the two NSAs (Sullivan and Ait Doval) along with the Commerce Secretary (Gina Raimondo), spoke about the complementarities, in our vision, at the ICET (Initiative of Critical and Emerging Technology) Roundtable where we discussed, the need for our strategic, commercial and scientific worlds, to converge."

India-US Initiative, on Critical and Emerging Technologies, has been a game changer, in our partnership," Sandhu said. "Needless to say, all of this leads up to the historic visit of the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) to Washington DC. In about a week from now, PM Modi will be received, by President (Joe Biden) at the White House, for a State Visit. This will be, only the third time, in our independent history, that India's leader is accorded, this honour by a US President," said the Indian Ambassador. It will also be a rare occasion, where the Prime Minister will address, a joint session of the Congress, for the second time, joining a select group of world leaders, and the only Indian leader, to do so, twice, he told the audience. There will also be

other important engagements, he added.

"Last time when my Prime Minister addressed the US Congress, in 2016, he spoke about overcoming, the hesitations of history.

It is a measure, of how far we have come, in these last seven years, we have fixed our gaze, firmly on our future, building our cooperation, from the seas to the stars," he said. Without mentioning any country in his speech, Sandhu urged American companies to reduce their dependence on China.

"Geopolitics has taught us, the follies of over-dependence, on single geographies. We ended up here, because we played short balls, took decisions, which were easy," he said.

"We need to diversify; build resilient, reliable and sustainable, supply chains. We have already seen many US companies take advantage of the opportunity, of PLI (Production Linked Incentive) Schemes in India, including most recently Apple, and its supplier Foxconn. It is estimated that by 2025, one out of every 4 iPhones in the world will be manufactured in India. We need more such stories," Sandhu said.

Why do we need unelected 'so-called experts' to run crucial ministries: Chidambaram

NEW DELHI: "Why do we need unelected so-called experts to run crucial ministries," Congress leader P Chidambaram asked on Tuesday in an apparent swipe at Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw over the Odisha rail tragedy and the alleged CoWIN data breach. The Senior Congress leader also said he was "appalled" by revelations about how Vaishnaw, who is the minister for Railways, Communications and Electronics and Information Technology, runs his ministries. "First, the Balseore tragedy. Obviously, the minister or his officers did not read the CAG Reports No. 22 and 23 submitted in December 2022 or the letter of the Principal Chief Operations Manager in February 2023," the Congress leader said.

The "massive leak" of data from the CoWIN portal exposed the claim that the personal data of millions of Indians are safe and protected, Chidambaram claimed. "The revelation that enormous pressure was put on Twitter to block or delete tweets/accounts and the threats to unleash the Income Tax department and arrest employees demolished the claim that the investigating agencies are independent," he said on Twitter.

"Why do we need unelected so-called 'experts' to run these crucial ministries and heap misery on the people," the former Union minister asked. Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey on Monday claimed



the Indian government threatened to shut the micro-blogging platform down unless it complied with orders to restrict accounts during farmers' protest, an accusation Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar dismissed as an "outright lie". There have been claims about a breach of data of citizens registered on the CoWIN platform and opposition parties have asked the government to take deterrent action.

The Government has termed such reports "mischievous" and "without any basis" while asserting that the CoWIN portal is completely safe with adequate safeguards for data privacy. The Opposition has also attacked the Government over the train accident in Odisha's Balseore district that claimed 288 lives.

As Surjewala's presence in meeting creates stir, Karnataka CM says it was not official

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday clarified that Congress national general secretary and state in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala had not "officialised" any meeting of the government and city civic body officials, dismissing the claims made by the opposition BJP and the JD(S).

Siddaramaiah's reaction came as the BJP has sought an appointment with Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot to complain against Surjewala allegedly "officialising" a meeting with the senior bureaucrats of the state government and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

"Surjewala did not officiate any meeting. He has only spoken to some MLAs. The Deputy Chief Minister (D K Shivakumar) was present there. It was a meeting which the DCM had not officialised," Siddaramaiah told reporters. "You must understand that it is not an official meeting. The Bengaluru city MLAs were summoned for



the Bengaluru civic body election where he (Surjewala) had also gone," the Chief Minister said. The meeting was regarding issues prevailing in Bengaluru city. Contextually, there were discussions about the (civic body) elections, Siddaramaiah said. The DCM was going to inspect the Helbal flyover in the city and Surjewala was also asked to attend it.

Meanwhile, a BJP delegation comprising Members of Parliament from the city

and the former Deputy Chief Minister R Ashoka has sought an appointment with the Governor.

The BJP on Tuesday questioned the presence of Surjewala at the meeting chaired by Shivakumar with officials of the state government and BBMP at a private hotel. The opposition party shared a photograph of the meeting on its Twitter handle in which Surjewala is seen sitting next to Shivakumar where Karnataka government's

Additional Chief Secretary Rakesh Singh, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, and other government officers were present. According to the BJP Karnataka unit, the meeting took place at a private five-star hotel.

"What is the secret of #ATMSarkara? ATM-Sarkara's clandestine meeting at Shangri-La Hotel, Bengaluru? What has Congress state in-charge Randeep Surjewala to do with the senior BBMP officials, who have no official relationship with either the state government or BBMP? Is this an 85 per cent deal-fixing meeting? Please answer @SiddaramaiahChief Minister Siddaramaiah and @DKShivakumar," the BJP tweeted. Former chief minister and JD(S) second-in-command H D Kumaraswamy too raised the issue in his tweet seeking to know whether there is a Siddaramaiah government or "10 Janpath" government in the state.

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) made its maiden entry at 363 while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) slipped to 387th rank from 384 last year. Axis Bank (423), NTPC (433), Larsen & Toubro (449), Bharti Airtel (478), Kotak Mahindra Bank (502), Indian Oil Corporation (540), Infosys (554), Bank of Baroda (586), Coal India (591), Tata Steel (592), Hindalco (660) and Vedanta (687) are other notable Indian firms on the list.

In all, 55 Indian firms figured on the list. Three firms of the conglomerate helmed by billionaire Gagan Adani, whose group faced a scathing attack from a US short seller earlier this year that led to him losing the world's third richest tag, figured in the list. The three Adani Group firms in the list include Adani Enterprises at 1062, Adani Power at 1488, and Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones at 1598.

Reliance climbs 8 spots to 45th rank on Forbes' Global 2000 list

NEW DELHI: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd climbed eight spots to the 45th rank, the highest for an Indian company on Forbes' latest Global 2000 list of public companies worldwide.

The Global 2000 ranks the largest companies in the world using four metrics: sales, profits, assets, and market value. Forbes said while releasing the 2023 ranking of the world's top 2,000 companies, JPMorgan, America's biggest bank with USD 3.7 trillion in assets, is at the top of the list for the first time since 2011 and has emerged stronger from this spring's regional banking crisis, with more deposits and opportunistic acquisition of the failed First Republic Bank, it said.

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway that topped the list last year, fell to the 338th position in the latest list due to unrealised losses in its investment portfolio. Saudi oil behemoth Aramco is at

2nd position followed by three giant-state-owned Chinese banks. Technology giants Alphabet and Apple are at 7th and 10th place, respectively.

Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance, with sales of USD 109.43 billion, is the top most-ranked Indian firm at the 45th spot, climbing from the 53rd position it had held in last year's ranking. Reliance was ranked ahead of well-known names like Germany's BMW Group, Switzerland's Nestle, China's Alibaba Group, US-based Procter & Gamble and Japan's Sony.

State Bank of India climbed to 77th spot from 105th in the 2022 ranking. HDFC Bank is at 128th position (153 in 2022) and ICICI Bank is at 163 (204 in 2022).

Other Indian firms on the list include state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation at 226 and HDFC (232).

World Blood Donor Day: Delhi man walked 13,400 km across India in 17 months urging people to donate blood

New Delhi : Bengaluru: This is the second World Blood Donor Day on the alert for activist Kiran Verma. This year, Verma, with a placard on hand that urges people to donate blood, is on his way to Siliguri, West Bengal's picturesque gem nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas, from Malda. His aim is to walk 21,000 kilometres to create more awareness about blood donation.

"I cannot be complacent about this. Everyday more than 12,000 people fail to get blood in India due to which more than three million people die. During the second wave of Covid, this reality hit home even harder as almost every person went through plasma crisis. This fear to donate blood must be tackled immediately," Verma said over the phone from a highway dhaba on route Siliguri, where he halted for dinner.

Verma said he decided to dedicate a couple of years of his life to reset the idea that Indians do not have a culture of donating blood. He began his current journey on December 28, 2021 in Thiruvananthapuram. In 2018, to Verma travelled 16,000 km across India, covering more than 6,000 km on foot, to get people to donate blood.

"India needs 15 million units of blood annually, according to 2017 government data. There is no official data that it also states that annually, India manages to get 10-11 million units of blood. So, here I am walking, hoping to catch the attention of that 5

million people who will make a huge difference between life and death," said Verma.

His story goes thus: On December 2016, Verma donated blood after being told that a poor family from Raipur was in dire need of it. After donating blood, he went to meet the family and got to know that the person who called him took Rs 1,500 for the blood that he donated for free.

"I was gutted. I could not forget how desperate that family was. So, I started Simply Blood. My aim is simple: nobody should die because of lack of blood in India," Verma added.

According to Verma, Simply Blood, a virtual blood donation platform that connects blood donors and seekers real time without charging anyone, was launched on January 29, 2017, and it has saved more than 35,000 potential lives through blood donation so far.

But Covid bought its own set of complications, said Verma. "Voluntary blood donation in India has gone significantly down in the last three years. So, I decided to do go on a walk to get the attention of people," he added. Renewing his efforts all over again to meet the deadline to his mission, Verma said by December 31, 2022, he hopes to have convinced enough people so that India could have all the blood it needs. This time he decided to cover the length and breadth of the country and all on foot.

"Till now, I have walked more than 13,400 km across 176 districts, 12 states

and UTs, including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Bihar, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal in 17 months," he said.

Verma added that the only time he took a break from walking, for almost a month, was to visit countries like Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Bangladesh, where he was invited to talk about his efforts to promote blood donation.

In India, his strategy is simple. Walk to a place where people come in droves, like landmarks and temples, and stand there with the placard until he gets their attention. "My biggest moment was in 2020 in Ahmedabad, during the last IPL cricket match. I could target lakhs of people at a time," said Verma. His people work, not only was he given wide publicity by the media, 107 blood donation camps have been organised in different parts of the country through which more than 22,640 units of blood have been collected so far. "To support this campaign, more than 7,000 individual donors have donated blood so far. I don't stop at encouraging common man. I also make it a point to meet the collectors and other district administrators so that there is also state support to the effort. This is important. You see, on September 15, 2022, I had inaugurated a blood bank in Hyderabad dedicated to former prime minister P V Narsimha Rao.

Weekly Block Diwas: DC Rajouri listens to public grievances at Gurdhan Balla; Assures early redressal of genuine concerns

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JUNE 14: As a part of the weekly Block Diwas, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today presided over a public outreach camp at Gurdhan Balla in block Rajouri to redress the public grievances at their doorsteps.

During the camp, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the locals and listened to their issues and concerns. He assured them that their problems would be addressed on a priority basis and directed the concerned officials to take necessary action. Among others, DDC member Rajouri, sain Abdul Rashid, BDC chairperson Darbar Choudhary, CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; ACP, Sheraz Chohan; DSWO, Wakeel Ahmed



Bhat; Tehsildar Rajouri, Varinder Sharma; EXEN STD Kalakote, Hasan Mohd were present on the occasion.

The camp witnessed a good turnout, with people from various parts of the block coming forward to voice their concerns. The issues raised by the locals included the macadamisation of roads, upgradation of Govt. Institutions, short-

age of staff and augmentation of health infrastructure, shortage of electricity poles, boundary wall of HS Gurdan Balla, dilapidated condition of MS Dhanore, compensation for the BGSBU road, non-functioning of borewell at Chawwa besides others. The Deputy Commissioner assured time bound redressal of issues. For shortage of electricity poles, DC assured that the

same would be provided under the RDSS scheme of the PDD sector. Regarding scarcity of water, he assured that all households of the district would be provided with tapped water connection with the implementation of JIM in the district. Officers from the Horticulture Department were directed to organise special camps in the area to educate the public about

their schemes. Public also appreciated District Administration for taking prompt measures for the redressal of their genuine concerns in a time bound manner. Officers also educated the public about various schemes of their departments and motivated them to avail the benefits of the same. The DC appreciated the Health Department for

institutional deliveries under Kaya Kalp Schemes. He also mentioned that JIM schemes are progressing well. Entrance test for EMRS Gurdhan Balla was conducted last week with massive participation of students.

EMRs would be a milestone in the development of the area. Services are being provided through online mode & efforts are being made to provide benefits of these schemes to all deserving beneficiaries. Several Connectivity projects have been completed and many are under execution. Public participation is a must in the development process.

Several initiatives are being taken for the tribal people welfare, meeting paucity of staff in Government institutions and augmentation of health infrastructure etc.

World Blood Donor Day celebrated at Anantnag

Participants donate 37 Points of blood

J I NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, JUNE 14: On 'World Blood Donor Day' celebrated every year on 14th June, a Blood Donation Camp was today held at Dak Bungalow Anantnag with the theme "Give Blood, Give Plasma, Share Life, Share often" by District Red Cross Society in collaboration with Indian Red Cross Society, GMC Anantnag and District Administration Anantnag.

The camp was organized to spread awareness and seek attention to the Blood Donation besides educating people on the importance of safe blood donation for the purpose of transfusion.

While inaugurating the Camp, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Bashir Ahmad Wani termed the act of blood donation an act of solidarity and a service to mankind and most important activity.

He appreciated the donors for such an act and exhorted all people to donate blood and asked them to make themselves aware of the benefits of blood donations.

ADDC also stressed on spreading awareness among the public regarding blood donation and debunking myths associated with it besides directing the health team to check all medical formalities of donors before donating.

Volunteers from across the district through the camp and donated blood besides the college students, CSF, CRPF, RR and JKP Personals donated 37 points of blood.

The camp was attended by ACR, Doctors from GMC, officials from civil administration, Red Cross officials and officials of various departments besides the volunteers of various social organizations.

Block Diwas: DC B'pora tours far flung areas of Block Alooosa

Takes on spot review of repair work on PMGSY road after recent rainfall

J I NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 14: In a move to enhance community engagement, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Wednesday toured far flung areas of Block Alooosa, including Malangan and other adjacent areas.

The tour as part of Block Diwas was aimed to bring the administration closer to the people, actively listening to their concerns and implementing transformative solutions to address their needs.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that direct interaction with citizens serves as a unique platform for citizens to voice their opinions, share their aspirations, and actively participate in shaping the future of their communities besides allowing administration to gather valuable insights to ensure that policies and initiatives are tailored to meet the specific needs of the area.

During the visit, Dr. Owais inspected various ongoing developmental works and also took on site inspection of recently damaged Malangan Bala road.

The DC directed Ex. Engineer PMGSY to immediately put up the necessary measures for repairing the damaged road. He also visited Middle school Malangan Bala and interacted with students and teachers besides taking feedback from students. On the way to different areas, the DC interacted with PRIs and the general public and listened to their issues.

Block Diwas held at Sangarwani, Pulwama

District Administration committed to boost tourism potential of the area: DDC

J I NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, JUNE 14: The District Administration Pulwama today conducted a weekly Block Diwas programme at Govt High School Sangarwani under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr. Bushara Qayoom.

Local PRIs, respected elders and local youth delegations from village Sangarwani and other adjacent villages participated in the programme and raised their demands.

The DDC gave them patient hearing and assured that all their genuine

demands shall be taken up with the relevant quarters for early redressal.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC praised the picturesque beauty of the area and said that the area has huge tourism potential.

He said the District Administration shall focus to give a boost to the tourism potential of the area.

The DDC sought commitment from the officers for fulfilling the genuine demands of the people within stipulated time.

He emphasised concerned officers to ensure speedy public service delivery and carry out improvement works under various sectors to facili-

tate the general public.

He asked the concerned departments to raise awareness about different schemes and public welfare initiatives for the convenience of the public.

Stressing on robust development of the area, the DDC instructed concerned to ensure speedy work completion on all ongoing developmental projects including the water supply scheme which is long pending demand of the locals.

He further said the demand regarding roads and bridges is under pipeline and proposals have been submitted to Govt.

Block Diwas: DC presides over Grievance Redressal camp at D.H.Pora

J I NEWS SERVICE

KULGAMA, JUNE 14: Continuing the initiative of special public outreach programme of LG's Administration under weekly Block Diwas, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a public grievance camp at Block D.H.Pora and listened to issues and demands of the people for early

redressal.

On the occasion PRIs and delegations of people from Nagam, Boli, Chimner, Ahmadabad, D.K.Marg, Kousarbal and other areas participated in this grievance redressal camp and apprised the DC about their issues and developmental requirements of their areas.

During the proceedings, the DC gave a patient hearing to all the griev-

ances and demands that were put forth by the PRIs and concerned stakeholders and redressed various issues of emergent nature on the spot. Officers from various departments who were also present responded to the queries and issues raised by the people. The DC instructed the concerned to start Macadamisation of approved road length in the area at an earliest.

JKRLM, Ashok Kapoor Foundation Trust jointly opens "Duggardhani" dhaba in Bhatwal

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 14: Mission Director, Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Indu Kanwal Chib, on Wednesday inaugurated "Duggardhani-Dogra Dhaba", an outlet of women Self Help Group, here at Bhatwal, Jammu.

Additional Mission Director JKRLM Jammu, Mridul salahia, Founder Chairperson, Ashok Kapoor Foundation Trust, Kunwarani Dr. Ritika Singh were present on the occasion.

Pertinently, Duggardhani is a joint initiative of JKRLM and

KITCHEN TO OFFER TRADITIONAL DOGRA CUISINES, DELICACIES

Ashok Kapoor Foundation Trust which will be run and managed by around 35 women members of Self Help Group (SHG) of JKRLM. The people can enjoy dogra food recipes such as Maki ki Roti and sarson da Sag among other dogra delicacies.

Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib, appreciated women SHGs involvement in operating the Duggardhani. She said that JKRLM is emerging as a huge platform for rural women to attain financial independence.

Giving Details, Mission

Director said that Duggardhani has been established to give a platform to the local Dogra cuisines prepared by women SHG of Umeed JK.

Duggardhani of these SHG members offers an attractive menu with more than 20 varieties of comfort Dogra Recipe food. Some of the popular dogra food cuisines including Maki ki Roti, Saag, special dogra recipe dal, Rajmah Ambal and mixed rice would be available in their kitchen which sets them apart from commercial restaurants, MD stated.

To support and increase capacity building of these women, JKRLM imparted skill development trainings from time to time. These women were also taught the basics of stocking up the pantry, making quick recipes, packing techniques and order management related to cooking techniques, she maintained. Underlining the role of SHGs in eradicating poverty, she said these can play an important role in raising the economy.

She added the SHGs are being strengthened by providing them

with necessary platforms and they can showcase their calibre and contribute towards the society. While interacting with the aspiring members of self help groups, MD encouraged them to make full use of this platform to empower their livelihoods. She also discussed strategies to boost sales such as food takeaway and home delivery system.

The SHG members were also made to understand promotional strategies for modern market to run this outlet single-handedly, while keeping adequate quantity and affordable pricing as the core mantra of the business.

Central Nodal Officer JSA concludes 4 day tour to Ramban

HOLDS INTERACTIVE SESSIONS WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS, INSPECTS WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUNE 14: Director (Law & Order), Internal Security Division, Union Ministry of Home Affairs, and Central Nodal Officer (CNO) for Jal Shakti Abhiyaan (JSA), Catch the Rain (CTR), Nishtha Tiwari, along with Scientist Central Ground water, Chandreyee De, concludes her four day visit to the district.

During their visit, they held exhaustive interactive sessions with students and teachers, BDC Chairpersons, DDC Councillors, Sarpanchs, Panchs, Pani Simitis, common mass besides officers and officials of the district administration regarding development and welfare of the region.

On final day of their visit, they inspected GSRs, FHCS, gravity



lines, filter plants, Water Supply Schemes and other infrastructure under Jal Jeewan Mission. They met panchayat people at Batote and also toured Sanasar on the last day of their visit.

CNO conducted a detailed assessment of various crucial

aspects of the program in the district. She reviewed the financial and physical progress achieved, so far, in the district and appreciated the efforts of the district administration and other stakeholders in effectively implementing the Jal Shakti Abhiyan in the

district. CNO and Scientist CGW sensitized the locals about the need for water conservation, its judicious use, protection of water sources and rain water harvesting to make safe and sufficient water available in future.

CNO asked the PRIs to work out plans under various developmental schemes for conservation of water and rain water harvesting. She also emphasised wider publicity and awareness on the importance of rain water harvesting and its techniques.

During the four day visit, CNO and Scientist CGW visited AMrit Sarovars, Water Sources, Streams, Forests in Ramban, Banihal, Gool, Batote, Sanasar and other important places in the district. They also launched plantation drives at various places in

the district. Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam, presented a detailed report on the steps being taken up by the district administration to harvest the rain water and ensure water conservation.

DC informed that extensive awareness campaigns are being run in schools to motivate the students to imbibe in them the habits of water conservation. Pertinently, the Jal Shakti Abhiyan is a flagship program of the Government of India focused on ensuring water security and conservation in the country.

The program aims to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation, promote water harvesting and improve infrastructure for water storage and distribution.



WEEKLY BLOCK DIWAS PROGRAMME HELD AT HEWAN NARWAV BARAMULLA

Dr Sehrish listens to people's Grievances/ Demands; issues on spot directions to Officers for their early redressal

JI NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, JUNE 14: To listen to the issues and grievances of people at their door steps, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today visited Panchayat Hewan Narwaw Block and chaired weekly Block Diwas Camp, listening to various issues and demands of people meant for the overall welfare and development of the area.

Different stakeholders including PRIs, Officers of all line departments among other prominent citizens of Malpora, Kalabara, Khudpora, Fatehgarh, Sheeri besides other adjoining areas of Narwaw Block participated in the programme.

During the Grievance



Redressal Camp, various Public delegations and scores of individuals projected various developmental issues before the DC and sought the timely resolution of their grievances and demands.

On the occasion, the people put forth several demands including

establishment of road from Sheeri to Babarshi, augmentation of health institutions besides sanctioning of Primary Health Centre for the area and providing of Digital X-ray plant for the hospital.

Repairs of power lines, re-rodadization, widening and renovation of inner links and construction of toilet points at Echor parks were also among the major demands projected by the members of PRIs.

After giving a patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the DC assured that the District Administration will provide active support for development of the area and also assured them that all their issues and demands shall be taken with the concerned authorities for their

timely redressal.

She directed the concerned authorities to resolve the issue of irrigation besides exhorted upon the concerned for establishment of sheep rearing units for employment generation.

Meanwhile, the DC resolved various grievances of immediate nature and said that the administration is keen to streamline public service delivery and added that other developmental works are being identified and subsequently approved for their execution.

Likewise weekly Block Diwas camps were also organized at all sub division levels of Baramulla district where the concerned sub divisional heads presided the functions and heard their issues and grievances of the people.

Agriculture Deptt Kashmir celebrates (Thaejkaad) 'Paddy Transplanting Day'

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: The Agriculture Department Kashmir today celebrated (thaejkaad) Paddy transplanting day across the valley.

The campaign was kick-started by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal from the central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. He also participated in the paddy transplantation activities in the farmer's field at various places in the district.

While interacting with the farmers of different areas of the valley, Director Agriculture said that paddy is a staple crop of the valley and paddy transplantation has its cultural importance in the valley of Kashmir. He said people of Kashmir celebrate paddy transplanting day as they celebrate other religious and cultural festivals. Chowdhary Iqbal marked various initiatives taken by the department for the development of the farming community of the valley. He said the department is working not only to ensure high yielding varieties of agriculture crops including paddy reaches the farming community but to pre-

serve and promote the cultivation of traditional varieties viz. muskbudji, zag, meetha-chawal etc. also in the region.

Director Agriculture appreciated the role of the farming community in preserving the traditional varieties of paddy and other agriculture crops.

He said that besides the latest high yielding varieties our local paddy varieties like muskbudji, zag, meetha-chawal etc. are finding new markets. He said the department is working to facilitate the concerned farmers so that they could fetch good returns for their produce.

Director agriculture reiterated the importance of transferring the latest technologies, interventions to the farmers on field.

He impressed upon the officers to ensure that modern techniques and practices in the cultivation of agriculture crops including paddy reaches the farmers.

Iqbal highlighted the importance of feedback from the farming community with respect to the implementation of different centrally sponsored schemes so that the necessary steps to address the issues of farmers could be taken up on time.

Director agriculture was accompanied by Joint Director (Inputs) Mohammad Younis Chowdhury and other senior officers of the department.

Meanwhile the Paddy Transplanting Day was celebrated in all the districts of

Kashmir Division monitored by concerned Chief Agriculture Officers.

At Shopian, Agriculture Zone Tarkawangam celebrated Paddy Transplanting Day (JASHN-E-DHAAN) in Village Heff Shimal Shopian.

State Taxes Department holds GST interactive session for Chartered Accountants

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: As part of 'Kartavya, Commissioner State Taxes Department, Dr. Rashmi Singh, on Wednesday held a GST interactive session for Chartered Accountants of Jammu and Kashmir here at Excise and Taxation complex, Solina.

During the session, She responded to various issues raised by the participants and assured that all genuine issues and queries will be taken care of.

Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration and Enforcement) Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool, gave a detailed presentation sensitising the participants about malpractices that lead to tax evasion and loss of revenue to the government.

He particularly flagged the issues of utilisation of ineligible input tax credit for setting off tax liability and declaration of ICGT liabilities by the hotels and travel agents in violation of place of supply rules which leads to loss of revenue to J&K government.

He also emphasized the need of issuing e-invoices.

Additional Commissioner, Tax Planning and Advance Ruling, Ankita Kar, educated the participants about the audit under GST Act.

Weekly Block Diwas: Udhampur Administration listens to public grievances at CFC Chennai

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 14: A Public Outreach camp, under Weekly Block Diwas program, was held today at Community Facility Centre (CFC) Tehsil Headquarter Chenani, where Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya listened to the public demands and aspirations. District Development Council Chairperson, Lal Chand; Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Shyam Singh; BDC Chairman, Parkash Chand; CEO PDA, Sher Singh; ACD, Dr Ranjeet Kotwal and other District and Sectoral officers of the District, besides PRI representatives and a large number of people from adjoining panchayats attended the camp. During the camp, the public and their representatives raised a number of issues and demands of their areas. They demanded compensation of land acquired for Bupp to Barkunda and Barkunda to Kharwa PMGSY road, Separate Ration cards, Repair of hand pumps, Opening of new ration sale depot, construction of motorable bridge over Tawi river at Panchayat Bupp and Matlowa, Provision of JKRTC bus service on Udhampur, Chennai, Mantalai, Lati and Dudu routes, Construction of road under PMGSY from Nagulla to Rajar Block Chenani, Blacktopping of different roads, meeting shortage of staff in Nagulla Government High school, Upgradation of irrigation khul, Upgradation of middle to high school, Upgradation of road from Mantali to Naina Devi, Creation of self help groups, Shortage of staff in health institutions, Construction of passenger shed, Handed over PHC building at Basht etc. The DC gave a patient hearing to all the issues projected by the PRI members and public during the event.

During the camp, many grievances were redressed on the spot by intervention /directions to officers of concerned departments' while the rest of demands would be redressed on priority by mobilization of budgetary provision to the best public interest DC added.

ADDC Doda discusses measures for improving board results in low performing schools

SEEKS EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF FACULTY, GCIL REGULATION



JI NEWS SERVICE

Doda, June 14: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Doda, Pran Singh, today chaired a significant meeting aimed at addressing the issue of low performance and disappointing board

results in some Government Schools.

The ADDC Singh interacted with over 30 principals and asked for explanation for the poor performance in the recently declared board examination results for 12th class.

One of the concerns raised by the ADDC Singh was the surplus teach-

ing staff in many schools across the district. Expressing displeasure, he emphasized the need for efficient utilization of human resources and the reallocation of surplus teachers to schools facing a shortage.

This would ensure that students receive quality education and benefit from the expertise of dedicated teachers.

To address the surplus teaching staff issue, the ADDC directed the principals to take action against underperforming teachers.

Those teachers who failed to deliver satisfactorily their salary or increment would be withheld.

The meeting also shed light on the shortcomings of childcare leave, availed by female teaching staff.

World Blood Donor Day: District Red Cross Society organises Blood Donation Camp at GMC Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JUNE 14: To mark World Blood Donor Day, District Red Cross Society (DRCS) Kathua, in collaboration with the Blood Transfusion Department, Government Medical College Kathua, organised a Blood Donation Camp here today. Deputy

Commissioner Rakesh Minhas, who is also the Chairman of DRCS inaugurated the Camp in presence of Principal GMC, Dr Surinder Kumar Atri, Secretary DRCS Kathua O.P Sharma and other officers.

Over 50 units of blood were donated by volunteers from Nehru Yuva Kendra, Police department and Red Cross Society. The

Doctors and Para-medical staff of GMC Kathua facilitated the blood donation.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas said that donating blood is a noble cause and

selfless act which helps in maintaining availability of different blood groups in the blood bank to cater emergencies and saving lives.

He said Blood donation is a great service to the society and civil society should come forward in such kind of events aimed at benefiting the needy.

"The occasion is also an opportunity to bust the myths associated with blood donation which will make people participate in altruistic acts", he added.

DHEW, Sakhi OSC Budgam organize Awareness programme at GHSS Narbal

JI NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, JUNE 14: The District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), Sakhi One Stop Centre (OSC), and Women Helpline 181 today jointly organized an awareness program at GHSS Narbal showcasing an unwavering commitment towards women's empowerment and societal transformation.

The event held as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, aimed to enlighten students about the government's invaluable initiatives, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), and Nasha Mukht Bharat, which promote gender equality and combat substance abuse. Under the guidance of DSWO Budgam, the DHEW played a pivotal role in raising awareness among attendees, igniting a spirit of action, and ensuring the resounding success of these programs. Recognizing the transformative potential of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Nasha Mukht Bharat, the DHEW team tirelessly conveyed their message thereby fostering positive social change, and striving to build an equitable society free from substance abuse. Distinguished speakers at this event illuminated various government initiatives that create an environment conducive to women exercising their choices, gaining control over their lives, and accessing opportunities. These initiatives empower women to make a significant impact on society, addressing gender disparities and discrimination in a positive and impactful manner.

The success of this awareness program cannot be understated, as students gained invaluable insights into the government's unwavering efforts to promote women's empowerment and combat substance abuse.

DIET Doda, Pratham organise Zonal Level Exhibition



JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 14: In a collaborative effort between the District Institute of Education Research & Training (DIET) and the Pratham Education Foundation, an exciting Zonal Level Exhibition was organized here today. The exhibition showcased a wide range of Teaching Learning Materials (TLM), Models, Toys, and Puppet Shows across all 10 Educational Zones.

The primary objective of this event was to promote foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) among grade children by creating visually appealing and engaging TLM.

With a focus on blended learning, teachers from various schools in District Doda came together to prepare colorful and attractive TLM.

These materials aimed to enhance the learning experience for children, ensuring they gain a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy.

The exhibition featured multiple stalls, each dedicated to displaying TLM, Models, and Toys. The purpose of these stalls was to align with the goals of the NIPUN BHARAT initiative, which emphasizes the importance of foundational skills in children. By providing hands-on experiences and interactive displays, the exhibition aimed to foster a love for learning while strengthening fundamental knowledge.

Through this collaborative effort, DIET Doda and Pratham Education Foundation hoped to create an enabling environment for the holistic development of children. By showcasing innovative teaching tools and resources, the exhibition aimed to inspire educators and encourage the implementation of effective teaching practices. Ultimately, the goal was to ensure that every child in District Doda receives quality education, setting them on a path to success in their academic journey.

World Blood Donor Day observed at ANMT School Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 14: World Blood Donors Day 2023 was observed by the District Health Society by organizing an awareness programme at ANMT School Doda.

The programme was held under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer and under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The programme was attended by Dr N D Dar, Dr Javed Ahmed Faray, Mohammad Shafi Attu, Mohammad Faheem Butt, Zaheer Gattu, Mohd Umar Mughal, Altaf Hussain, besides staff of ANMT School Naveeda Anjum & Rubina Ishtiaq and students.

The aim of the event was to highlight the importance of voluntary blood donations in saving lives and enhancing solidarity within communities.

On this occasion, Dr Javed Ahmed Faray delivered a motivational lecture on the importance of the day.

GDC Reasi starts Yoga Classes

JI NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JUNE 14: Five day yoga classes were started today by Government General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College Reasi under the guidance of Director Ayush and supervision of district nodal officer Reasi. Deputy Commissioner, Babla Rakwal was the chief Guest at the inaugural function. Around fifty students of the college attended the yoga class. Abdul Majid (YOGA INSTRUCTOR) explained the importance of Yoga in human life.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance and need of practicing Yoga to stay fit and healthy. "Yoga was an invaluable gift of India to the world. It brings harmony in all walks of life and helps in disease prevention, health promotion and management of stress and anxiety besides helping to prevent many lifestyle related disorders," she added.

JI NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, JUNE 14: Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan, and Alok Kumar, Director General of Police (DGP) Fire & Emergency Services today jointly inaugurated a state-of-the-art Fire and Emergency services building in Khag.

The event was met with overwhelming

appreciation from the local community, considering the area's remote location.

The newly inaugurated Fire & Emergency building stands as a testament to the commitment of the local administration towards ensuring the safety and security of the residents in Budgam district. It is equipped with modern firefighting equipment, cutting-edge technology, and trained personnel to handle any emer-

gency effectively.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Chairman DDC Budgam, expressed his gratitude to the government for their continuous support in addressing the needs of the region.

He emphasized the importance of prompt emergency services, especially in far-flung areas, and highlighted the significance of the new facility in Khag.

Khan stated, "The opening of this Fire & Emergency Services building is a significant step towards enhancing the safety infrastructure in Budgam. Our administration remains committed to ensuring the well-being of our residents, regardless of their geographical location. With this new facility, we aim to improve emergency response times, safeguard lives, and protect valuable property."

SHRI AMARNATH JI YATRA

DC Jammu inspects arrangements at Railway Station, Vaishnavi Dham, other places

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 14: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa today visited Railway Station, Vaishnavi Dham, Saraswati Dham and Panchayat Bhawan to inspect the arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2023. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Commissioner JMC, Rahul Yadav; SSP Railways, Mohan Lal Kainthi; SSP Traffic, Faizal Qureshi; ADC (LO) Harvinder Singh; ADC, (ADM) Sandeep Soointra, Nodal officers of respective registration counters and other senior officers deployed for smooth conduct of SANJY 2023.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the



arrangements put in place for the Yatra including accommodation, security arrangements, installation of technical equipments and wi-fi, public address system, power and water supply cleanliness, sanitation and medical facilities at registration counters, Lodgement centres and especially at Yatri Niwas.

She also reviewed the security and other arrange-

ments including token and registration services at Railway Station, Vaishnavi Dham and Panchayat Bhawan. The Deputy Commissioner further inspected the RFID centre to be established at the Tourist Reception Centre building within the premises of the Railway Station.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to

put in place all arrangements before the commencement of Yatra. She also directed the concerned officers to gear up their men and machinery to ensure a comfortable journey and stay of Yatri.

She asked the concerned departments to make sure that the pilgrims do not face any hardship on account of basic amenities.

DC Reasi presides Block Diwas meeting at Panchayat Dehote Block Pouni

INSPECTS PROGRESS OF WORK ON JJM PROJECTS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JUNE 14: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Babila Rakwal conducted Public grievances redressal Camp under weekly block Diwas at Panchayat Dehote, Block Pouni to assess the local issues and listen to the issues of the people at their doorstep and redress the same with the intervention of district officers and representatives of Panchayat Institutions.

The PRIs raised the issue of damaged Ransoo Khul and the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned department for its early restoration. Issue of construction of approach road to bridge in Dehote Panchayat, posting of doctor and installation of Ultrasound & X-Ray machine at PHC

Ransoo, posting of staff in NTPHC Dheote were also raised by the PRIs and general public. Demand regarding early start of work of Water Supply Scheme Ransoo sanctioned and allotted for 300 households was also projected.

The issues regarding Road from Ransoo to Kanda were also highlighted and the DC directed the executing agency to start repair and restoration of the road. Issue regarding incomplete boundary wall and old structure of the Government High School Dehote was also projected during the block Diwas and on spot directions were issued to the execution agency complete the boundary wall as projected under DDC Grant, while the Executive Engineer, PWD(R&B) was

asked to furnish a report on the condition of the old structure. Demand of Mobile toilets at Ransoo, provision of water tankers on a weekly basis for Sangar area and release of pending land compensation were also projected during the block Diwas.

Earlier, the DC also inspected ongoing works of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes in far-flung Panchayat Allya and Dehote of Pouni Tehsil bordering Rajouri District. The scheme envisages retrofitting and Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme Allya FHIC 157 & Retrofitting and Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme Theru Sujapur FHIC 480. The DC directed the executing agencies to expedite the completion of the work.

DC Kishtwar Tours Drabshalla, Bonjwah Tehsils

INAUGURATES FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP CAMP, LISTEN TO PEOPLE'S GRIEVANCES, DEVIGOL TEMPLE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JUNE 14: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav today conducted an extensive tour of Drabshalla and Bonjwah Tehsils. During the tour, he engaged with the local community and addressed their concerns and inaugurated a Free Medical Check-up Camp organized by Ratle Hydro Power Construction Ltd. (RHPC).

He availed the opportunity to interact with the residents and laborers of the Ratle Hydroelectric Power (RHP) project and listened to their grievances. The Free Medical Camp was conducted in collaboration with the Health department to mark the 2nd Raising Day of Ratle HPCL. Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Tehsildar Drabshalla/Bonjwah Ishaad Ahmed Sheikh, besides Ashok Kumar Nauriyal, CEO of RHPC, doctors, district officials, local administration, RHPC representatives, and PRIs, formally inaugurated the camp.

As many as 350 local individuals were checked for different ailments and provided free medicines as per the requirement of their treatment.

During the interaction, the local community and labourers raised several issues and demands, which were promptly addressed by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar.

Necessary directions were issued to the relevant authorities at HPCL to resolve these concerns effectively.

In response to the locals' requests for employment opportunities, the Deputy Commissioner informed them about the job advertisement issued for recruitment in Ratle HPCL, inviting applications for 47 positions by Mega Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd. He encouraged the eligible locals to apply for suitable roles, assuring them that the selection process would be transparent and fair. The Tehsildar was directed to ensure wide publicity and monitoring of the process. Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various activities in the project area to

ensure strict compliance with safety guidelines during blasts and other operations. Continuing his visit, the Deputy Commissioner proceeded to the Bonjwah Tehsil, where he visited the revered Devigol Temple and after paying his respects, he engaged with the temple management committee. He attentively listened to their concerns and assured them of full support from the administration during the ongoing Yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the tremendous potential of the Devigol area as a religious & tourist destination, which would not only boost local income but also contribute to the region's overall development.

Deputy Commissioner visited HSS Binoo to assess the damage caused by the recent earthquake. He assured that appropriate directives would be issued to initiate repair and maintenance work promptly.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Community Health and Wellness Center (CHWC) in Nall and evaluated the healthcare facilities the infrastructure requirements of the center, including the need for adequate staff. Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar's visit to Drabshalla and Bonjwah blocks showcased the administration's commitment towards addressing the needs and concerns of the local community at their doorstep. The tour underscored the significance of collaborative efforts between the district administration, government bodies, and private entities in fostering development and ensuring the welfare of the people.

World Blood Donor Day 2023: Motivation cum awareness lecturer on blood donation held at GCW Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 14: To mark the World Blood Donor Day, 2023, an online motivation cum awareness lecture on the theme "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often" and a pledge ceremony was organized in Government College for Women Udhampur by Red Ribbon Club and NSS Unit in collaboration with J&K AIDS control Society under Mission Life, G20 and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The events were conducted under the guidance of the college Principal, Prof. Anjali Mahajan and under the co-venorship of Dr. Kewal Kumar (Convener RRC) and Prof. Sumita Rao (NSS PO) to thank individuals who donated blood to encourage more people to become new donors and to be aware about the importance of blood donation.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar (PTI) was the resource person on the occasion who delivered a mind storming, informative and inspiring lecture on blood donation on the theme "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often".

The lecture was attended by about 42 students including staff of the college.

Explaining the importance of blood donation, he said the despite remarkable advancement in medical science there is no laboratory that manufactures blood. He also motivated the staff and students to donate blood as they themselves might be using the same during their own emergency needs.

Earlier, Principal of the College, Prof. Anjali Mahajan congratulated and appreciated the efforts of organisers.

She stated that such awareness lectures are need of hour in educational

institutions and will go a long way in spreading the message of blood donation to general masses.

In the afternoon, a pledge ceremony was organised where students and staff of the college pledged to create awareness among their family members, friends, relatives, colleagues and public about the need of regular voluntary blood donation.

They also pledged that they will always donate blood to the needy irrespective of caste and religion.

About 55 students participated in pledge ceremony.

The event was graced by the presence of Prof. Ashni Devi, HOD Botany, Dr. Shaveta Sharma, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Prof. Roopa Kumari, Assistant Prof. of Edu-cation, Prof. Pooja Bharti, Assistant Professor of Geography and Mr. Balbir Singh from Department of Geography.

GDC Pouni Organises awareness camp Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Encourages eligible locals to apply for jobs in Ratle HEP

JJ NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JUNE 14: In continuation to the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Rural Development department, in collaboration with Nasha Mukht Unit, NSS and Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College, Pouni, organised an awareness camp on the college to spread awareness about the menace of Drugs and Psychotropic Substance.

Government Degree College Pouni witnessed overwhelming participation of students of all the semesters, including NSS and RRC.

The audience also included District Administration officials, Sarpanch and Panch, and Panchayat members. Tanpreet Singh, Convener of Nasha

Mukht Unit, hosted the event and welcomed the guests of the day, Professors, and rest of the audience.

He also deliberated upon the awareness campaigns and series of activities being conducted by GDC Pouni to mobilize support for eradication of drug addiction and drug trafficking.

He also presented the agenda of the event.

The College Principal, Dr. Udhay Bhanu underlined the setback being caused by the menace of drug abuse in the society.

He deliberated in detail how its tentacles are spreading the grip on our younger generation and pose a serious threat to the society as a whole. Balvinder Singh, a student of

semester 6th presented his talk on the topic of the day and very assertively brought forth his views.

Later, the Additional Deputy Commissioner addressed the audience and it turned out to be an interactive session where people from the audience put forth their issues they have been facing.

The event culminated with the anti-drug abuse pledge administered by Dr. Tarseem Kumar.

The event proceeded with the Vote of Thanks by Prof. U S Liza, HOD English. She extended gratitude to the ADC Reasi, and other District Administration officials, members of Tehsil administration, Sarpanchs and Panchs and organising Members of the event and students.

Sports Council, SAI sign MoU

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: J&K Sports Council and Sports Authority of India have come together to flourish sports in the Union Territory of J&K. In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the premier sports body of India will collaborate with SAI for the expansion of the footprints of Khelo India centers in J&K.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul while Nadeem Dar, Deputy Director, incharge J&K and Ladakh represented Sports Authority of India. Pertinently the Khelo India centers were allotted to J&K in a phased manner and in the first phase around 40 Khelo India centers were awarded to J&K in 2020-21. Recently 60 more centers were added to the existing number making it hundred



Khelo India centers, the highest of any State or Union Territory of the country.

Sarmad Hafeez Secretary, Department of Youth Services and Sports said two autonomous bodies coming together will help the sports to grow in all corners of the UT and the best facilities for players will be more and more people taking up the game. Secretary Sports Council Nuzhat Gul said with the signing of the MoU, J&K sports will usher into a new

mechanism has been worked out wherein past champion athletes would become coaches and mentors to train the future stars of the region and, run the training autonomously and earn their livelihood.

Most of the Khelo India centers are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, highly qualified coaches, and a range of training programs that cater to the needs of athletes from various age groups and disciplines.

This has not only helped in the overall development of sports in the region but has also encouraged more and more children to take up sports as a viable career option.

In addition to scouting the best talent in the district, each of these centers lays special emphasis on taking sports to the grassroots level and acting as an alternative arrangement for the places where no sports activities existed earlier.

Awareness programme/ Workshop on Organ Donation & Tissue Transplantation held at Gandhi Bhawan, KU

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: The first ever awareness program cum workshop on the Organ Donation and Tissue Transplant was Wednesday organized by Department of Bioresources and Department of Home Science, from University of Kashmir and JK Science Technology & Innovation Council (JKITIC), JKDST in collaboration with State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) J&K under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India. The program witnessed participation by around 200 people including Medical professionals, Educational professionals and students from various departments from University of Kashmir.

As awareness is the key to success, the series of events include conduct of awareness programme cum workshop, display of banners and posters for awareness of general public, and awareness through print, electronic and social media.

The programme was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir, Prof. Neelofar Khan. In her talk, she said that this Awareness programme cum Workshop on Organ Donation and Tissue Transplantation is first of its kind being organized by University of Kashmir, and such programmes should be organized by the institute regularly to raise awareness for organ/tissue donation.

This was followed by views shared by eminent dignitaries, including Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner Secretary JKST&IC; Prof. Pervaiz

Koul, Director SKIMS; Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir, Registrar, University of Kashmir, and Prof. Elias Sharma, Nodal Officer SOTTO J&K about this noble act of organ donation and tissue transplantation various.

Saurabh Bhagat addressed the lack of awareness and understanding among the general public regarding organ donation and tissue transplantation. He further said that by dispelling myths, providing accurate information, and fostering open dialogue, the people will somehow get encouraged to participate in this favorable act.

Prof. Pervaiz Koul also highlighted the role and need of this noble act in a very articulate manner. He motivated all to become an Organ Donor and save lives of many who are waiting for organ transplantation.

Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir addressed the need for this noble act. He said that such collaborative effort is the need of the hour in present times. He said that university is open to such collaborations that are doing such tremendous and noble acts for the welfare of the whole community.

Also, Prof. Elias put his views and thoughts before the audience in view of the organ transplantation.

He cleared the myths about organ donation and inspired the audience for taking the pledge for organ donation after death.

On the occasion, Prof. Nilofar and other dignitaries released a book related to breast cancer, authored by Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir, HOD department of Bio resources. The inaugural session was then fol-

lowed by a technical session where several eminent speakers from different medical institutes delivered their talks in a very understandable manner.

The event also witnessed the presence of various principals from several GMCs of J&K. Dr. (Prof) Tariq Syed Qureshi, Principal GMC Anantnag in his remarks said nothing can be more selfless than truly giving those in need, a ray of hope and more precisely, a second chance to live.

Reflecting the key initiatives undertaken by SOTTO J&K, Prof. Elias Sharma, Nodal Officer SOTTO J&K informed the audience about types of Donors, Brain Stem Death, organs which can be donated, myths and superstitions etc.

"The solution to bridge the ever widening gap between organ availability and organ requirement in India is possible only through systematic strengthening of the deceased organ donation programme," he added. The event was then followed by a valedictory function where Dr. Manzoor A Mir, Head Department of Bioresources thanked all the dignitaries, eminent speakers, other respected participants, faculty members and students and scholars for their immense efforts and participation in the programme.

The event was anchored by Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir, Department of Bio resources, University of Kashmir and coordinated by Anshu Sharma Consultant (IEC/Media) SOTTO J&K, Irfan Ahmad Lone Transplant Coordinator SOTTO J&K, Nisha Choudhary, DEO, SOTTO J&K.

Modi Govt Schemes Giving Benefits to Everyone: MP Jugal Kishore

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Today Jugal Kishore Sharma tours Jammu West Assembly Constituency under Mahajansampark Yatra a nationwide programme led by Bharatiya Janata Party on completion of 9 years of Modi Government in Center. BJP Talab Tillo Mandal organized Beneficiaries Sammelan & BJP Bakshi Nagar Mandal organized Vayapari Sammelan and interaction with POJK refugees programme (District Jammu) Organises at Sheela Resorts Talab Tillo, Bakshi Nagar and Rehari Colony in which Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma along with Former BJP President Sat Sharma CA, District President Parmod Kapahi, JKUT Vice President and Parbhari Rajeev Charak, Senior Leaders BJP J&K Munish Sharma, Ayodhya Gupta, Arvind Gupta, Prem Gupta, Venu Khanna, Kuldeep Kandhari, Media Secretary Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Municipal Councillors Sanjay Baru, Neelam Nargotra, Dinesh Gupta, Sr. Susha Singh, Jeet Angral, Surinder Choudhary and other leaders also attended. The Programme was organised under the Mandal Presidency of Mandal President Keshav Chopra & Atul Bakshi.



In Continuation with the Nationwide Celebration of 9 years of Modi Govt as Sampark se Samarthan Abhiyan, Several other Programmes were also Conducted in which Jugal Kishore Sharma along with Sat Sharma CA and Other Leaders Visited Himalayan Heritage Museum in which Rare Antique Collection was Preserved by Chairman Sardar Inder Singh and his family.

Jugal Kishore Visited the Residence of Priya Gupta in which She along with her Son Achyut Mahajan who have shown their talent by making colourful backyard, planted several plants with the help of waste material & plastic bottles, discard boxes. Later on they Visited

Rehari Bakshi Nagar Mandal in which Jugal Kishore along with other Leaders Visited the residence of R.K Chibber, Former Chariman JK Bank, Anandpur met with Raju Mahant Ji and residence of Shanti Swaroop Gupta Senior Praja Parishad Member and Felicitated them under Sampark se Samarthan Abhiyan.

Jugal Kishore Sharma While addressing the gathering said that Bharatiya Janata Party is working on the agenda of Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas and today everyone is getting benefit of Modi Welfare Schemes. While addressing Beneficiaries at Sheela Resorts he appreciated the Work of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that Modi gov't is committed to empower every section of the

society. He said that after Abrogation of Article 370 and removal of 35 A all the ways for the development of Jammu & Kashmir.

He said that many mega projects in various sectors are in progress and many of them are completed. Member of Parliament interacted with Businessmen and traders at Bakshi Nagar and listened their demands and problems. He said that their problems are local & genuine and soon they would be re-addressed. PoJK refugees beneficiaries warm welcomed Member of Parliament and thanked Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji who listened and felt their pain after a decade. They said that it is only Bharatiya Janata Party who have given them right to exist and compensation.

Garlan Programme was also organized at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Park and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk & Senior leaders paid them tributes.

Sat Sharma CA while speaking said that BJP Govt is doing tremendous work for the upliftment of down trodden section of the society. Several bold and historic steps have been taken by modi gov't which has given benefits to all of us he further added

Sharma, Arvind Gupta also appreciated the work of Modi gov't and said that PM Ujjwala Yojna, Jan Dhan Yojna and other schemes have given benefits to lot of people, Jammu Poonch Floyover, Ring Road project brought revolutionary change in the life of locals.

BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra managed the proceedings of the programme and Mandal General Secretary Munish Gupta presented vote of thanks

District General Secretaries Kuldeep Kandhari, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Manav Mahajan, Sarpanch Pritpal Singh, Ravinder Tiku, Mandal General Secretary Paramjeet, Anil Angral, Pratibha Sharma, Anupam, K.L. Sharma, Chaman Lal Bhagat, Venu Gupta, Varinder Dogra, Rajesh Gupta, Deepak Sharma, Kusum Gupta, Parveen Ghai, Rahul Nargotra, Ramesh Kumar, Geeta Sodhi, Vikas Kumar, Devinder Gupta, Manohar Lal, Japal Sharma, Bhupinder Gupta, Lovekesh Gondi, Sudershan, Ritesh peer, Ghanisham sharma, Rakesh sharma, Bhubesh sharma, Jatinder Khajuria, Omkar verma, Sanchit sharma, Sachin nargotra, Arun sharma, Vina rathod, Pinki bhat, Manoj Tandon and others were also present.

Advisor Bhatnagar inaugurates blood donation camp

Terms the gesture as symbol of compassion, solidarity



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SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today inaugurated a blood donation camp at GB Pant Hospital here to mark 'World Blood Donors Day' celebration. 'Donating blood is essentially a gesture, an act of compassion and solidarity which is not the most precious gift which a person can give to another person saving numerous lives on earth', maintained the Advisor.

The camp, which was organised by the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir in collaboration with Badami Bagh Cantonment (BBC), was aimed to foster a culture of voluntary blood donation while addressing the critical need for blood supply in entire Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, CEO BBC, senior officers of health department, doctors, paramedical staff and large number of blood donors were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted the humanitarian aspect of blood donation saying that it symbolizes compassion and unity within society. He encouraged the participants to actively participate in similar initiatives to meet the increasing demand for blood transfusions, especially during emergencies and medical procedures.

Advisor further said that this year's theme 'Give Blood, Give Plasma, Share Life, Share Often' is very unique and this theme depicts the significance of this important service for the mankind. He added that it also focuses on life long transfusion support and underlines the role every single person can play, by giving the valuable gift of blood or plasma.

Advisor Bhatnagar remarked that every single donation is a precious lifesaving gift and repeated donation is key to building a safe and sustainable blood supply. He emphasized the importance of voluntary blood donation while explaining how it plays a vital role in ensuring timely medical care for patients in need.

Commissioner Secretary inaugurates Rs 1.20 cr Public Park at Baba Sunara, Jhajjar Kotli



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JAMMU, JUNE 14: Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, today inaugurated a Public Park at Baba Sunara, Jhajjar Kotli, Jammu. Director General, Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, S. Jatinder Singh was also present on the occasion. The public park expanded over an area of 16 kanal has been developed by the department with an expenditure of Rs.1.20 crore. It has various features like chain link/grill fencing, viewpoint, mesmerizing landscaping, ornamental plants, flowering beds, turfing, tile path/walk way, illumination system, sprinklers, benches and other basic facilities. While addressing the public, Commissioner Secretary informed that 11 new parks are being constructed during the current financial year 2023-24. The aim of the government is to focus on providing all requisite facilities to individuals at their door steps, especially to senior citizens and children. He also took a detailed review of maintenance and development of existing parks and gardens of the said area. He directed the officers to maintain quality of works and emphasized the need for overall beautification of all parks. Meanwhile, he also interacted with the PRIs and listened to their grievances and demands.

Commissioner Secretary assured the local representatives and the public that all their genuine demands will be considered and action shall be taken for redressal in a time bound manner. On the occasion, Director Finance Floriculture, Hemkant Prashar, Deputy Secretary Floriculture Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhary, Executive Engineer Floriculture, D. K. Kaithi, Deputy Director Planning, Priti Agarwal, Floriculture Officer, Jammu, Sunil Singh, PRI members and other officers of the department were also present.

INT'L DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

D&FCO ropes in Pharmacists to spread public awareness at Bishnah

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JAMMU, JUNE 14: To mark the upcoming International Day against Drug Abuse and Food Control Organization J&K organized an awareness program at Bishnah on the prevention of drug abuse- Role of Pharmacists Fraternity in eradication of the menace from the society.

The objective of the awareness programme was to strengthen action and cooperation of Pharma Fraternity in achieving a role model society free of Drug Abuse. The awareness Programme was attended by people from different sections of the society, including Prominent Citizens and Senior officers of the Department.

Mohammad Iqbal, Deputy Drugs Controller, Renuka Raina, Deputy Drugs Controller (I&L), Arvind Sharma, Assistant Drugs Controller, Jammu; Archana Mujoo, Assistant Drugs Controller (HQ) Jammu; Pankaj Malhotra, Assistant Drugs Controller; Drugs Control Officers, besides Nikhil Gogna, SDPO, R.S

Pura /Bishnah; Vikram Sharma, SHO Bishnah and Members of Chemists Association of Bishnah and R.S Pura. Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Iqbal Palla, Deputy Drugs Controller invited an urgent attention of Stakeholders towards this issue. He informed that the Government has initiated pro active measures by constituting District Level Monitoring Committees under NOCORD to bring an end to this menace and rehabilitate the affected youth.

He said that the Department has adopted Zero Tolerance Policy against the nefarious elements and has taken proactive measures to prohibit the illicit use of medicinal formulations and it will go a long way in dealing with the disastrous problem within our society. Renuka Raina, Deputy Drugs Controller, IJ, J and K, in her address said that such programs definitely help to educate the common masses about the drug abuse which is destroying our future generations. She said that Border Belts of R.S Pura and Bishnah are sensitive and strict vigil shall be maintained in such areas.

Nikhil Gogna, SDPO, R.S Pura also deliberated on the social evil and informed that Police Authorities have put the department on high alert to eradicate the social evil from the society. He emphasized that all the sections of society shall join hands to propagate the awareness regarding ill effects of drug abuse amongst the ignorant masses.

Archana Mujoo, Assistant Drugs Controller, Jammu also apprised the Participants about ill effects of drug menace & its effect on society. She impressed upon the trade fraternity to switch over to computerized system of billing for maintenance of records and install CCTV cameras in light of guidelines issued by Government.

Anuj Kumar, President Chemist Association Bishnah and S. Jwanti Singh, President Chemist Association R.S Pura assured full cooperation of that association in restricting the sale of restricted drugs except for the legitimate requirements.

World blood Donor Day observed at CRPF 137 Battalion

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UDHAMPUR, JUNE 14: A one day blood donation camp was organized by District Red Cross Society, in collaboration with 137 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and District Hospital to mark "World Blood Donor Day" on the theme "Give blood, give plasma, share life,

share often" here at 137 Battalion Udhampur. Commandant 137 BN Central Reserve Police Force, Ramesh Kumar was the chief guest, while Secretary District Red Cross Society, Udhampur Dr V.P Sharma presided over the programme. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest complimented the initiative taken by the District Red Cross Society and Health

department for the noble cause of saving one's lives. He also appreciated the officers, jawans for participating in blood donation camp.

While highlighting the importance and benefits of blood donation, the Commandant said that such camps would go a long way to minimize the paucity of blood in health institutions from time to time.

Kupwara girls presented hand embroidered national flag to Mr Shankar Bapat of Aseem Foundation

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KUPWARA: In a special gesture Mr Shankar Bapat, from Aseem Foundation, a Pune based NGO, Kupwara girls working in different skill development centers at Kawari and Kunanposhpora villages of Kupwara presented a large sized Hand embroidered national flag to Mr Shankar Bapat on 13 June 23.

Aseem Foundation is a Non-governmental organisation working for the betterment of people since 2002. The organisation is committed for development and establishing connections between the people from disturbed order

areas. Aseem foundation is working hand in glove with Indian Army for providing education, Social entrepreneurship and is assisting people of remote border areas to get basic human facilities. The NGO is also assisting Barket Bistru run by Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers in a unique endeavour to support Veer Naris at Pathahirri, Kupwara. The NGO had placed a demand for National flag measuring 9ft x 6ft in which Ashok Chandra would be beautifully crafted with Kashmiri Hand embroidery. Today the leading young girls Miss Nazima Khan and Miss Maryem Jaan who are



working as the instructors at Kunan and Kawari villages presented this National flag to Crewel and stitching centers at

Aseem Foundation. The NGO rep was thankful from core very happy with the work done by these young girls and they assured them for more such orders in coming days also. In this way Aseem foundation in association with Indian Army is assisting local Kashmiri girls to get up on their feet so that instead of becoming a burden on their families they can become self sustained.

Indian Army is committed to keep the women of Kashmir engaged in constructive activities especially promoting local handicrafts to keep them away from negative influence.

DC Samba listens to people's issues at Block Diwas meeting held in Sarna Panchayat

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SAMBA, JUNE 14: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma, accompanied by district officers of various departments, chaired the weekly Block Diwas meeting here at Sarna Panchayat.

BDC Chairman Block Nud, Dev Raj; ADDC, Rajinder Singh; ADC Rakesh Dubey; ACD, Sidharath Dhiman; tehsildar, CEO, CHO, CAO, Ex. Engineers of PWD, PHE, PDD, BDO and several other district officers, block level officers and PRI members attended the block diwas.

The locals demanded augmentation of power infrastructure, macadamization of rural roads, better facilities in Educational institutions, Ground water Department, Flood Control works, promotion of Tourism, Bank facilities, fast racking of PWD, Health, RDD, NABARD, PDD, Veterinary Department, Flood Control works.

The Deputy Commissioner sought department wise response to the issues projected during Block Diwas in the presence of PRI members and resolved several grievances on the spot with the intervention of line departments and discussion with district head officers.

He said that public outreach programmes such as Block Diwas are devised to reach to the doorstep of the people and redress their problems with the intervention of concerned departments besides assessing the progress of developmental works.

The DC enquired about the status of Solid Waste Management in the Panchayat, including door to door garbage collection and exhorted to bring behavioural change towards cleanliness among villages and public areas.

He laid emphasis on resolving the local issues through inter department coordination with active involvement of PRI members. He also assured that policy matters would be taken up at appropriate level for its early resolution.