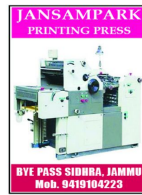




JINDRAH IMAGES



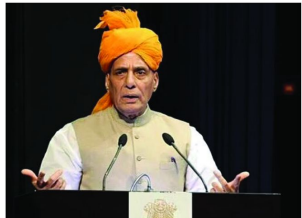
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AFSPA to go from J&K when peace becomes permanent: Defence Minister

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 26

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said that Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) will be removed from Jammu and Kashmir when "peace becomes a permanent feature" and the democratic process would soon be initiated in the Union Territory. He, however, did not give any specific timeline for both the developments.

As per news agency, the Union Minister said that AFSPA has been removed from large parts of the northeast and he was waiting for "permanent peace" in Jammu and Kashmir so it could be removed from the UT too. The Union Defence Minister said this while addressing a "security



conclave" organized by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at University of Jammu under its 'Maha Jansampark Abhiyan' on completion of nine years in the office. The Security Conclave brings light on the achievement of the government on internal and external dimensions of the country's defence

mechanism, with a particular focus on Jammu and Kashmir.

"Today, AFSPA has been removed from large parts of the northeast. I am waiting for the day when permanent peace will come in Jammu and Kashmir and AFSPA will be removed from here too," Singh said.

The AFSPA was implemented in J&K in 1990 due to insurgency and it remains among the most militarized regions of the world. The Act empowers the security services to detain persons and use force, even lethal force, with immunity from prosecution. The actions taken under AFSPA, even the use of lethal force, are immune from prosecution and prosecution can only happen after sanction from the Union government.

In recent years, the AFSPA has been reduced from several areas in Northeast India. Earlier this year, the AFSPA was removed from several areas in Manipur, Nagaland, and Assam.

The senior BJP leader also asserted that democratic process would soon

be initiated in Jammu and Kashmir.

"With the abrogation of Article 370 (of the Constitution), our aim is to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir as swiftly as possible. We are committed to commencing the democratic process in the region at the earliest, thus fulfilling the long-standing aspirations of its people," Singh said in response to a query on when the Assembly polls will be held in the Union Territory.

The senior leader also said the government cannot provide a specific time frame for the withdrawal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from the region or the assembly polls.

Moreover, in a 50-minute long

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

"LG's Mulaqaat" LG Sinha interacts with citizens who had filed complaints on JKIGRAMS



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 26

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha interacted with citizens who had filed complaints on JKIGRAMS, during "LG's Mulaqaat". Live Public Grievance Hearing programme, at the Civil Secretariat.

Interacting with the people, concerned Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police through Video Conferencing, the Lt Governor took appraisal of the action received from the citizens.

"The administration represents the aspirations of all the citizens and every section of our vibrant society. Time-bound delivery of services,

prompt and effective redressal of grievances form the core of administration's development initiatives," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor directed the Deputy Commissioners to constructively engage with citizens, prioritize concerns of the poor and needy and resolve all issues in a transparent manner.

For maintenance of parks and other such public properties, we also seek the participation of residents. We are committed to the goal of providing a better quality of life to our citizens and community participation would play a key role in cleanliness of parks and public spaces, he added.

The Lt Governor also took a strong note of

fake complaints on JKIGRAMS.

This practice needs to be stopped. The platform is meant for providing hassle-free public services and to identify deficiencies, if any, to achieve the objective of people-centric governance. Through public outreach programmes, we need to sensitize and encourage people to file genuine grievances for more transparent, accountable and citizen-friendly governance, the Lt Governor directed the officials.

Responding to a complaint of Sh Mohd Afzal Bhat from Bandipora regarding dysfunctional well in his locality at Odina Sonawari, the Lt Governor directed the concerned Chief

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

'What's happening in India,' PM Modi asks BJP Chief Nadda after returning from foreign visit

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUN 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to India in the early hours of June 26 after his six-day visit to the U.S. and Egypt during which several landmark agreements were signed.

PM Modi was received at the Delhi airport by Union Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi and BJP Chief J P Nadda. BJP leaders and party MPs from Delhi such as Harsh Vardhan, Hans Raj Hans and Gautam Gambhir were also present.

The Prime Minister had embarked on his visit to the U.S. on June 20 and in New York, he led a historic event at the UN Headquarters to commemorate the 9th International Day of Yoga on June 21.

Later, in Washington DC, he was given a red-carpet welcome at the White House by President



Joe Biden. The two leaders held a historic summit on June 22, followed by Modi's address to Congress and a State Dinner hosted at the White House by the Bidens in his honour.

The visit was marked by several major deals to boost cooperation in key areas such as defence, space and trade.

PM Modi arrived in Cairo on June 24 after concluding his high-profile state visit to the U.S. and was received at the airport by Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly.

He concluded his first-ever visit to Egypt Sunday evening. During the visit, he held talks with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and was conferred the Arab country's highest honour 'Order of the Nile'.

PM Modi and Mr. Sisi discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries with a focus on improving trade and investments, energy ties and people-to-people ties. The two countries elevated their relationship

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Govt decides to allow tankers, empty vehicles from Jammu via Mughal Road only

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 26

In order to ensure hassle free movement of traffic in view of Amarnath Yatra on National Highway, all the tankers and empty vehicles from Jammu will be allowed via Mughal road only.

Quoting an order by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, V K Bidhuri, that the down side movement of fruit laden trucks and other vehicles is being hampered and requires to be given priority.

"In view of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2023 and taking in to account the condition of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Govt transfers 2 JKAS officers

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 26

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered the transfers and postings of two Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers, with immediate effect.

As per GAD order, Dharam Paul, JKAS, Deputy Director of Libraries in Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director (Audio-Visual) in the Directorate of Information, J&K, against an available vacancy.

Additionally, Sunil Kumar, JKAS, who was awaiting orders of adjustment in the Directorate of Rural Sanitation, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director (Central) in the Directorate of Information, J&K, against an available vacancy.

NIA conducts raids at 12 locations in four districts of J&K in terrorist conspiracy Case

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 26

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted a series of raids across four districts in Kashmir on Monday as part of its probe into an alleged conspiracy involving newly-floated offshoots of proscribed Pakistan-backed terrorist outfits to destabilise Jammu and Kashmir.

"Twelve locations in the four districts of Kulgam, Bandipora, Shopian and Pulwama were raided as part of the crackdown. The locations were residential premises of hybrid terrorists and overground workers linked with new-



ly-formed offshoots and affiliates of banned terrorist outfits. Premises of sympathisers and cadre of these organisations were also searched extensively," the NIA said in a press release.

The agency said it had found several digital devices containing large

volumes of incriminating data during the searches.

"These will be subjected to a thorough scrutiny by the agency to unravel the details of the terrorist conspiracy, which the NIA started investigating a year ago after registering a suo motie case

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BOTTOMLINE

Rains lash most parts of J&K, Jammu-Srinagar national highway closed

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 26

Most parts of Jammu and Kashmir received heavy rains on Monday, bringing respite from sweltering heat but also triggering landslides at multiple locations that blocked the key Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and other roads, officials said.

Authorities closed all schools upto class 10 in Ramban due to a threat of flash floods owing to heavy rainfall, they said. The 250-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked due to multiple landslides and shooting stones from the hillcock at



Cafeteria Morh and Mehr in Ramban town in the wee hours of the day, the officials said.

However, the stranded vehicles were cleared around 2.30 pm after road clearance agencies managed to make it worthy of one-way traffic. No fresh traffic was allowed either from Srinagar or Jammu on the highway this morning, the

officials said. They said the traffic on Mughal road, an alternative link connecting the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, was also suspended for several hours due to a landslide at Hari Katha near Behrangalla. The road was cleared around noon as the weather

improved, the officials said. Jammu recorded 41.2 mm of rainfall over the past 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Monday, resulting in an appreciable drop in night temperature which settled at 23.2 degrees Celsius compared to 29.1 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Kathua district of Jammu region recorded the highest rainfall of 108.8 mm followed by highway town of Batote in Ramban with 62.2 mm, while Srinagar recorded 26.8 mm of rainfall since Sunday night, a spokesperson at the meteorological department said.

The weatherman has predicted mostly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Export of defence equipments rose 6 times in 9 years: Dr Jitendra Singh

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 26

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, while speaking on the occasion, observed here today that earlier most of the defence equipment was imported from other countries, but after the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over, it is now the other way round and the export of defence equipments from India has gone up six times in 9 years.

Addressing the National Security Conclave here today in presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who was the chief guest, Dr Jitendra Singh



complimented Rajnath Singh, first as the Union Home Minister and later as the Defence Minister, for steps taken to mitigate the sufferings of border villagers from intermittent shelling across the LoC and welfare measures. "Earlier border villagers used to take shelter in Block or Gram Panchayat buildings, but the Union Government first sanctioned bunkers for civil-

ians and later approved family bunkers also," said Dr Jitendra Singh adding, "PM Modi amended the rules to extend the 4% reservation to residents of border villages so as to include the International Border (IB) under its ambit. This corrected the anomaly created by the erstwhile Congress-National Conference Govt who had given 4%

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Modi govt to root out drugs from India: not allow smuggling of narcotics through country: Amit Shah



JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUN 26

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday asserted that the Narendra Modi government will root out the menace of drugs from India and will not allow the smuggling of narcotics through the country.

In a video message on the International Day Against Drug Abuse, Shah said the home ministry has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against narcotics and the results of this approach

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Dr Andrabi chairs Intellectuals Meet at Sopore

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUN 26: Minister of State & Chairperson J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi chaired Intellectuals Meet at Sopore today. The event was organised by Bharatiya Janata Party in connection with the month long celebrations of the party to highlight the achievements of nine years of BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Prominent people from different walks of life participated. A very healthy discussion took place in which eminent personalities of the area spoke about the government programmes and schemes and their impact on the life of a common man. Dr Andrabi was accompanied by party spokesperson Abhijit Jasrotia. In her address Dr Darakhshan said that the viewpoint of the intellectuals shows us the way as we in BJP believe in public reach out & the feedback of the people guides us in formulating our plans & programmes. "We are not the party for the political families but for common people. Our trust is always on public service guided by the people's aspirations and needs.



Modiji has ensured that inclusive & equitable development of all in the country is done", said Dr Andrabi. She thanked the intellectual gathering for their valuable suggestions and guidance for future plans of growth and development in J&K.

"Modiji's popularity is increasing day by day in J&K as he has gifted us peace and has shown us the way forward for a sustainable development in J&K. We are now progressing in tune with the rising India & sets very high targets for future. She said that BJP

believes in all time continuous public reach out in contrast to the dynasts who only use the people for their votes and later get busy in their power games.

"Youth of Kashmir are getting attracted to BJP in large numbers seeing party's public welfare approach and the real spirit of democracy within", said BJP National Executive Member, Party District President G M Sofi & Ex MLC Surinder Ambarbar along with many local leaders of BJP were also present.

BJP not behind imposition of AFSPA in J&K; Kavinder tells Omar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 26: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta in a rejoinder to NC leader Omar Abdullah's tweet said that AFSPA was not imposed in J&K by the BJP Government, although it is keen to remove the same as soon as situation permits. In a statement issued to media, Kavinder said that Omar's tweet is like Ulla Chor Kotwal Ko Daante, because the imposition of AFSPA was the gift of Kashmir-centric parties including National Conference which were solely responsible for the deterioration of situation in Kashmir.

Earlier, Kavinder Gupta welcomed the statement made by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh regarding revoking of AFSPA after ensuring long lasting peace in J&K.

He commended the government's commitment to ensuring stability and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir, and viewed the potential removal of AFSPA as a significant step towards peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. He also highlighted the positive developments in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, emphasizing the significant progress made towards attaining peace and prosperity in the Union Territory.



AFSPA as a significant step towards peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. He also highlighted the positive developments in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, emphasizing the significant progress made towards attaining peace and prosperity in the Union Territory.

Kavinder also castigated PDP chief

Mehbooba mufti for defaming India through her concocted tweets claiming dismal situation of minorities in India.

He said that Mehbooba needs to set her records right because India is the only country across the world where minorities including Muslims are dwelling a safe and comfortable lives as in all other non-Muslim countries the situation of the aforesaid community is discouraging as the same is subjected to harassment and discrimination.

He said that Mehbooba should consider the fact that Government in India promises equal rights to Muslims and there is no element of prejudice while crafting schemes for Muslims or other minorities as the welfare schemes are universal for all.

The senior BJP leader, however, anticipated that the BJP Government in Centre will soon revoke AFSPA from J&K on the lines of North East as soon as peace is established here.

"Marginalised sections living a wretched life"

Harsh Dev tours Remote Areas of Ghordi Block



JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMAMPUR, JUN 26: Continuing with his mass contact programs in remote hills of Chenai constituency even in torrential rain, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh, former minister and NPP President today visited several hilly areas of Nala Ghoran Panchayat including Kothi, Bhat, Janadi and Thill and took stock of the problems faced by the inhabitants of the said difficult and inaccessible areas. Braving the vagaries of inclement weather, he visited several habitations of nomads, 51s, Gaddis Kolis and other

marginalised classes who had been deprived of basic civic amenities including health care, power, water, road connectivity and had no access with the rest of the civilisation. Traversing through the forests and flooded streams, Harsh Dev Singh reached out to the places which no leader had visited, since decades after independence.

Interacting with the people of said villages, Singh shared their concerns of deprivation and neglect at the hands of successive regimes. The people came out with their grievances against the government and

pointed out that not even the civil servants or any other government functionaries from R+B, PMGSY, Jal Shakti, or Power department had ever visited the said areas which were deprived of connectivity and cut off from rest of the world. They made a fervent appeal for providing road connectivity to Bhat, Janadi, upper Kothi which had been totally disregarded by the government as well as the civil administration.

They called for construction of footbridges and culverts in view of frequently flooded nullahs and streams

in the said hilly areas. Non availability of staff and absence of any kind of medical facility had further aggravated the woes and suffering of the said people.

Speaking on the occasion Singh, assured them to take up their issues at the top most level in view of their persistent suffering and incarceration since decades.

He accused the mandated leaders of the past of exploiting the gullibility of the poor people during elections, obtained their votes and subsequently left them at the mercy of God. He said that the BJP had won five consecutive elections from the said area including the BDC, DDC, MLA and MP but the people were made to live wretched lives in the view of the gross neglect.

He called upon the officers of various government departments to visit the said areas so that they could appreciate the concerns of these people and take immediate measures for redressing their grievances. "We appeal to Lt. Governor to depute a special task force for ascertaining and ameliorating the lot of people inhabiting such locations", NPP leader urged.

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 26: In a largely attended press conference held under the banner of JKRCCEA, the members of SC/ST/OBC communities showed their deep concern and anguish against the misguided and misleading given by the state politicians and central leadership of the ruling party to the masses through their media management. Situation for J&K locals is deteriorating on daily basis on social, economic and political fronts for all the sections of the society of erstwhile state of J&K. There seems to be a one man army led by LG and misguided by few IAS/IPS lobby close to the present LG. LG Manoj Sinha is a seasoned politician and an engineering graduate from an institute of excellence and in spite of that he is being befooled by the J&K Bureaucracy on many aspects related to various constitutional and social aspects pertaining to SC/ST/OBCs of JKUT. The deliberate attempt to ignore commoners, business class and others in all aspects of life has put a heavy toll on native of J&K. Even the politicians from the ruling party are being ignored by the LG and his coterie of seasoned opposition leaders from NC, PDP, Congress and JKNPP. Even in Kashmir, the leadership against the ruling party also the local leadership are not being heard. Slogans of two top leaders of ruling party like, "Dhara 370 kaa khatma Jammu Kashmir Maine ek naya itihaas likhayega, "Mere Dalit



Bayoun koo marvye saee pehlye muvye Goli maar do", "Vanchito ko Vanfata" etc etc have totally failed and licking dust on ground. In fact after 370 abrogation the socio-educational and economic condition of all including marginalized communities have further deteriorated in J&K. Local BJP leaders as well as SC/ST/OBC leaders have been relegated to inferior positions and they look helpless. SC/ST/OBC leaders in BJP have no say in the governing system and rather they work as puppets or stooges in the hands of their political bosses. They are not even called in the important decision making meetings of the party. It is far from certain that present LG shall not contest elections from J&K but the ruling dispensation shall definitely destroy the probability of BJP getting seats in Jammu division. Prof. G.L. Thapa, while further elaborating on the plights of SC/ST/OBCs of J&K said that though this forum for last so many years they are putting forth grievances of SC/ST/OBCs of

J&K into the notice of ruling dispensations in terms of betrayal of these communities in the name of extension of all constitutional rights, dictatorship and misgiving of the J&K bureaucracy, harassment of employees at work places, killing of reservation in employments in J&K in spite of constitutional backing. Non-implementation of Mandal Commission report, wrong report by BC Commission headed by retired justice G.D. Sharma, biased by recruitment agencies like PSC, non-implementation of Presidential Order of 1st march 2019 extending 77th Constitutional Amendment to J&K. Pertinently, part of the said order pertaining to EWS reservation has been implemented and not Reservation in Promotions for SC/STs. Furthermore, the Reservation Act of 2004 stands protected in the J & K Reorganization Act of 2019, that was passed by both houses of the parliament, the supreme law-making body of the coun-

try. Mohinder Bhagat while addressing the media added that SCs OBCs of J&K since 2015 are struggling hard to get their constitutional rights back but instead of solving these issues, PDP-BJP government, Governors and LGs vehemently ignored genuine demands, instead very calculatively diluted Reservation for these communities, diluted ST constitutional position, neglected proper action in the cases of atrocities on SCs post abrogation, started snatching government allotted land to these communities in favour of so called corporatization and industrialization, and using SC/ST/OBCs leaders in BJP as puppets only and thrust Backward Classes Commission and Delimitation Commission on these communities. There are no whereabouts of SC Component Plans and their implementation in JKUT, pre and post matric scholarship in crores stands unactioned after 370 abrogation.

Common man suffering due to wrong govt policies: Dr Manohar Lal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BILLAWAR, JUN 26: Former Minister Dr Manohar Lal Sharma today conduct y tour of different villages of Billawar constituency to attend various religious and social functions in villages namely Taulu (Baggan),Dingi Simbi, Ramgarh(Pallan), Dewal, Dadwara, Kandharna, Rajwalta. Prominent among those who accompanied former Minister include Dayal Singh, Charan Dass, Darshan Sharma, Tallu Ram, Ch Mahmood, Parveen Sharma, Kuldeep Mehta, Mast Ram besides others.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Manohar said that it is unfortunate that the Govt seems to have misplaced priorities for Jammu and Kashmir, otherwise the first and the foremost priority for the union government should have been immediate restoration of Statehood to J&K which would have eventually paved the way for resumption of democratic processes. He said that people in J&K are already reeling under severe pressure of economic depression, coupled with unemployment and rising inflation. Administratively also the people in J&K feel suffocated and are waiting eagerly for a democratically elected government to address their sufferings and alleged that the people at the helm in Delhi seem to be least bothered about these important public issues and are instead adding to their woes by these rushing decisions.

Taking into consideration the plight of business community and the alarming rate of unemployment, Dr Manohar urged the Prime Minister to announce a special package for Jammu & Kashmir. "Don't fall prey to



the political maneuvering who will try to garner your support with such hollow slogans," he observed, adding that the people of J&K must hold political parties accountable for their poll promises and the delivery on ground. He condemned Govt for the wide gap between its speech and action. He highlighted that the BJP has shown no concern for the aspirations and well-being of the people, despite claiming development in the region.

Dr Manohar expressed grave concern over the lack of basic amenities, such as civic facilities and infrastructure, prevailing in Billawar constituency. He emphasized that issues like inadequate drinking water and power supply have reached a critical level, leading to public demonstrations, particularly by women and children. Protests demanding basic amenities have been witnessed across various areas. He also raised concerns about the poor condition of the power distribution system, leading to regular dis-

ruptions in power supply. The health sector in rural areas was described as suffering from acute shortages of doctors, leaving people dependent on paramedics.

Furthermore, Dr Manohar addressed the deplorable road conditions in Billawar constituency, which have resulted in frequent accidents and loss of lives, particularly on hilly roads. The road conditions were also highlighted as being in poor shape and accident-prone areas. The people residing in Billawar constituency are decrying for regular power and water supply, road, health infra, etc.

He stated that the present Government is indifferent towards the plights of the people as there is no mechanism established through which the people can tell their sordid tales to the administration.

Dr Manohar said that common man in Jammu and Kashmir is suffering on account of wrong policies of the government.

Address people's issues to alleviate their suffering on priority: Jan appeals to LG

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JUN 26: The Provincial President Youth of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Jammu region, Ajaz Jan visited Village Arai in Mandi Tehsil of district Poonch and participated in the Urs.

On the occasion, Sayeed Perr Anayat Buhari prayed for peace and prosperity for the people in general and J&K in particular. Jan also prayed for the longevity of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, former Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir. Many people from across Jammu and Kashmir participated in the Urs.

After that, Jan visited Village Barachar (Markot) and inspected the newly constructed road in the village. He mentioned that the road work in Village Barachar was started in 2009 during the regime of National Conference but was halted due to severe reason.

The work was finally completed in 2023. The people of Village Barachar expressed their gratitude to the former MLA for this accomplishment and

said that they can finally use the road to reach the village.

During the interaction with people of Village Barachar, Jan noted that people there are not receiving ration for a long time for BPL families.

Substandard material is being used in laying PHE pipes.

The water pipes are also not being laid as per the specification in Mandi and Poonch. Furthermore, he raised concern over the deplorable condition of roads in remote areas of district Poonch.

Jan also noted that people residing in far-flung areas were still struggling for basic necessities like water, electricity, and healthcare. He criticized the government for not taking people's issues seriously. He observed that the administration was in deep slumber and no one was taking care of the people's issues.

The Provincial President said that the Poonch district has been neglected for far too long, and it is time to take action.

The Party is committed to the development of the region and will work

towards fulfilling the aspirations of the people, he said, adding that the government should wake up and address people's issues on priority to alleviate their suffering and improve their living standards. Jan appealed to the Lt Governor to take note of people's issues and issue necessary directions to the appropriate authority concerned to address the grievances without further delay. He also urged the people of district Poonch to support and strengthen the Base of National Conference for the equitable development of the entire district.

Those who accompanied are Mohamad Rustam, Mohd Bashir, Khalil Chawan sarpanch, Shamim Shah Naib Sarpanch, Rania Faried, Abbul Jabar Tantar, Mohd Istaq, Ch Majeed, Mushtaq Ahmed, Bilal Shah, Ch Haneef Ex Sarpanch, Yaseen Shah Sarpanch, Haneef choudhary Panch, Ahmed Din, Faried Ahmed, Zakir Hissain, Farid, Mohd Ramzan, Mushtaq Ahmed, Wahab Din, Gulam Mohiddin, Kh Zubar, Shaukel Ahmed, Shabir Ahmed Panch, kh Abdul Gani, Altaf Bhat, and others.

NIT Srinagar observes International Day against Drug abuse



JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUN 26: The Counselling Cell of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar in collaboration with CAUSE NGO and District Drug De-Addiction Rehabilitation Centre Tral Pulwama on Monday jointly organized a mega youth convention to observe the International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking on the campus.

The theme for this year is "People First: Stop Stigma and Discrimination Strengthen Prevention" and students from various departments of NIT Srinagar participated in the Youth Convention and took a pledge against drug abuse.

The function was presided over by Director NIT Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Sudhakar Yedla, who was Chief Guest on the occasion.

The function was also attended by Dean Students Welfare, NIT Srinagar, Prof.

Abdul Liman, Prof. Ishaq Geer (KU), Mr. Ajaaz-ul-Haque (KU), Prof. (Dr.) Yasir Rather (IMHANS, GMC Srinagar) and Patron CAUSE NGO, Mr. Mir Zubair, Dr. Neeraj Gupta, Dr. Gowhar Nabi, and Counsellor Mr. Feroz Malla among other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

In his inaugural address, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Yedla said that there is a need for collective efforts to curb drug menace from the society.

"Drug abuse can provide short-term pleasure or euphoria to drug addicts, but it can have significant negative effects on the human body in the long run. It can lead to various physical and mental health problems, affecting multiple organ systems and overall well-being," he said.

Prof. Yedla said raising public awareness about the dangers of drug abuse is crucial. There is a need for collaborative efforts from various stakeholders in

society to prevent our youth from the drug menace, he said.

In his message, Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said such programs are need of the hour. We have to create an environment that supports and empowers young people to make healthy choices and stay away from drug abuse, he added.

Dean Students Welfare, NIT Srinagar, Prof. Liman said drug abuse is indeed a significant and pressing issue worldwide. To address it through a comprehensive approach requires prevention, treatment, law enforcement, and social support, he said.

Prof. Ishaq Geer, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences University of Kashmir highlighted various aspects of drug abuse in his address.

He focused on the importance of addressing the multi-faceted nature of drug abuse through a holistic and comprehensive approach. Mr. Ajaaz Ul Haq

from the Mass Communication Department of KU delivered his talk on 'Towards a Drug-Free Society'. He said in an ideal drug-free society, prevention efforts could be highly effective, focusing on education, awareness, and addressing the root causes of drug abuse.

Prof. (Dr.) Yasir Rather, Head Drug De-Addiction Centre Institute Of Mental Health & Neurosciences, GMC Srinagar said over the past several years, there has been an increase in substance abuse cases in J&K.

"There is a need for more awareness programs for youth and students to curb the drug menace at ground level.

In drug addiction, prevention is the best model and society has to play a vital role in making J&K a drug-free region," he said.

Coordinator of Counselling Cell, Dr. Neeraj Gupta said the convention was aimed to raise awareness regarding drug addiction, its causes, and impacts.

There are ups and downs in everyone's life and urged students to focus on education, sports, innovation, and stay away from drugs, he said.

Mir Zubair, Patron of Drug De-Addiction & Rehabilitation Centre, Pulwama, and CAUSE NGO presented a formal vote of thanks to all resource persons, dignitaries, and students for making the event successful.

Maiden Dangan Competition held at village Chak Chimna

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 26: With the aim to channelize the energy of youth in constructive activities and to guide them to stay away from the menace of drug abuse, a maiden Dangan Competition was organized by Dangan Committee headed by Vinod Jangral as Chairman, in Village Chak Chimna of Tehsil Bishnah on 24th of June-2023.

80 well-known Wrestlers of the Union Territory, including wrestlers from the adjoining states also, participated in the Dangan. Yudhvir Singh of Delhi won the title of Maiden Dangan. Competition by announcing Dilraj Khan of Jammu in a keen contest witnessed by thousands of spectators of the area. The Ex. MLA, Ashwani Sharma was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Sarpanch Vijay Singh Bokal was Guest of honor. While



addressing the participants and the gathering on the event. Mr. Sharma appreciated the efforts of the Dangan Committee, Village Chak Chimna for organizing such a event, which undoubtedly help local wrestlers to chisel their skill level and provide them an ample platform to show case their fitness and capability.

He also advised the youth of the area to stay away from the menace of drugs and participate in

the development of the nation by using their energy in positive way and also abstain from anti-social activities. An amount of Rs. 1.60 lakh were distributed among the wrestlers on the occasion by the chief guest. He also wished them all the best in their future endeavors as well.

Those who were present on the occasion included Naib Sarpanch, Madan Lal, Panchs Janak Raj, and Baldev Raj, Bishnah Jangral, Mast Ram, Devi Singh

Bokal, Deepak Bokal Namberder, Hans Raj Chowkider, Balwan Lal, Sham Mehra, Tarsem Singh Bokal, Capt. Manohar Lal, Shamsher Singh, Darshan Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Sham Lal, Alam Husain, Sham Parkash, Dalip Kumar, Reid Insp Yashpal, Surinder Verma, Balwinder Kumar, Shamsheer Yogi, Bal Krishan, Tilak Raj Yogi, Shammie Machine Wala, Kapil Dev, Ghara Nam, Tarsam Lal Harban Lal Bittu and others.

Khyber Cement announce ambitious mega plantation drive in Kashmir Valley

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 26: Cement Company Takes Strides Towards Sustainability, Contributing to Climate Change Mitigation and Biodiversity Conservation in Kashmir Valley by aiming to plant over 50,000 trees.

After successfully planting over 25,000 trees in the Khanmoh region of Kashmir, Khyber Cement, a leading company in the cement industry, has recently announced a mega tree plantation initiative in Jammu & Kashmir. The company now aims to up the game and aims to plant over 50,000 trees in the scenic Kashmir Valley, specifically in Khanmoh village, Srinagar. This ambitious project is driven by Khyber Cement's commitment to mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

The company firmly believes in adopting community-centered solutions that genuinely address social, environmental, and ethical challenges. By doing so, they aim to create shared value, foster trust, and enhance the overall well-being of society.

Umar Trambo, the Director of Khyber Cement, expressed his enthusiasm for the mega plantation drive, emphasizing the company's dedication to restoring lush landscapes, preserving biodiversity, and combating the negative impacts of climate change.

He commented on the initiative, "By planting over 50,000 trees in Khanmoh, Srinagar, we are taking a giant leap towards a sustainable and resilient future. This collaborative



effort contributes to carbon sequestration, improves air quality, and provides vital habitats for a diverse range of species."

Through the planting of over 50,000 trees in Khanmoh, Srinagar, the company aimed to actively contribute to carbon sequestration, improve air quality, and provide vital habitats for various species.

"Together, let us create a thriving ecosystem where nature and humanity coexist harmoniously, leaving a legacy of environmental stewardship for the generations that follow," Umar added.

Khyber Cement boasts a diverse corporate social responsibility (CSR) portfolio featuring numerous initiatives focused on the welfare of society. These include the implementation of

glass-fiber bag houses to stabilize air quality and create pollution-free neighborhoods. Furthermore, the company has achieved a remarkable 95% reduction in carbon particles through substantial investments. With each stride, Khyber Cement continues to expand its horizons and make a significant impact in various areas.

Khyber Group is one of the established names in the cement industry in J&K. It's a private unlisted company and is classified as a company limited by shares'. Khyber Cement Private Limited is majority in Manufacturing (Metals & Chemicals, and products thereof) business from last 36 years and currently, company operations are active. The company aims to significantly assist with the region's environmental problems.

Manjit Singh demands complete ban on drug, illicit trafficking



JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, JUNE 26: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has demanded complete ban on the drug addiction, illicit trafficking and stringent laws to punish the drug peddlers, and addicts in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a workers meeting at Rajpura, Ramgarh, the former minister raised serious concern over the growing menace of drug addiction which has destroyed families in rural as well as urban areas.

The meeting cum joining programme was organised by District President Samba Legal Cell, Adv Sahil Bhatti

in the wake of international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The drug addiction has become a menace of multiple criminal incidents, he said expressing concern where families lost their young one due to the drug addiction.

He said that the J&K Police, civil society, and families have their important role to play in their respective areas to educate youth and involve them in sports activities. "The energy of the youth should be channelised towards the right directions," he said and added that "Apni Party is committed to work drug abuse and illicit trafficking free society."

He said that "The young

people are the key to achieving this goal.

By joining our cause, they have shown that they are willing to take a stand against this menace and work towards a better future for all." "We urge all young people to join us in this fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking," he added further. Earlier, dozens of youth joined the Apni Party who were welcomed by S. Manjit Singh ji.

While welcoming them, he hoped that their joining would strengthen the party at the grass root level and work for the young generation. Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include

Provincial Vice President, Ex-MLA Prem Lal, District President Samba, Raman Thapa, ST Wing State President Saleem Choudhary, SC State Coordinator, Bodh Raj Bhagat, State Coordinator OBW Wing, Bhagat Ram, Spokesperson, Khushboo Bhagat, State Vice President Youth Wing/Spokesperson, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, Provincial Vice President Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, Provincial President Jammu, Women Wing, Pavneet Kour, Block President Rajpura, Raman Sharma, Block President Vijaypur, Capt Mohan Lal Sharma, Block President Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary, President, Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Kulvinder Singh, Lovely Mangal, District President Youth Wing Samba, Mangat Ram, District Vice President Youth, Sonu Sharma, District Vice President Youth, Naveen Choudhary, District General Secretary, Ramesh Bhagat, Block President Youth Wing Rajpura, Sunny Singh, Block President Vijaypur, Tinku Thappa, Block President Ramgarh, Amrik Singh, Block President Youth Wing Bari Brahmana, Irshan Choudhary and others

Three-day long traditional Sarthal Devi Yatra begins with religious fervor

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JUN 26: Three-day long traditional Shri Ashitadash Bhujia Mata Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra commenced with great religious fervor early today morning by performing Hawan at Gori Shankar Mandir, Sarkoot in which number of couples offered Aahuti and Puraan Aahutis.

Impressive Shoba Yatra was taken from Gauri Shankar Mandir by Sanjeev Parihar, Vice Chairman, Shri Sarthal Devi Management Council which passes through different localities of Kishtwar town. The locals of various localities accorded warm welcome to Shoba Yatra and served refreshment to the pilgrims.

On the occasion, Sunil Sharma, former Minister, BDC Chairperson Pooja Thakur, Additional District Magistrate Jitendra Singh Parihar, ADPC Sham Lal, ACR Varunjeet Charak, SSP Kishtwar Khalid Poswal, various heads of religious organisations like Surinder Sen President Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Hans Raj Bhutyal President Vishu Hindu Parishad, Sanjay Wazir, President Rajput Sabha, Anju Singh Sen President Hindu Jagran Manch, Aala Sen, Dharam Jagran Manch, Oma Devi, Anjali Choudhan and others participated in the Yatra. The Shoba Yatra along with pilgrims proceeded



towards Sarthal Devi Ji Bhawan from Bus Stand Kishtwar in buses and other vehicles. Tomorrow morning a Maha Yajya will be performed at Sarthal Devi Mandir. District administration along with police had made all the necessary arrangements at Sarthal and Kishtwar for the welfare of devotees. The Yatra was organized by Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust under the patronage of Dr Karan Singh, Sole Trustee and Vikramaditya Singh Chairman Trustee of the Trust.

Vikramaditya Singh, in his message, extended warm greetings to all devotees and people of Kishtwar on this auspicious occasion and prayed for peace, prosperity and well being of all. The temple of Sarthal Devi Mata is located in Sarthal town of Kishtwar district amidst the mountains of the Pir Panjal range. The devotees believed that Sarthal Devi is the Hindu Kaladevi residing in Kishtwar and have held her in high reverence. The historic religious yatra is organized every year in Kishtwar by Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Management Council with great participation and support of residents of Kishtwar.

PM's remark on terrorism reflects strong will to eradicate it: Raj Rattan

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 26: Raj Rattan Raina, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader has lauded the statement of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in US that there should be no ifs and buts in dealing with the menace of terrorism.

In a statement issued to media here today, Raj Rattan said that the statement made by the Prime Minister abroad reflects the strong will and determination of Indians to eradicating the Dracula of terrorism from this planet by joint efforts of the nations across the globe especially the so called big powers who have been

playing the shots suiting their vested interests and as per their whims and fancies.

The BJP leader said that the daring remarks on terrorism while addressing a joint sitting of the US Congress in itself proves the peak status of India at the international level achieved by the relentless efforts of Modi led Govt at the Centre during its short stint of nine years full tilt date.

Raj Rattan said that there is no doubt about it that terrorism is the worst enemy of humanity and if not fought from a single platform by the international community sans any favour by coming up with soft and

hard terrorism philosophies, it has the potential of devouring the human civilization once for all.

He said that PM has been quite successful in giving a big jolt to terrorism sponsored by Pakistan in India and it is the result of his seriousness on the issue that today Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a new era of peace and development.

The BJP leader appealed to the people to vote and support BJP in upcoming Parliamentary elections in 2024 as PM Modi by taking all other global stakeholders on board will succeed in eliminating terrorism not only in India but across the globe.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

PoJK is, was and...

address, the Defence minister touched on all the aspects of intern and external security, international diplomacy, military reforms but avoided politics.

Starting the address with his commitment, the defence minister asserted that in my long political career I never do political speeches in the premises of educational institution.

"I feel that universities and educational institutions can't be used as political platforms. In my entire political journey I never gave political speech in any educational institution, so today's talk remains confined to the achievement of our government only," the defence minister said.

On Terrorism

The defence minister said that Jammu and Kashmir has suffered the brunt of terrorism for a long time and people here know how the poison of terrorism hollows out the society.

Noting that the entire network of terrorism was operating in Jammu and Kashmir for decades, he said, "Today strict action has been taken against that network by weakening it to a great extent. We have stopped the funding of terrorism, stopped the supply of arms and drugs and along with the elimination of terrorists, the work of dismantling the network of underground workers who work here is also going on".

Referring to the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Singh said while the common people of Jammu and Kashmir were kept away from the mainstream for a long time, they also became a "hindrance" in taking action against anti-national forces.

Without naming Pakistan, he said countries using terrorism as a state policy have to understand very well that this game will not last long.

"Today, most of the big countries of the world are united against terrorism," he said, adding the joint statement issued recently by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden clearly shows how today India has changed the mindset of the whole world, including America, on the issue of terrorism.

"It has been clearly stated in this joint statement that there should be concerted action against the UN-listed terrorist organisations, which include Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen.

"It has also been said in this joint statement that Pakistan should put a stop to every terrorist act taking place in its territory and should not allow its land to be used for this," he said, adding Pakistan was also asked to take action against those behind the 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attacks.

On Pakistan Occupied Kashmir

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) is, was and will always remain a part of India and nothing will be achieved by the Pakistan government by repeatedly claiming POK. Rajnath Singh stressed that by illegally occupying the POK, Pakistan cannot make it a locus standi.

"A unanimous resolution has been passed in the Parliament of India regarding POK that it is a part of India only. Not one but at least three proposals of this intention have now been passed in the Parliament," Singh said.

He said that a large part of Jammu and Kashmir is under the occupation of Pakistan. People on that side are seeing that people in J-K are living their lives peacefully. On the other hand, people living in POK are going through a lot of suffering and they will raise the demand to go with India, Singh said.

On China

The Raksha Mantri termed the border situation with China as a matter of perceptual difference, but there are agreements & protocols, based on which the armies of both the countries carry out the patrolling.

Referring to the stand-off in East Ladakh in 2020, he said, the Chinese Army ignored the agreed protocols and unilaterally tried to change the status quo on the LAC. He lauded the valour and dedication of the Indian Army which prevented the attempts by the PLA to change the status quo. He reiterated the Government's stand to resolve the border issue through dialogue and in a peaceful manner. He added that the talks are continuing at military and diplomatic levels to resolve the dispute. He assured the nation that the Government will never compromise on India's border, its honour and self-respect.

"We will never let the sanctity of our borders be violated," he added.

On modernization

The Raksha Mantri touched upon the measures taken by the Government to bolster national security, including strengthening border infrastructure and achieving 'Atmanirbharta' in defence.

He listed out a number of steps taken to attain self-reliance, namely notification of positive indigenous lists and earmarking 75% of defence capital procurement budget for domestic industry in Financial Year 2023-24. "India does not want to depend on imported weapons. Our national security will only strengthen when we become self-reliant in defence manufacturing. Our aim is to 'Make in India, Make for the world'.

Our efforts are bearing fruit. Today, we are manufacturing tanks, aircraft carriers, submarines and various kinds of weapons. Defence exports have crossed Rs 16,000 crore from a meagre Rs 900 crore before 2014. The exports will soon touch the Rs 20,000 crore mark," he said.

Rajnath Singh also enumerated the structural reforms undertaken by the Government, including the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff and setting up of the Department of Military Affairs. He added that the Government continues to move forward and work is being done to set up theatre commands, which will be another revolutionary reform.

On international diplomacy

The defence minister also shed light on the transformed image of India on the global stage under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that today the world keenly listens to India on international forums due to the Prime Minister's credibility on the global stage.

Rajnath Singh underlined the importance of coordination with major world powers, such as the US &

Russia, to protect India's security interests in this globalised world. He stated that India and US are being seen as natural allies and their strategic partnership is being further cemented.

He added that India-US defence cooperation has grown rapidly with the expansion of military-to-military engagements, information sharing and cooperation in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, cyber, space and mutual logistics support. He termed the Prime Minister's recent visit to the US as a landmark event, which ushered in bilateral defence cooperation in a new era.

Rajnath Singh called for an integrated and united response to deal with global threats & challenges. "India is a major regional power. Therefore, it is important for us to align our security concerns with other countries in our extended neighbourhood," he said.

Singh mentioned the General Electric (GE) Aerospace-Hindustan Aeronautics Limited deal to co-produce F-414 fighter jet engines in India. "With this deal, we will become the fourth country to manufacture jet engines. Tejas aircraft will be fitted with these Made in India engines," he said.

Rejecting speculative reports on the price and other terms of purchase of MQ-9B drones from the US, the Raksha Mantri stated that the Ministry of Defence would compare the acquisition cost of the drones with the best price General Atomics (GA) offered to other countries. He added that the acquisition will be made only by following the established procurement procedure. (KNO)

LG Sinha interacts...

Engineer to make alternative arrangements to provide sufficient water supply to the residents of the affected area till the new well is being made functional.

On the grievance pertaining to incomplete building of the Government Girls School Dab Ganderbal, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the Lt Governor that the school has been shifted to new building and funds have also been released to ensure availability of sanitation facilities and installation of fences.

Somraj from Jammu drew the attention of the Lt Governor on the issue of reinstallation of hand pumps at Bhagwati Nagar area. The Lt Governor sought details on the issue and instructed the Deputy Commissioner to take effective measures to resolve the same at the earliest.

On the grievance of one complainant namely Sh Irfan Ali from Poonch regarding dilapidated condition of the road in his village Kangra Galluta Mendhar, the Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B) briefed the Lt Governor that DPR for the said road has been prepared and work will start once all the official procedure completed.

Later, the Lt Governor chaired a meeting to review arrangements by District Administrations for Eid-ul-Adha festival and Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Traffic is a major issue particularly in Ramban, Anantnag and Udhampur, especially Ramban being the most vulnerable area. A comprehensive traffic plan should be executed to ensure seamless traffic movement during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, the Lt Governor said.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban and SSP Ramban briefed the chair on the condition of critical stretches and the contingency route being identified to divert the traffic.

IGP Traffic also informed the chair that bottlenecks have been identified and viable solutions are being explored for smooth traffic movement during the yatra period.

Rehana Batul Commissioner/Secretary, Public Grievances conveyed the proceedings of the LG's Mulaqaat.

R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Dr Mandep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HOs and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

'What's happening in...

to a "Strategic Partnership". President El-Sisi conferred Modi the 'Order of the Nile' award - Egypt's highest state honour. This is the 13th highest state honour conferred upon Prime Minister Modi.

'What's happening in India'

"He asked Nadra ji how it is going here, and Nadra ji told him that party leaders were reaching out to people with the report card of the nine years of his government, and the country is happy," BJP MP Manoj Tiwari told reporters when asked what the prime minister asked them after meeting them at the airport.

Speaking to reporters, BJP MP Parvesh Verma said the prime minister asked what was happening in the country and how was the party's public outreach programme going on.

"We apprised him about that," he said. (Agencies)

Govt decides to...

National Highway-44, besides, the erratic weather which is leading to frequent landslide and shooting stones. The down side movement of fruit laden trucks and other vehicles is being hampered and requires to be given priority," the order read.

Accordingly, all tankers of Pol, Diesel, LPG bulk gas; all empty LPG Cylinders carrying trucks; all empty vehicles of FCI and any other vehicle having upto 10-tyres vehicles while returning to Jammu shall only use Mughal road.

"In view of above, you are enjoined to impress upon the concerned to follow directions immediately. The Mughal road will remain open for vehicular traffic from morning 6.00 AM to 6.00 PM," the order added.

Any violation of the same may attract punitive action from Traffic Police. Action taken report shall reach immediately, the order said. (KNO)

NIA conducts raids...

(RC-05/2022/NIA/JMU on June 21, 2022," it added. The newly-floated terror outfits being probed by the premier investigating agency include The Resistance Front (TRF), the United Liberation Front Jammu and Kashmir (ULFJK), the Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH), the Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Fighters

(JKPF), the Kashmir Tigers and the PAAF.

These outfits are affiliated to Pakistan-backed organisations, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al-Badr and Al-Qawla, which have been banned by the government of India.

The premises of those who were raided are under the NIA's scanner for their alleged involvement in the collection and distribution of sticky bombs or magnetic bombs, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), funds, narcotic substances and arms and ammunition. They have allegedly been engaged in spreading activities relating to terror, violence and subversion in Jammu and Kashmir.

The NIA probe has revealed that Pakistan-based operatives are using social media platforms to promote terror. Drones are being used by them to deliver arms and ammunition, explosives and narcotics to their operatives and cadre in the Kashmir valley.

The terror conspiracy under investigation relates to plotting by the banned outfits in both physical and cyber space to unleash violent terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir with sticky bombs, IEDs and small arms. The organisations, supported by their masters in Pakistan, have been conspiring to commit acts of terror and violence by radicalising youngsters and mobilising underground workers to disturb peace and communal harmony in the Union Territory, the NIA said. (Agencies)

Rains lash most parts...

wet weather till the month-end and advised people to remain cautious during the active phase of monsoon in the Union Territory.

"The rain may lead to localised flash floods and mud-slides in vulnerable spots, especially in Jammu region (during June 27 and 30). People are requested to remain cautious during active phase of monsoon," the spokesperson said.

PM Modi holds high level meeting with Cabinet ministers

PM Modi holds high level meeting with Cabinet ministers

New Delhi, June 26 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high level meeting with Cabinet ministers and other senior officials here on Monday.

PM Modi conducted the meeting soon after concluding his State visits to the US and Egypt.

The meeting was attended by Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Urban Affairs and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, PK Mishra, the principal secretary to the prime minister among other officials.

As per sources the meeting took place after Union Home Minister Amit Shah briefed PM Modi about the developments relating to Manipur.

On Saturday Union Home Minister Amit Shah held an all party meeting on the Manipur violence following the Opposition criticised Modi government for being unable to restore peace in Manipur.

Export of defence... reservation to LoC residents but ignored IB residents for vote bank reasons".

The Minister also complimented the Modi govt for approved raising of two Border Battalions in the paramilitary police.

Dr Jitendra Singh said our national security will be further strengthened with two landmark agreements signed during the historic visit of PM Modi to the US. "One is the deal for manufacturing jet engines for the LCA Tejas fighter jets, and the other is that US warships will now be berthing at our Naval Shipyards for extensive repairs. This demonstrates the trust reposed in our capabilities by the US," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said our defence infrastructure will also gain from the Indo-US pact on Quantum Computing. "In the nine years of the Union Government led by PM Modi, India has turned the tide from being just an importer of Defence items to being an exporter of arms and ammunition. There has been a substantial jump in the export of Defence items," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said all this helps create jobs for our youth. He said, the Modi Government has opened new avenues for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, particularly the residents of border villages.

"In J&K, the youth are also gaining with the launch of Agri Startups through Lavender cultivation and under the Aroma Mission", the Minister said.

"Youths are India's biggest asset, with people up to 40 years of age making up 60% of our population. With avenues open for the elderly people 60 years and above, India will emerge a developed nation during the Amrit Kaal by the centenary year of India's Independence," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh today said, the Modi Government has opened new avenues for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, particularly the residents of border villages.

Modi govt to root...

have started coming in. Shah said, "We have decided that we will not allow any kind of narcotics trade in India nor will we allow any drugs to be smuggled through India." He further said, "I fully believe that with coordinated efforts, we will be successful in rooting out the menace of drugs and achieve our goal of a drug-free India. We will not rest until this fight against drugs is won." The war against drugs has been continuing, Shah said, and because of this coordinated action, narcotics worth Rs 22,000 crore were seized between 2014 and 2022. This is 30 times higher than the drugs worth Rs 758 crore that was seized between 2006 and 2013, he added.

He said cases against drug peddlers have increased by 181 per cent - from 1,257 cases between 2006 and 2013 to 3,544 between 2014 and 2022.

Besides, he said, six lakh kilogrammes of drugs have been destroyed in the country since June 2022.

"This reflects the Modi government's commitment for a drug-free India," Shah said.

The home minister said the success against the narcotics trade has been achieved primarily due to the Modi government's "whole of government" approach under which policies are being framed with close coordination of different wings of the government.

He said all prominent organisations, especially the Narcotics Control Bureau, have been continuing their

First-ever fully scientific-based lavatory block inaugurated in Chadoora

JN NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUN 26

Chairman Municipal Committee (MC) Chadoora, Syed Fahad Andrabi on Monday inaugurated the first-ever fully scientific-based lavatory block in the main town here.

While talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Fahad Andrabi expressed his gratitude to the committee members, local officials, and residents of Chadoora after inaugurating the block.

He emphasised the importance of this lavatory block as a crucial step in providing the area with better sanitation services.

He pledged to dedicate Jockers Park after a few days and said that the work for the bus stand will begin in a few days and the land for the playground has been demarcated while the work in this regard will begin in a month.

Chairman MC Chadoora further said that these upcoming projects are aimed to enhance the quality of life in the town, fostering a sense of community and well-being.

The event was attended by SDM Chadoora, representatives from the Traders Association and Transport Association, as well as esteemed senior citizens of the town.

Local residents and shopkeepers present at the inauguration expressed their appreciation for the Chairman's dedication and said it was a long pending demand—(KNO)

Worker dies at Anji railway cable bridge, Reasi

JN NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUN 26

A 42-year-old man, working in India's First Cable Stayed Railway Anji Bridge, in Reasi district was on Monday found dead under mysterious circumstances near the bridge site.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the body of Suresh Yadav son of Bal Chander Yadav, a resident of Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, was shifted to District Hospital Reasi for postmortem.

Police have started an investigation—(KNO)

Fake dentists arrested in Kannai Kadal: Sgr Police

JN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 26

Jammu and Kashmir Police in Srinagar on Monday claimed to have arrested a fake dentist in Kannai Kadal area of the district.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the fake dentist was running an unauthorised dental clinic at Kannai Kadal area of Habba Kadal.

"One fake dentist namely Khurshid Ahmad Bhat S/o Abul Rashid R/o kannikadal arrested. He was running a unauthorised dental clinic at Kannai kadal, habbakadal. FIR no 50/2023 /45 420 IPC registered in Shaheedgunj PS. Clinic also sealed by executive magistrate," Srinagar Police tweeted—(KNO)

Man held with fake gold biscuits in Baramulla: Police

JN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 26

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday claimed to have arrested a person along with 380 fake gold biscuits at Khanpora area of Baramulla.

A police party under the supervision of DySP Hqr's Baramulla Alif Ahmad assisted by SHO PS Baramulla at a checkpoint established at Khanpora Bridge intercepted a person who tried to flee after noticing police party but was apprehended tactfully, a police spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said.

He has been identified as Javid Ahmad Dar son of Ab Rahim Dar resident of Khanpora Baramulla. During search, 380 fake gold biscuits weighing about 380 grams was recovered from his possession. He has been shifted to police station where he remains in custody, police said.

Accordingly, police said that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Baramulla and investigation has been initiated—(KNO)

fight against drugs.

The home minister, Shah said, with the help of all organisations and state governments concerned, has been trying its best for a drugs free India but this war against narcotics cannot be won without people's participation.

To strengthen this campaign, Shah said, the ministry established the National Narcotics Coordination Portal (NCCP) in 2019 and the Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) was formed in the police department of every state.

On the occasion, Shah appealed to everyone in the country to stay away from drugs and also keep their families away.

The home minister said drugs not only make the younger generation and the society hollow but also its profits are being used against the country's security.

"I appeal to everyone to take part in this fight against drugs. People should inform the security agencies of any information about any drugs trade anywhere," he said. (Agencies)

GCOE Jammu collected plastic waste under 10Kg Plastic Campaign

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 26: NSS unit of Govt. College of Education, Jammu in collaboration with Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) organised a special awareness programme on Plastic Waste Management under the patronage of Prof. Aekta Gupta, Principal, GCOE. Students, Teachers of the college participated in the program. The awareness program offered a platform to all students and faculty of the college to get aware about the segregation of dry and wet waste and the use of plastic is considered as one of the great issues that humans are facing in their contemporary life. GCOE has signed MOU with them as it's a duty to save our environment. As it is a 10Kg Plastic Campaign. As our college collects the 13Kg plastic and handover to IPCA under the 10Kg plastic Campaign. Prof. Aekta Gupta said the goal of this



Program was to understand the severity of the issue and stop the use of plastic. The Principal emphasised that the institution is also contributing Plastic on every month. Mr Ranveer Singh, Regional manager IPCA, highlighted the major challenges faced to the nation as well as Jammu and mentioned that Plastic waste is a major challenge and initiatives to ban plastic have been taken by everyone. It is the duty of every citizen to think about their environ-

ment too. He further said the detail process of dry and wet waste segregation. It threatens our natural resources such as water, trees, and crops. As plastics get fragmented into small pieces, they get easily swept away into our soil and end up in oceans, then consumed by wildlife and marine life. Thereby, the number of animals and marine life reduces or becomes extinct. It is high time we must understand the intensity at which plastic is destroying our environment. Dr. Shubhra Janwal, NSS PO thanked Ranveer Singh sir on behalf of GCOE, Jammu for imparting the knowledge about the same to staff and students. The programme was attended by the students and faculty members which included Prof. Shapita Shameem, Prof. Sarita Dogra, Prof. Shalini Rana, Prof. Neeraj Verma, Dr. Sushma Bala, Prof. Anuradha Chowdhary, Prof. Neeraj Verma, Prof. Shalini Sharma.

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 26: Dogra Degree College, Bari Brahmana, Samba has scored an exceptionally high grade in the NAAC, post the NAAC Peer Team Visit for Assessment and Accreditation for the first cycle which was held in the first week of June. Dogra Degree College has been awarded a grade of B+ in the NAAC inspection in the first cycle of the NAAC assessment. The esteemed NAAC Peer Team, consisting of Chairperson NAAC Peer Team Prof. Dharraj Singh Parmar, Vice Chancellor, Sant Baba Bhag Singh University, Jalandhar, Member Coordinator NAAC Peer Team Prof. Sriram Dewanathan, Principal Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu and Member NAAC Peer Team Prof. Ramlingam LP, Former Principal Saurashtra College, Madurai, Tamil Nadu renowned educationists, and experts, meticulously reviewed the institution's adherence to quality standards, teaching methodologies, research initiatives, student support systems, and overall organizational effectiveness. It is really a rare and significant event for the college that it has received such an honor and prestige as an institution of quality education committed to nurturing excellence in the holistic



domain of Higher Education in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. The achievement of the College has been widely hailed by the Management. All the members of the teaching and non-teaching staff put in diligent and sincere efforts day in and day out in making this inspection a big success. It will serve as a turning point for college to attain and realize the core value and goals in the arena of Higher Education. Dogra Degree College, a committed institution in higher education, conducted the two-day NAAC Peer Team visit on the 01st and 02nd of June 2023. The visit, conducted by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) for cycle 1, witnessed an in-depth evaluation of the institution's academic, administrative, and infrastructural aspects. Dogra Degree College, Recognized by J&K Govt., affiliated to the University of Jammu and established in the year 2008 will remain committed to providing exceptional education and fostering holistic development among its students. With a strong focus on academic excellence, research, and innovation, our institution strives to shape well-rounded individuals who can thrive in a rapidly evolving world. Carrying forward the vision of the college to be socially responsible through developing a "center of excellence" in the professional education system enabling young aspirants

add value to the society at large with their personal and professional acumen. Dogra Degree College remains steadfast in its mission to provide transformative education, empower students, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge. We are excited to continue our journey towards academic excellence and eagerly anticipate the opportunities ahead. This prestigious accreditation from NAAC will reaffirm our commitment to maintaining the highest quality standards in higher education. It further motivates us to continuously improve our practices, expand our horizons, and nurture future leaders who will make a positive impact on society.

Axis Mutual Fund launches 'Axis Nifty IT Index Fund'

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 26: Axis Mutual Fund, one among the fastest growing fund houses in India, announced the launch of their New Fund Offer - Axis Nifty IT Index Fund, an open-ended index fund tracking the NIFTY IT TRI. Mr. Hitesh Das (Fund Manager) would be managing the fund. Axis Nifty IT Index Fund will track the NIFTY IT TRI and aim to provide returns before expenses that correspond to the total returns of the NIFTY IT TRI, subject to tracking errors. The minimum investment amount is Rs. 5,000 and in multiples of Re.1/- thereof.

The main objective of an Index Fund is to replicate a stock market index in terms of the portfolio. All the stocks in these indices will find some representation in their investment portfolio. Essentially, this ensures a performance fairly identical to that of the index being tracked.

Within Index Funds, investors have the option to invest in certain Sector Based Index Funds as well, with the



aim to capitalize on the growth opportunity provided in that particular sector.

Technology is a focal point for all businesses, across sectors. All organizations, big or small, are reshaping and accelerating their businesses through new age technology like cloud computing, machine learning, augmented reality, artificial intelligence etc. Consequently, this sector

usually sees better than expected demand. Indian technology companies have been consistently increasing their market share vis a vis global peers. India's IT and BPM exports have outperformed global IT services growth. With exports of over US\$ 194 billion annually, the IT space is the largest single service exporter industry in India.

As per NASSCOM, the industry is estimated to grow to \$245 billion, reflecting an incremental net revenue addition of \$19 billion for the year. The growth has been seen in IT services, BPM, software products, ER&I, and the domestic market.

The external headwinds faced in 2022 resulted in valuations of IT companies becoming far more reasonable. Companies are now trading at discount to last 3/5 years' average multiples. These attractive valuations and a better-than-expected earnings season in Q1FY24 could lead to recovery in revenue momentum from second half of FY24.

Tony urges Defence Minister to hold special recruitment drive in border villages of Jammu region

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 26: In a bid to address the ongoing hardships faced by the youth residing in border villages, DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taram Singh, Tony has made a fervent appeal to the Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh to initiate a special recruitment drive in the armed forces for these areas.

In a statement issued here today, the DDC member said the youth residing in border areas have emerged as the unsung heroes safeguarding the nation's security. Their unwavering dedication and significant role

in protecting our borders deserve recognition and support from the government, he added.

Tony said the border areas of Jammu region have consistently produced brave and dedicated individuals who are willing to put their lives on the line to safeguard the nation's security. However, the absence of a recruitment drive tailored to these areas has left the youth grappling with unemployment and a lack of viable career prospects.

He emphasized that the youth residing in the border areas possess the necessary skills, resilience, and determination to serve in the

armed forces. By neglecting their potential and aspirations, the government is not only disregarding the talent pool available but also hindering the overall development and security of the nation. "The government must recognize that by tapping into the talent pool in border areas, it can strengthen the nation's defense capabilities and provide meaningful employment opportunities to the youth. Neglecting the region not only denies the youth their rightful chance to serve but also perpetuates feelings of disillusionment and neglect," he added. Tony appealed to

the Defence Minister to acknowledge the pressing issues faced by the youth residing in these border areas and prioritize their well-being. By organizing a special recruitment drive in the armed forces, the government can empower the youth with sustainable career prospects and ensure the continued security of our borders, he said.

DDC Member Suchetgarh said that the government's proactive approach towards addressing these concerns will not only uplift the lives of the border youth but also strengthen the nation's defense capabilities.

Secretary Advisory Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People Reviews Facilities of Hostels

JI NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JUN 26: The Secretary Advisory Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People, Sapna Kotwal (JKAS) recently conducted an extensive tour of District Poonch w.e.f. 21 June to 23 June to review the functioning of the Boys and Girls Pahari Hostels.

The Secretary's visit was warmly welcomed by the District Social Welfare Officer, Mohinder Paul, who was holding the charge of the Warden Boys Hostel. The staff of the Boys Pahari Hostel, and Shahnaz Bano Warden girls host Poonch and their staff also extended a warm welcome to Ms. Kotwal.

During her visit, she inspected the facilities being provided to the residents and directed the staff to ensure proper cleanliness and better infrastructure.



She emphasized the need for maintaining cleanliness in and around the institutions and serving healthy food to the residents as per the menu.

The DC asked to meet with the concerned wardens to review the status of various upcoming projects, including the construction

of the girls' Pahari Hostel at Qazi Mohra Poonch, the construction of an approach road to Boys Pahari Hostel Poonch, and the construction of a multipurpose hall at Boys Pahari Hostel Poonch. She instructed the officers to prepare early DPRs for these projects and conduct awareness pro-

grams to sensitize the public about the services provided by the hostels. Ms. Kotwal emphasized the need for overall development of the residents and their participation in cultural and sports activities besides academic excellence. She also directed the wardens to remain vigilant on the issues of drug abuse to ensure that the residents stay away from any kind of drug.

Overall, the Secretary Advisory Board's visit was aimed at ensuring that the facilities provided to the residents of Pahari Hostels are of high quality and the infrastructure is well-maintained.

The Secretary's emphasis on the overall development and the need for cultural and sports activities highlights the importance of a holistic approach to education and development.

DC Doda reviews implementation of District Environment Plan

Stress on Promoting rain water harvesting in Municipal areas, Afforestation and Swachhta

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Vishesh Mahajan, who is also Chairman of District Environmental Committee, today chaired a meeting of the Committee to discuss implementation of Environment Conservation Plan in the district.

The plan aims to safeguard the district's natural resources and promote sustainable practices. The DC stressed the importance of provision of rain-water harvesting in all buildings, stating that no building permissions would be granted within municipal areas without such provisions. The EOs of all the three MCs were asked to submit action taken reports and details in this regard by 10th of July 2023. The Committee reviewed the implementation of previous directives and guidelines.

Stakeholders have already submitted their annual plans in accordance with the revised guidelines of the National Green Tribunal, which shall be uploaded on the designated portal

by the 5th of July.

Special training has been imparted to a designated Sub-Committee to upload the Plan on the portal. To promote environmental consciousness, the Environment Conservation Day was celebrated on June 5th, the meeting was held.

The DC asked to declare weekly, Swachhta and Pani Champions in all the educational institutions to sensitize the youth on environment and water conservation.

These titles will be given to students who actively contribute towards cleanliness and the protection of water resources in their surroundings. Additionally, the EOs (Executive Officers) of the Municipal Councils were instructed to take up City afforestation and protect the existing fauna in their respective jurisdictions. In rural areas, 105 Waste Segregation Sheds, known as Swachhta Banks, have been established to collect plastic, polythene, and other solid waste. Volunteers who collect waste from these areas will be rewarded with cash incentives.

The DC also highlighted the need to identify suitable land, whether state-owned, Kacharie or within forest areas, for the construction of Amrit Sarovars (sacred ponds) to conserve water and encourage the establishment of more water bodies.

Taking serious note of non-submission of ATRs by some officers on the decisions made by the Committee in the previous meetings, DC has made it clear that stern action, including imposition of fine and entry in the service record shall be taken against those not submitting ATRs in time henceforth.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Doda, GM DIC Doda, SE (Superintending Engineer) Public Works Department, the ACP (Assistant Commissioner of Panchayat), the DFO (Divisional Forest Officer) Baderwah, CEO Baderwah Development Authority, CMO, CEO, ARTO Doda, EOs of MC Doda, Baderwah and Thatri and representatives from other concerned departments.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observed at Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JUNE 26: District Administration Reasi today observed "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" across the district with the main event held in the Auditorium, DC Office Complex.

The event was organized by all the line departments in association with Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan Nodal Department, Department of Social Welfare.

Chairman District Development Council Reasi, Saraf Singh Nag graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Deputy Commissioner, Babila Rakwal along with Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi, Amit Gupta were the Guests of honour. The DDC Chairman while interacting with the audience reflected that youth are extremely susceptible to drugs. Drugs deteriorate mental health and peer pressure leads vulnerable teenagers to indulge in drug

abuse and become addicts. Drugs destroy lives, since the addicts can see nothing beyond their need to take drugs. We must urgently deal with the problem of drug abuse.

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, promoted the special helpline no. 9070907017 among the audience, and laid stress on the importance of sports and yoga activities in the fight against drug abuse.

SP Reasi during his speech, awarded the students about the impacts of drugs, the symptoms and controlling measures.

Meanwhile, Central Administrator, One Stop Centre Reasi, imparted awareness about the One Stop Center and Women Helpline services and delivered a PowerPoint Presentation regarding how drug addiction in the society is spoiling social relations and impacting spouse relations by taking illustration of case study of a Domestic Violence case.

During the programme, students from different institutions also participated in various activities like seminars, Yoga based Dance performance, Nukkard Natak etc.

A seminar on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held in block Chasana in the presence of Nodal Officer Harbans Singh, the Chief Agriculture Officer. The district and sectoral offices of different departments also observed International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Meanwhile, the International day was also observed in all the sub divisions, blocks, Schools, colleges & other institutions of the Reasi district with great enthusiasm. Additional District Development Commissioner Reasi, Jyoti Rani Salathia, Chief Education Officer Reasi, Sunita Kumari, District Social Welfare Officer Reasi, Pallvi Sharma and Dy SP were also present.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Inordinate delays but high hopes prevail

After the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories (UTs), there were high hopes among the people that all developmental projects which had been stuck for decades would make some progress and would be completed well in time. There was a strong feeling that it would be the dawn of a new beginning for Jammu and Kashmir. It proved true when one looked at the progress of certain projects of national importance. Like Udhampur-Baramullah train project, the much-talked about 750-km-long gas pipeline project between Bhatinda and Srinagar via Jammu has also remained entangled in red-tape during the last 11 years. The project has not moved even a single inch since last many years. During the Budget for financial year 2021-22, the Centre had announced that a gas pipeline project would be taken up in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This project was approved way back in 2011 but the irony of subject matter is that no physical progress has been achieved on it since then. Union Finance Ministry in its report on 'Implementation of Budget Announcements-2021-22', tabled in the Parliament while Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a bigger Rs 39.45 lakh crore Budget, said that GAIL, India's leading natural gas company, has so far submitted Design for Reliability (DFR), besides directive was issued to Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for issuing authorization for Gurdaspur - Srinagar pipeline to GAIL. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has requested the government of J&K to levy zero percent VAT on natural gas in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The PIB (Public Investment Board) and EFC (Expenditure Finance Committee) approval for VGF (Viability gap funding) grant to the project is still under process. This is despite the fact that the Centre made a commitment on the floor of the House that a gas pipeline project would be undertaken in the current financial year by the end of March 2021. Now, there has been significant escalation in the cost of the project due to red tape and bureaucratic lethargy. Gujarat state-promoted GSPL had won a licence in 2011 to lay the 750-km pipeline from Bhatinda in Punjab state up to Srinagar, with the condition that extension to Jammu and Srinagar would depend on a technical and commercial feasibility report. In August 2020, GSPL wrote to the PNGRB to surrender authorisation to extend the pipeline beyond Punjab to Jammu and Srinagar citing low gas demand and technical complexities. Thereafter, the PNGRB asked GSPL to build part of the pipeline from Bhatinda to the border of Punjab by the end of last year and extend it to Jammu and Srinagar by February 24. Unfortunately, the project has made no physical progress due to continued red tape and administrative lethargy. The Rs 880-crore project was envisaged to connect the J&K with the National Gas Grid through the pipeline and ultimately link individual households with gas stations through a network of supply lines for round-the-clock supply of cooking gas especially during winters when Kashmir Valley remains covered with snow. The gas pipeline project holds great importance and the priority should have been accorded to sort out all issues confronting it. The government of India should seriously view the administrative lethargy as well as technical issues that have so far come in the way of smooth execution of project. The responsibility for inordinate delay in the project should be fixed and it must be ensured that the project is completed well within the deadline.

G SRINIVASAN

There is a grave need for greater international technical, regulatory and financial support to unlock the potential for clean energy in emerging and developing economies

Clean energy generation appears chimerical even as climate changes the world over, particularly in vulnerable and densely populated countries like India and China is wreaking havoc in terms of welfare loss to the millions of people inhabiting the two Asiatic giants. India and China no doubt sang hosannas over the ideals of clean energy and sans reservation signed the Paris Accord of 2015 to bring down the rising global temperatures even when the then Trump administration in the United States had little qualms in walking out of the pact designed to send a collective call to preserve the planetary balance by polluting less and encouraging the increased use of non-conventional sources of energy to gradually reduce the hefty reliance on fossil fuels that threatens to bring humanity on the brink of a likely climate-induced apocalypse!

Time and again incredible figures to realise clean energy were trotted out by the international community to help address and minimise the grave existential peril while most of the rich world squirmed and demurred. Presumably so as they were insistent on more action and resources from the emerging and developing economies, which seem to be rising on the development ladder with leaders from the developed world resting on their oars, oblivious to their past deprivations of nature by their wasteful consumption of fuels to sustain their luxurious living.

It is against this somber setting that a joint report by the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) and the private sector lending window of the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Washington, has come out with another set of astounding arithmetic to fix the evasive and ever slippery issue! Titled 'Scaling Up Private Finance for Clean Energy in Emerging and Developing Economies', the IEA-IFC joint report contends that annual clean energy investments in emerging and developing economies would need to more than double from \$770 billion in 2022 to as much as \$2.8 trillion by 2030 to meet escalating energy requirements and align with the climate goal set out in the Paris Agreement. Without wallowing in otiose words, the report hit the nail

THE SHIFT TOWARDS CLEAN ENERGY



on the head, stating that public investment alone would be insufficient to deliver universal access of energy and tackle climate change; it asserted that augmented public funding could be used more effectively in partnership with private sector capital to pare project risks, a concept commonly known as blended finance. The report noted that two-thirds of the finance for clean energy projects in emerging developing economies (outside China) would need to come from the private sector as China is a maverick with the state bearing well-nigh the whole burden! Just how big the resource gap ahead is can be gauged by the grim fact that today's \$135 billion in annual private financing for clean energy in these economies, including India, would need to rise as much as \$1.1 trillion a year within the next decade, a task and feat not feasible in reality, given the resource constraints plaguing the private sector in these countries for other real sector activities to rev up growth and register progress. Emphatically flagging off a major risk of many countries around the world being left behind in today's energy world, the report said investment holds the key and sway to ensuring that they benefit from the new global economy that is emerging rapidly. IEA executive director Fatih Birol said: "There is a grave need for greater international technical, regulatory and financial support to unlock the potential for clean energy in emerging and developing economies (EMDEs). By reinforcing regulatory framework, energy institutions and infrastructure and improved access to finance, this support can help governments overcome obstacles that discourage clean energy outlays today, including the relatively high upfront cost and a high cost of capital. It is a paradox today that the battle against climate change will be won in EMDEs, where the potential

for clean energy is strong but the level of investments is lamentably low! In order to address the pressing energy demands and emission reduction goals in EMDEs, the international community must perforce have to mobilise private capital at speed and scale and urgently foster more investable projects, IFC managing director Makhtar Diop said. Rightly, the report pitches for concessional financing for projects that entail newer technologies that have yet to reach scale and are not yet cost-competitive in many markets, such as battery storage, offshore wind, renewable powered desalination or low emissions in hydrogen or that are in riskier markets. It estimates \$80 billion to \$100 billion of concessional finance would be needed annually by the early 2030s to attract private investment at the scale required for energy transition in emerging and developing economies outside China. There is also ample potential for issuing more green, social, sustainable and sustainability-linked bonds, provided that the requisite groundwork for industry guidelines, harmonised taxonomies and robust third-party certification is laid. The report zeroes in on the opportunity in platforms that aggregate and securitise many investments, which could get over the asymmetry between the relatively small size of energy transition projects in emerging and developing economies and the relatively large minimum investment size that major institutional investors require.

The joint report is quite unparaphrasing in its criticism of fossil fuel subsidies that perpetuate pollution without offering any solution for environmentally sustainable energy generation. It said forthrightly that a range of cross-cutting policy issues such as fossil fuel subsidies, lengthy licensing processes, unclear land use rights, restrictions on private or foreign ownership and inappropriate pricing policies build barriers to investment or heighten the cost of clean energy projects. Lifting these barriers would help emerging and developing economies benefit more fully from the opportunities of the new global energy economy, the report put it point-blank. The moot point is whether such a surgical strike on subsidies is politically feasible as the victims would respond at the hustling in their own harsh ways! Even as subsidy issues remains intractable and a political time-bomb, there are always low hanging fruits if conscious and focused attention is made to tap unconventional and unorthodox sources of energy. At a mini conference organised by the IEA in New Delhi with energy experts from G20 nations as India holds the presidency currently, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri contended that India would be the epicenter for green hydrogen development with the private sector evincing interest and acquiring large manufacturing facilities to supply green ammonia. He maintained that many electrolyte manufacturers in the world today have got a tie-up or production units in India. This was endorsed by IEA chief Birol when he remarked that India had the opportunity to become a "superpower" in the green hydrogen segment with its cheap and abundant renewable energy sources. Despite the hoopla and hype on green hydrogen production, problems on the ground pose considerable constraints. With the production of green hydrogen contingent on vast amounts of resources such as water, land and renewable energy, the room for conflicts in terms of land use and scarce water resources, human rights violations and poverty and energy iniquity cannot be gainsaid.

Collective action can curb the drug menace

A wholesome approach is needed to check drug abuse; rehabilitation not social isolation can cure the drug addicts

BANDARU DATTATRAYA

The problem of drug abuse has assumed a critical proportion globally. This year's World Drug Day is appropriately themed 'People First: Stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strengthen Prevention'. It is a grim reality that the victims of drug abuse suffer from familial, social isolation and repudiation. It causes a lot of mental and physical distress and trauma to them. They are also deprived of accessing the help they need. It makes their life and that of their families miserable and much tougher. Hence, there is a need for a people-centred approach to drug policies, which are focused on human rights and compassion! Helping the victims of drug abuse with a social and emotional salve and at the same time putting an effective check on the growing tentacles of drug and illicit trafficking is indeed a gargantuan task but not an impossible proposition. It requires collective efforts and a wholesome approach to achieve the goal of freeing our country from drug abuse.

The negative impact of stigma and discrimination on people who use drugs and their families; raise awareness about the AIDS and hepatitis epidemics among people who use drugs and expand and strengthen HIV and hepatitis prevention programmes; promote evidence-based, voluntary services for all people who use drugs, educate about drug use disorders, available treatments and the importance of early intervention and support; advocate for alternatives to imprisonment for drug-related crimes such as community-based treatment and services; combat stigma and discrimination by promoting language and attitudes that are respectful and non-judgmental, and empower young people and communities to prevent drug use and addiction.

Quite often we read and hear about the children of well-off, elite and middle-class families being caught consuming banned substances at pubs. The process of licensing should be stricter and the de-licensing of such entities should be expedited. At the same time, I see an important role for society in checking the menace of drug abuse. Society should boycott drug suppliers



and users. A social ecosystem should be evolved where the victims of drug abuse should be rehabilitated properly and those behind supplying drugs are socially boycotted. Parents should also be counselled on how to deal with their children and keep them away from the menace of drug abuse. Strong family values will be an asset for us in our fight against drug abuse.

In the ancient Indian value system, there was a lot of emphasis on building the character of children. As a child, our teacher used to make us memorize that if health is lost, something is lost; if the character is lost, everything is lost. Our forefathers were very particular about the character-

building of their children. The concept of gurukul was very much rooted in the idea of creating a value-based society, which deals with social evils like drug abuse effectively. Home, school and place of worship are three key components of building a value-based social ecosystem. We need to give serious thought to our ancient ways of addressing social challenges along with usual but tested means and mechanisms to prevent the spread of any evil, which eats into our vitals.

It is indeed gratifying to see a whole lot of things being done to tackle the challenge of drug abuse and rehabilitate the victims. There is, however, no scope to be complacent and miser in devoting necessary resources and/or intended to effectively deal with every aspect of the drug problem. There is a need to further galvanize all stakeholders to protect our people from drug abuse and break the spine of illicit drug supply chains. The Narcotics Control Bureau should act strictly against drug suppliers. Equally important is better coordination between the agencies of Central and state governments including police forces in mounting effective surveillance in vulnerable areas in particular bigger cities and bordering areas to check drug smuggling.

Given the magnitude of the problem of drug abuse, we need to work with a wholesome approach where every stakeholder has a role to play. As per the National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India conducted by the Ministry through AIMS National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), Guwahati, in 2018, the estimated number of children and adolescents aged 10-17 years consuming alcohol, cannabis, opioids, sedatives, inhalants, cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and hallucinogens was pegged at 6.06 per cent, while 24.71 per cent adults aged between 18 and 75 were found to be indulging in drug abuse.

It is a matter of happiness that the Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing a scheme of National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) under which financial assistance is provided to the State Government and Union Territories Administration for preventive education and awareness generation, capacity building, skill development and vocational training and livelihood support for from drug addicts. During 2021-22, there were as many as 285559 beneficiaries under NAPDDR.

SRK ON 31 YRS OF FILM DEBUT BEING ABLE TO ENTERTAIN PEOPLE LOTS OF TIMES 'PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT'

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who completed 31 years in Hindi film industry on Sunday, said being able to entertain several people lots of times is his "proudest achievement".

Known as King Khan of Bollywood, the 57-year-old star started his acting journey with TV serials such as "Fauji" and "Circus" before making his feature film debut with Raj Kanwar's "Deewana". Also starring Rishi Kapoor and Divya Bharti, the romantic drama released on June 25, 1992.

Shah Rukh, who in January made a spectacular return to the big screen after a hiatus of four years with the blockbuster "Pathaan", conducted a Q&A session #AskSRK with fans and followers on

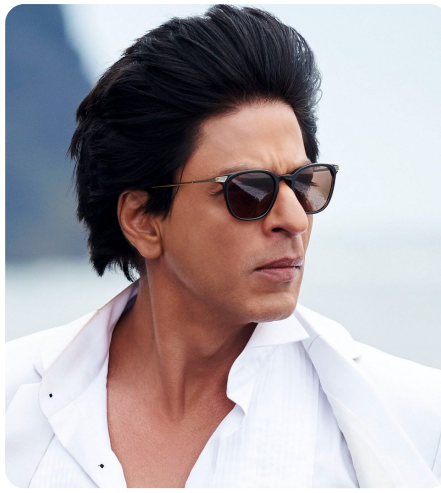
Twitter to mark yet another year in the movies.

"Wow just realised it's 31 yrs to the day when Deewana hit the screens. It's been quite a ride mostly a good one. Thanks all and we can do 31minutes of #AskSRK??" he tweeted.

When a social media user asked what his "proudest achievement" was in these 31 years, the actor wrote back saying "Being able to entertain lots of people lots of times."

That's it." "Working with Divyaji and Rajji" was the one thing he will never forget from the set of "Deewana", he said.

A tweepie was curious about how Shah Rukh picks up his projects after doing "almost every sort of role" in his career.



Sonam Kapoor Ahuja-starrer 'Blind' to arrive on JioCinema next month



Blind, fronted by Sonam Kapoor Ahuja, is set for a direct-to-digital release on JioCinema from July 7.

The upcoming movie marks the streaming debut of Neeraj star Sonam, who is returning to showbiz after embracing motherhood in 2022.

Blind, billed as "a compelling tale of resilience and determination", will be available exclusively on the streamer for free, the makers said in a press release.

Directed by Shome Makhija, the film also stars Parub Kohli, Vinay Pathak, Lillete Dubey, and Shubham Saraf.

It promises to bring to life "a remarkable central character who triumphs over seemingly insurmountable challenges," the makers added.

Presented by Jio Studios in association with RV Motion Pictures & Lead Films, the movie is a Kanai, Avma and Kross Pictures production.

Varun Dhawan, Samantha Ruth Prabhu wrap Serbia schedule of 'Citadel' India chapter

Actors Varun Dhawan and Samantha Ruth Prabhu have finished work on the Serbia schedule of the India chapter of the Prime Video series Citadel.

Billed as a "local Original spy series", the currently untitled project hails from Prime Video and AGBO, the production banner co-founded by Hollywood filmmaking duo Russo Brothers.

Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK, who previously collaborated with Prime Video on The Family Man and Farzi, serve as showrunners and directors on the upcoming show.

Varun shared a picture with Raj & DK and co-actor Saqib Saleem on his Instagram Stories on Saturday night to



announce the completion of the schedule. "It's a wrap in Serbia boys and girls,"

the Bhediya star captioned the photo.

Samantha posted a snap of a dessert plate on her Instagram Stories, bidding adieu to Belgrade, the capital of Serbia.

"Until we meet again Belgrade." The Family Man star said.

Written by Sita R Menon along with Raj & DK, the Indian Original Citadel series marks Varun's streaming debut.

Raj & DK under their banner D2R Films will also serve as executive producers. The series is produced by D2R Films, and Amazon Studios, with AGBO's, Anthony Russo, Joe Russo, Mike Larocca, Angela Russo-Otstot, Scott Nemes, and David Weil overseeing production on the Indian Original and all series within the global Citadel universe.

ARJUN SARJA'S DAUGHTER AISHWARYA TO MARRY THAMBI RAMAIAH'S SON UMAPATHY



Actor Arjun Sarja's eldest daughter, actor Aishwarya will soon exchange vows with actor Thambi Ramaiah's son, actor Umapathy. The two actors have been in a relationship for a while and now the families have decided to take it to the next step.

Actor and director Thambi Ramaiah, speaking to us from the reality show Survivor Arjun sir anchored and Umapathy was a contestant in it. Looks like sir was impressed with his attitude and that's how it all started. I was looking for a prospective bride for Umapathy for a while and a few months ago, his mother asked me to not look any more. I gave him time till my birthday (June 19) to give us a name and ten days before that, he told me about Arjun sir's daughter."

Joking about how Umapathy demanded his marriage to happen this year, Thambi Ramaiah adds, "A few days back, both the families met at the Anjaneyar temple that Arjun sir had built and decided to proceed further. We again caught up recently at Arjun sir's house.

Sir and I will soon fix the wedding date and share it officially on Umapathy's birthday on November 8. It will be in January 2024 (Thai Maasam).

Meanwhile, Umapathy, who made his acting debut in 2017's Adhagappathathu Magajanangalay, is awaiting the release of his directorial debut Raja Kili. The film stars his father Thambi Ramaiah along with Samuthirakani. On the other hand, Aishwarya will be making her Telugu debut with a film that's directed by Arjun himself. Arjun is playing an important role in Vijay-Lokesh Kanagaraj's Leo and Thambi Ramaiah has a slew of films in different stages of production.

Makers of 'The Kerala Story' announce next film 'Bastar' to release in 2024



Director Sudipto Sen and producer Vipul Shah, the duo behind "The Kerala Story", on Monday announced their next project "Bastar". According to the makers, "Bastar", based on a "true incident", will hit the screens on April 5, 2024. Shah's Sunshine Pictures, the banner behind the upcoming movie, shared the announcement on its Twitter page. "Unveiling our next, #Bastar. Prepare to witness another gripping true incident that will leave you speechless. Mark your calendars for April 5, 2024! #VipulAmruttalShah @sudiptoSENtm @AashinShah #SunshinePictures", the production house said in the tweet. "The Kerala Story" polarised the political discourse in the country as it depicted how women from Kerala were forced to convert and recruited by the terror group Islamic State (IS). Directed by Sen and produced by Shah, it was released on May 5. The movie, which emerged as one of the most successful films at the box office with over Rs 200 crore in reported earnings, was banned by the West Bengal government, fearing tensions among communities.

'No Hard Feelings' movie review: Jennifer Lawrence's sex comedy is vanilla with a hint of raunchy

It is great fun to see Jennifer Lawrence's comic side. The Academy Award-winning Lawrence grabs one's eye and keeps it as Maddie, the 32-year-old woman still trying to figure her life out. Maddie is dealing with multiple issues including being the result of an affair and promptly being abandoned by her wealthy father, and losing her mum. Having lived all her life in the small, seaside town of Montauk, Maddie has a chip on her shoulder about all the outsiders who vacation there, driving the property prices sky high.

Maddie is an Uber driver and works part time at the bar. When her car is repossessed for not paying property taxes on the house her mother left her, Maddie is driven to desperation. Into this scenario of a car-less Uber driver, comes a weird list-



ing. Laird (Matthew Broderick) and Allison (Laura Benanti) are offering their Buick to any woman who can date their reclusive 19-year-old son, Percy (Andrew Barth Feldman), and make him ready to take on the world and Princeton.

Maddie takes up the offer and after hiccups including skinny-dipping in the sea, which Percy nervously recognises as the opening scene of Jaws, and some nasty people stealing their clothes, there is genuine affection and caring between Maddie and Percy.

All the rom-com staples, except for mad dash to the airport, are there. There is pregnant best friend Sarah (Natalie Morales), her dim-witted surfer husband, Jim (Scott MacArthur), an OIT nanny, Jody (Kyle Mooney), an oily real estate agent, Doug Khan

(Hasan Minhaj), a loser former boyfriend, Gary (Ebon Moss-Bachrach), and a cocaine-addicted retired police dog. It is amazing to see Matthew Broderick after forever.

There have been controversies around this movie for promoting sexual grooming and the abuse of men. The argument is that if the roles were reversed and a 32-year-old man was paid by a 19-year-old girl's parents to seduce her, the film would not even have got made. The cast and crew have argued that the premise is intentionally icky and not in any way condoning sexual harassment. Be that as it may, if you are fed up with superhero films and just want some little laughs, No Hard Feelings, which plays super safe for a sex comedy, is just the medicine, as Lawrence makes patently silly scenes work with buckets of flair.

Spies are the new superheroes 'Jack Ryan' star John Krasinski

Jack Ryan" star John Krasinski is a fan of spy dramas, a genre, he says, is coming back with several studios developing franchises around spies, making them the "new superheroes".

Streamer Prime Video, which is home to Krasinski's show, is also developing "Citadel" as a global franchise. Production will soon begin on season three of "The Family Man", the Indian spy thriller fronted by Manoj Bajpayee. Krasinski, who is returning as the titular spy in "Jack Ryan", said the fourth and final season of the series has more to it than just "espionage and action". "I have always been a huge fan of spy dramas. But, I

think the spy genre is coming back. What is most exciting about our show is that it is not just about espionage and action. It is this fine line where you have a lot of great characters and relationships. We have tried our best to make a show based on all of the stuff that we have learnt through the intelligence agencies in our contacts there about how things really are. The strains on marriages, the strains on friendship, the strains on all these things in your personal life that you sacrifice in order to go out there. So yes, the spies are the new superheroes," the American actor told agencies in a virtual interview. The six-episode final season of

"Jack Ryan" will follow Krasinski's titular CIA agent on his most dangerous mission yet: facing an enemy both foreign and domestic. It will arrive on Prime Video on June 30. "As the new CIA Acting Deputy Director, Jack Ryan is tasked with unearthing internal corruption, and in doing so, uncovers a series of suspicious black ops that could expose the vulnerability of the country.

"As Jack and the team investigate how deep the corruption runs, he discovers a far-worse reality — the convergence of a drug cartel with a terrorist organisation — ultimately revealing a conspiracy much closer to home and testing our

hero's belief in the system he has always fought to protect," the official description read.

The 43-year-old actor, best known for playing Jim Halpert in the long-running sitcom "The Office" as well as creating and starring in "A Quiet Place" film franchise, has been the face of "Jack Ryan" since its inception in 2018. Krasinski, the fifth actor to portray the character after Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford, Ben Affleck and Chris Pine, said he will "absolutely miss playing this role." "It is not only a role, (it is something) I grew up watching. It was my favourite character to watch, those movies were my favourite. So, to be a part of this is sort of mind blowing for

me. The fact that we did it for four seasons and got to explore so many different stories and action-packed avenues was amazing," he added.

Adapted from author Tom Clancy's novels of the same title, the Prime Video original series will also see Michael Kelly and "Suits" star Wendell Pierce reprise their characters of veteran special operations agent Mike November and Ryan's field boss James Greer, respectively. Kelly, who rose to fame with "House of Cards", said while he can't give too much away about the upcoming chapter, he knows whenever Ryan calls him there is a really good reason behind it.



Good work of people of Kerala marred by petty politics of LDF-UDF : J P Nadda

AGENCY

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUN 26: BJP national president J P Nadda on Monday said Kerala has been playing a significant role in the development of the country, but the good work being done by the people of the southern state "was getting marred" by the "petty politics" of the ruling LDF and the opposition UDF in the state.



Nadda, who is Kerala for a public meeting on the occasion of the Narendra Modi government completing nine years at the Centre, said while the state was playing a significant role in the country's development, "it was not being rightly placed or projected".

"There is a lot of contribution being done by Kerala, but because of petty politics of LDF-UDF, the whole good work being done by people of Kerala was getting marred," he said at the public meeting held here.

Nadda said though the

southern state was known as 'God's Own Country', it has now become "corruption country" due to scams like the gold smuggling through diplomatic bags and the alleged irregularities in installation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) cameras. "Top educational institutions are being destabilised and the ruling party members are indulging in corruption and nepotism in appointments," he alleged.

He further claimed that Kerala, "which was once financially very strong is now in a debt trap to the tune of over Rs 3 lakh crore".

Nadda also claimed that of the 35 people recently found to have gone abroad for terrorist training, 21 were from Kerala and asked "what is this administration doing?"

The BJP chief further said while Keralaites are peaceful and hardworking, "sadly times have changed so much that the state has become 'rakt-ranjit' (blood stained). A lot of bloodshed has taken place."

"Intellectual pursuits have been challenged by physical assaults in this land, which is very detri-

mental, saddening. It is concerning and a hurdle in the progress of Kerala," he said.

Nadda further said the time has come to oppose the forces that use their power to quell or subjugate thought and instead support those who are working for the progress of the state. "We have to take a strong political decision against all this," he said.

Prior to the event, Nadda visited the Chattampi Swami Memorial here and paid his respects.

He shared photographs of his visit along with a tweet - "Visited the Chattampi Swami Smarakam in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, today and paid my tributes to the great yogi and social reformer Chhattampi Swami ji."

"Also met with the NSS Union lakh leaders, who have paid a fitting tribute to Chhattampi Swami ji's legacy of empowering marginalised sections of society through this smarakam."

Himachal flash floods Hundreds of commuters stranded as Chandigarh-Manali NH blocked



AGENCY

SHIMLA/MANDI, JUN 26: Hundreds of commuters were stranded in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district as the Chandigarh-Manali national highway was blocked following flash floods and landslides, officials said on Monday.

The 70-km Mandi-Pandoh-Kullu stretch has been badly affected, they said. A total of 301 roads are closed in the state following heavy rains, while 140 power transformers are disrupted.

Flash floods were witnessed in Khotinallah near Aut, about 40 km from Mandi town, on the Pandoh-Kullu stretch due to a heavy downpour and the commuters have been stranded since Sunday evening.

The alternative Mandi-Kullu route via Katola, blocked due to landslide, has been opened after almost 20 hours and small vehicles are now being diverted through this stretch, said the officials of the Mandi administration.

The Mandi-Pandoh stretch was blocked near 6 Miles after a landslide. The officials said restoration work is underway and explosives are being used to blast heavy boulders blocking

roads on this stretch. One way traffic is expected to be restored on this stretch in an hour or two, they said.

However, rains have started again and reports of landslides are coming from other places in the district.

The commuters have been advised not to move towards Mandi until the road is opened, the officials added. "It is a nightmarish experience as we have been stuck here since yesterday evening. There are limited hotels and other accommodations available nearby," said Mohit, a tourist from Chandigarh.

There are over two km of jam on both the sides even though the police and administration have stopped traffic at several points on the stretch as the road is blocked, he added. "We have been stuck since last evening as the road is closed. A large number of vehicles are stranded on both sides of the roads at Aut and 6 Miles," said Prashant, a stranded commuter who was returning to Mandi town from Chandigarh. Works Department Minister Vikramaditya Singh said as many as 301 roads have been blocked due to heavy rains. Out of these roads, 180 would be

opened by Monday evening, 15 by Tuesday and the remaining by June 30 depending on the weather conditions, Singh told reporters.

As many as 390 JCBs, dozers and tippers have been deployed to clear the roads and the department would release a number on which the people can report road related issues by today evening, he added.

There are about 30 road stretches prone to frequent landslides in the state. So far, during the ongoing monsoon season which started on June 24, the PWD has suffered a loss to the tune of about Rs 27 crore.

On Sunday, flash floods triggered by a cloudburst in Solan and Hamirpur districts and heavy rains in Shimla, Mandi and Kullu killed two people, damaged crops, homes and vehicles, and washed away livestock.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, one person each drowned in Hamirpur and Shimla districts. The rain also damaged 11 houses and several vehicles as well as four cowsheds.

Moderate to heavy rains have also lashed several parts of Kangra, Mandi and Sirmour districts.

Dharamshala in Kangra was the wettest with 107 mm of rain followed by Katula and Bhattiyal 75 mm each, Gohar 67 mm, Mandi 56 mm, Pandoh 50 mm, Poanta Sahib 43 mm, Nagrota Suriyan 39 mm, Kothi 37 mm, Jogindernagar 36 mm and Palampur 32.2 mm.

The local weather office has issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain, thunderstorm and lightning at isolated places on Monday and Tuesday and yellow alert of heavy rain, thunderstorm and lightning on June 28 and 29.

Germany offers to station 4,000 troops in Lithuania to strengthen NATO's eastern flank

AGENCY

BERLIN: Germany is willing to send around 4,000 troops to Lithuania on a permanent basis to strengthen NATO's eastern flank, German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said during a visit in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius on Monday.



"Germany is prepared to permanently station a robust brigade in Lithuania," Pistorius said. He said infrastructure and facilities will need to be created to accommodate the soldiers and their families.

In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine early last year, the German government pledged last June to have a combat brigade ready to defend Lithuania in the event of an attack, German news agency DPA reported. Until now, however, there have been differences over whether the soldiers should be permanently stationed in Lithuania or only sent there temporarily for exercises. The Lithuanian government has demanded a permanent presence, while the German

government for a long time was very reluctant to do that.

Pistorius explained the German government's decision to offer the brigade to Lithuania was not only because of Russia's war on Ukraine, but also because of Germany's own history, saying that until the end of the Cold War, Germany was the country on NATO's eastern flank.

"We were the ones who could always rely on our NATO partners to stand by us in an emergency and to stand up and fight with us for our freedom and security in Germany," he said. Now, Poland and the Baltic countries are particularly

exposed, he said.

"We as the Federal Republic of Germany explicitly acknowledge our responsibility and our obligation as a NATO member state, as the largest economy in Europe, to stand up for the protection of the eastern flank," Pistorius said.

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda welcomed the announcement and said his country wants to build up the needed infrastructure by 2026.

"We have a strong political willingness in Lithuania to find the necessary financial resources to be able to finance the infrastructural needs," Nauseda said after

meeting with Pistorius and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

Stoltenberg also welcomed Germany's announcement and praised the country for its leadership and dedication to helping support the organization's collective defence strategy.

Russia-Ukraine Live Updates: Rebel Russian mercenaries will turn back to...

The Titan submersible, operated by OceanGate Expeditions to explore the wreckage of the sunken Titanic off the coast of Newfoundland, dives in an undated photograph.

Germany's military, the Bundeswehr, has already been present in Lithuania, which borders Russia and Belarus, for six years with several hundred soldiers.

There, Germany leads a NATO battlegroup with currently about 1,600 soldiers, including about 780 from the Bundeswehr, dpa reported. It was not immediately clear what would happen to this unit when the new German brigade is stationed in Lithuania.

Is Putin Losing Grip? Russia's Short Rebellion Leaves Behind Big Question

AGENCY

MOSCOW: Wagner mercenaries headed back to their base on Sunday after Russia's President Vladimir Putin agreed to allow their leader to avoid treason charges and accept exile in neighbouring Belarus. The agreement halted an extraordinary crisis - a private army led by Putin's former close ally Yevgeny Prigozhin trying to storm Moscow - but analysts said Wagner's revolt had exposed Putin's rule as more fragile than previously thought.

Security measures were still in place in Moscow on Sunday, though fewer police were visible, and passers-by said they were unconcerned, despite Prigozhin's exact whereabouts remaining unclear. "Of course, I was shaken at the beginning," Ludmila Streltseva, 70, told AFP while walking at Moscow's Red Square. "I was not expecting this." "We are fighting, and there is also an internal enemy who is stabbing you in the back, as President Putin said," she said. "But we are walking around, relaxing, we don't feel any danger."

Prigozhin was last seen late Saturday in an SUV leaving Rostov-on-Don,

where his fighters had seized a military headquarters, to the cheers of some local people. Some shook his hand through the car window. Trucks carrying armoured vehicles with fighters on them followed his car.

There were reports that Wagner fighters had come as close as 400 kilometres (250 miles) from Moscow, while Prigozhin himself claimed that "in 24 hours we got 200 kilometres from Moscow".

The mutiny was the culmination of his long-standing feud with the Russian military's top brass over the conduct of the Russian operation in Ukraine. Putin had on Saturday denounced the revolt as treason, vowing to punish the perpetrators. He accused them of pushing Russia to the brink of civil war. Later the same day however, he had accepted an agreement brokered by Belarus to avert Moscow's most serious security crisis in decades.

Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky and US President Joe Biden discussed the revolt on Sunday, ahead of a NATO summit in Lithuania next month. "The world must put pressure on Russia until an internal order is

restored," Zelensky said on Twitter, adding that he had again evoked the possibility of "long-range weapons" for Ukraine as it pursues a counter-offensive against Russian occupiers.

"Window of opportunity" Within hours of Prigozhin's announcement that his forces would return to base to avoid "spilling Russian blood", the Kremlin said Putin's former ally would leave for Belarus.

Russia will drop the "armed rebellion" charges against Prigozhin and not prosecute Wagner troops, it added. Ukraine revelled in the chaos, stepping up its own counter-offensive against Russian forces, while analysts also said the deal had exposed weakness in the Russian president's grip on power. Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko said he had negotiated the truce with Prigozhin. Moscow thanked him, but observers noted that an intervention by Lukashenko, usually seen as Putin's junior partner, was itself an embarrassment.

Zelensky's senior aide Mykhailo Podolyak tweeted that "Prigozhin humiliated Putin/the state and showed that there is no longer a monopoly on violence".

UK Man Dies After Hot Air Balloon Catches Fire And Falls From Sky

AGENCY

LONDON: A man died after a hot air balloon caught fire and plummeted to the ground crushing into trees in Worcestershire, BBC reported. The horrific incident happened on Sunday when witnesses saw the blue-colored balloon turning into a "fireball" before plummeting into trees at about 6.20 am. Firefighters, paramedics, and police rushed to the scene but were unable to save the male pilot, said to be aged in his 20s. He was declared dead at the scene. A West Mercia Police spokesperson said, "At 6.20 am this morning police received a call that a hot air balloon had deflated and fallen to the ground near the A449 at Omblesley."

Air Accident Investigation Branch (AARB) said that their team is on-site and would carry out an investigation. A witness told Sky News, "There were lots of balloons in the sky because it was clear and sunny despite being so early."

Suddenly there was a flash and what looked like a fireball coming from a blue balloon and it just dropped like a stone. My wife heard terrible screaming and then silence.

Mahoba to become first UP district with 100 piped water connections: CM Adityanath

AGENCY

LUCKNOW, JUN 26: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Monday said Mahoba in Bundelkhand region will soon become the state's first district to get piped drinking water in all its households.

The Chief Minister made the observations while chairing a high-level meeting to review the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission and Namami Gange project.

"Providing pure drinking water in the dry Bundelkhand and Vindhyas regions was a dream that is coming true. Now Mahoba is going to be the first district of the state to have tap water supply in every household," Adityanath said at the meeting.

According to a statement issued here, the CM also directed the officials to achieve the government's target of installing tap water connections to every house in Jhansi, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Banda, Chitrakoot, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra and the entire Vindhya-Bundelkhand region in the next two months.

Before the start of the Jal Jeevan Mission, only 5.16 lakh families had access to piped drinking water. The figure has now crossed 1.3 crore, with 59.38 lakh connections in the financial year 2022-23 alone, the government said. "The monthly tap water installa-



tions in the state rose from 22,714 in April, 2022 to 12.96 lakh connections in May 2023. Currently, 43,000 taps are being installed every day, which needs to be increased to 50,000 daily," the statement quoted Adityanath as saying.

"To meet the targets, the manpower should be increased and trained plumbers should be posted in every village without delay," the CM added.

Another agenda that was discussed in the meeting is the silt issue in Bundelkhand. The chief minister asked officials of the Irrigation and Water Resources Department to regularly de-silt the reservoirs in the region. With a total of 1,027 km river stretch of Ganga flowing through the state, Uttar Pradesh has 27 Ganga

Janpads and 37 Ganga Towns. "Additional financial assistance is being provided by the Centre under the Jal Jeevan Mission to improve water quality in affected areas due to the high presence of arsenic, fluoride, salinity, nitrate and iron in the water. Work in these areas needs to be expedited," the CM said.

He also commended the good results achieved through the 'Aaviral-Nirmal Maa Ganga' campaign under the Namami Gange project.

Citing the reduced river pollution on the 550-km stretch from Kannauj to Varanasi, the CM asked officials to now pay special attention to the river stretches in Farrukhabad to Prayagraj and Mirzapur to Ghazipur.

AGENCY

KOLKATA, JUN 26: Harsh Vardhan Shingla, former foreign secretary and G20 chief coordinator, has said the message one gets from the US government is that it attaches "enormous importance" to the relationship.

Shingla, also India's former ambassador to the US, also pointed out in an interview to PTI on Sunday night, that the strategic relationship between the two nations has deepened with India becoming a technological collaborator with joint manufacturing and joint research and development in state-of-the-art equipment. "From the US government side, the message that you get (on Modi's visit to Washington) is that they attach enormous importance to the relationship," Shingla told PTI,

adding that the trip was "clearly the most significant" of the eight visits of the Prime Minister to the US.

Shingla was Indian ambassador to Washington between January 2019-January 2020, when he took over as foreign secretary.

During his tenure in the US, the 'Howdy Modi' event took place in Houston, Texas. "In terms of take-aways - at a strategic level, we have gone to a level of collaboration (with) joint manufacture, joint development and joint R&D to build state-of-the-art equipment in our defence industries," the top diplomat said, referring to a number of defence technology agreements including a GE-Hindustan Aeronautics pact to jointly make F414 engines which were signed during the recently concluded Prime Ministerial visit to the US.

Prime Minister Modi visited the United States from June 21-23 to a red carpet welcome which included meetings with thought leaders and business magnates, bilateral meeting with President Joe Biden, addressing a joint sitting of the US Congress, and taking part in the state dinner organised by Biden and the First Lady Jill Biden.

The former foreign secretary also pointed out that a second key take-away was the collaboration in technology - initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET) - at a time when technology is changing at a "very fast pace".

Shingla also underlined how the joining together of a resource rich nation and a nation with critical human resources could deliver a resilient supply chain in products emanating from tech collaborations.

Seminar cum WorkShop on Int'l Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking held at B'la

Dr Sehrih stresses on collective approach to eliminate Drug Addiction from Society

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, JUNE 26: To mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the District Administration Baramulla under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr Syed Sehrih Asgar today organised a series of events aimed to disseminate awareness about the ill hazards of drug abuse among the masses.

The activities held include Rallies, Drawing/Painting Competitions among other interesting and useful events.

As part of the celebration, a mega Seminar cum WorkShop was presided over by the DC at Govt. Degree College Boys Baramulla which was organised by the Social Welfare Department in collaboration with the Education Department and the college authorities. The event laid special thrust on educating masses about the menace of drug abuse in the society.



Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the need of mass mobilization and awareness and termed the role of all stakeholders pivotal in curbing the menace of substance abuse.

Dr Sehrih further said that District Administration Baramulla has taken various initiatives in order to bring back and support the victims so that they can live a normal life again. The DC also addressed the young participants to

work actively in their respective schools and Wards to help track the peddlers who are responsible for the growing numbers of drug addicts and substance abuse.

He further said that the observance of this day aims to raise awareness about the major problems that illicit drugs pose to the society at large. The main focus of organising today's event is to spread awareness among the students, she added.

The DC also lauded the efforts of the Social Welfare Department, Education Department and Youth Service and Sports Department for conducting programmes of huge social importance.

Meanwhile, the DC e-launched Nasha Mukht Panchayat Abhiyan on the occasion which aims to reinforce the campaign against the substance use at the grassroots level. The Seminar cum WorkShop was also attended by

Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Principal Government Degree College Boys Baramulla, Chief Education Officer Baramulla, Social Welfare Officer besides a large number of students, teachers and other concerned stakeholders.

Later, the dignitaries distributed Certificates and trophies among the participants who performed at the event.

Similarly, the School Education Department in collaboration with Youth Service and Sports Department organized a series of events to observe International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in various High Schools and Higher Secondary schools across the various educational zones of Baramulla district.

More than 1050 students took part during the campaign. The aim of the campaign was to create awareness among students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and promote a drug free society.

Economics & Statistics Directorate celebrates 17th Statistics Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 26: Directorate of Economics & Statistics and School of Applied Economics & Statistics, Jammu organized a Seminar/Quiz competition on the eve of 17th Statistics Day on the theme of "Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals" here in the auditorium of School of Applied Economics & Statistics, Jammu.

The speakers highlighted the notable contribution made by Lt. Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, Father of Indian Statistics, in the fields of Economic Planning and Statistical Development. The Officers/officials of the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K, Jammu, School of Applied Economics & Statistics, Jammu and District Statistics & Evaluation Officers of various districts of Jammu region participated in it with full enthusiasm.

Director General, Economic & Statistics, J&K, Satvir Kour Sudan presided over the programme as the Chief Guest and highlighted the major achievements of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, J&K regarding formulation of various indices for the year 2022-23.

Director (Planning), Department of Youth Services and Sports, Ashu Gupta and Principal, School of Applied Economics & Statistics, Jammu, Sanjay Vashist also highlighted the importance of Statistics in the present era. On this occasion, Officers/Officials, who gave outstanding performance in the Seminar/Quiz competition, were felicitated with awards and certificates.

DG alerts staff against misuse of Parks by Traffickers

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 26: The Department of Floriculture Parks and Gardens Jammu observed International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (World Drug Day) in the Directorate

All the officers and officials were present on the occasion. S. Jatinder Singh, Director General, Department of Floriculture Parks and Gardens Jammu highlighted the dangers of drug abuse and Illicit Trafficking in the society with special reference to its impact on the young generation.

In his address, the Director General stressed upon conducting awareness camps for staff as well as the general public in parks & gardens of the Department regarding Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and Illicit Trafficking. He also directed the field staff to remain vigilant and keep watch and ward of each park and garden so that these places are not misused by the drug peddlers for carrying illegal activities.

Vikrant Kumar, Joint Director; Priti Aggarwal, Deputy Director (Planning); Ishitq Ahmad Malik, Floriculture Officer HQ, along with the staff of the Directorate were also present on the occasion.

Similar awareness camps were also conducted in different Parks/Gardens of each District of Jammu Province in the presence of the concerned District Officer.

Awareness event on JKBCOWWB schemes held in Rajouri



JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JUNE 26: An awareness programme on the Welfare of the J&K Building and other Construction Welfare Board (JKBCOWWB) was today organized in the office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Rajouri.

The participants were the members of local bodies, contractors, registered construction workers and VLE (CSs). Assistant Labour Commissioner, Maneesha addressed the participants regarding the various existing schemes, while Brijnesh Kumari, Assistant Labour Commissioner JKBCOWWB, who was on special visit to the District, highlighted the new schemes launched by the Board. The main focus of the programme was on spreading awareness, registration, eligibility procedure for registration, renewal and welfare schemes. During the programme an amount of Rs. 2.05 Lakh (Rupees Two Lakh & Five Thousand) was disbursed to the dependents of registered BOC workers on account of death & funeral Assistance.

IRP 11th Battalion Welfare Committee sanctions Rs 4.70 Welfare loan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 26: In an endeavor to mitigate the issues faced by officials of the battalion and as a welfare measure, the Battalion Welfare Committee (BWC) today met under the Chairmanship of Sandeep Mehta, Commanding Officer (CO) IRP 11th Bn. The Committee sanctioned a welfare loan to the tune of Rs. 4.70 lakh in favour of 10 officers/officials of the battalion. A loan of Rs. 50,000/- each was sanctioned in favour of (04) four personnel for marriage of their dependants. An amount of Rs.50,000 each was sanctioned in favour of (04) personnel for treatment of their dependants/ self treatment. An amount of Rs. 50,000/- was sanctioned in favour of one personnel of this unit for higher education of his ward. In addition to above, an amount of Rs. 20,000/- was sanctioned in favour of a person to meet his social obligation.

Int'l Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observed at Shopian

Public support and vigilant parental care, way forward on Fight against drugs: DC

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, JUNE 26: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today presided over a mega function organized by District Social Welfare Department Shopian to observe International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking.

Addressing a mega awareness programme held at Auditorium Hall of IMGDC Shopian, the DC highlighted the importance of celebrating the day and added that the day is observed to cement the cooperation in achieving the goal of drug free community.

He also highlighted the importance of the vigilant and careful role of parents to keep their children away from drugs saying that it is a collective responsibility of all to eradicate this menace from society.

The DC appealed to the gathering to report cases to authorities for rehabilitation without attaching its social stigma.

He highlighted the measures and initiatives going on to curb and eliminate drug menace in Shopian.

Dy. SP Shopian and students also shared their valuable suggestions and experiences during this awareness session.

Moreover to celebrate the day, a rally was organized by IMGDC to raise awareness about drug abuse which was attended by students of the college and officials. Painting and debate competitions were also held on the occasion by the department.

In the felicitation ceremony, trophies and medals were distributed among the winners and participants of debate

DLSA-Kulgam observes Int'l Day against Drug abuse

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, JUNE 26: On the directions of Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kulgam, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, International Day against Drug Abuse was Monday observed by DLSA Kulgam at Government Degree College Kulgam.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of Secretary DLSA Kulgam, Tabassum Qadir Parry and was attended by Dr. Zahoor Ahmad (Block Medical Officer Qazigund), Dr. Umer (Medical Officer Drug De-addiction

centre Kulgam), Roshan Aara (Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel), Basit Farooq (Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel), PLVs, working staff of DLSA and teaching faculty along with students of the concerned college. Dr. Zahoor Ahmad spoke about the medical aspects of drug abuse and emphasised on the solution to the menace. He suggested that the said issue should be declared as a 'Notifiable Disease'. Dr. Umer touched on the practical aspects of drug abuse and the problems that are faced by society in providing restoration and rehabilitation processes for the said persons. He emphasised on

the fact that parents must take care of their children. Roshan Aara focused on the statistical data and said that the menace of drug abuse has a tendency to destroy social fabric and possesses potential threat to our society. Basit Farooq focused upon the legal aspects and said that there should be measures that No Stigma gets attached to persons who voluntarily come forward for treatment of Drug Addiction while focusing on other aspects.

The students of the college also deliberated upon the theme of the programme and were vocal about the issues related to Drug Abuse that are prevalent in the society.

Outsiders/ locals asked to use Amar Singh College playground after official hours

Local residents, clubs & other organizations wishing to use college playground asked to seek proper permission: College Authorities

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 26: Amar Singh College is a premier multi-disciplinary institution of the valley having around 5000 boys and girls on its rolls in different disciplines and on a day there is a huge foot fall of students in the college. The students

have to play in the college playground as per college sports calendar.

It has been observed that outsiders enter the college sports ground during official hours from the backside of the college which hinders our college boys and girls sports activities. Accordingly, public in general and

residents in the vicinity of Amar Singh College in particular are informed through this notice that college playground is meant primarily for bonafide students of Amar Singh College and as such no outsider will be allowed to use the playground during official time 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

make their way to the historic Sarthal Devi Temple in Kishtwar. Tomorrow morning on 27 June a MahaYajna (grand religious ritual) will be performed at Sarthal Devi Mandir.

The district administration and police have made meticulous arrangements for security, drinking water, power supply, transportation and other essential facilities at Sarthal and Kishtwar to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for the devotees.

Sarthal Devi Ji is revered as the 'Kul Devi' (patron goddess) of the region. The historic yatra has been organized every year since the Dogra Regime, and each devotee holds a deep and unique faith in this sacred pilgrimage.

The yatra is annually organized by the Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust, under the patronage of Dr. Karan Singh, the sole trustee, and Vikramaditya Singh, Chairman Trustee of the Trust.

Annual Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra commences with religious fervor & gaiety at Kishtwar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JUNE 26: The revered Annual Yatra of Shri Ashadsh Bhuja Mata Sarthal Devi Ji commenced today in Kishtwar, marking the beginning of a joyous and spiritually significant event.

The yatra commenced with a grand Hawan ceremony held at Gori Shankar Mandir Sarkoot, where devotees offered "Aahuti & Puraan Aahuti" (sacred oblations).

Accompanied by an impressive Shaha yatra, the Chari Mubarak (holy procession) proceeded through Chowgan ground, Sheehdi Chowk, and the Bus stand, starting from Gori Shankar Mandir.

Thousands of devotees, including men, women, and children, enthusiastically chanted religious slogans and bhajans while traditional drum beats resonated along the procession route.



The local communities from various neighborhoods extended a warm welcome to the Holy Chari. At the Bus Stand, devotees boarded buses and other vehicles to

DC Bandipora felicitates NEET, Class 10th meritorious performers of the district

Holds detailed interactive sessions with them on Career Counseling and Guidance

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 26: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Monday felicitated the students of the district who recently qualified NEET and displayed outstanding performance in the Class 10th Examination.

A special felicitation ceremony was held at the Mini Secretariat wherein the DC met all the students and interacted with them. He appreciated and congratulated them for the success and wished them luck for the future.

He also answered various questions of the students regarding career options and strategies for

qualifying various competitive exams. Dr Owais met 5 NEET qualifiers including Mir Muzammil Gaffar of Hajin who secured 593 points, Sofi Waris Naveed, who secured 588 points, Muneef Shaban who secured 584 points, Muntaha Iqbal who secured 565 points, Mariya Tariq who secured 556 points, Nusrat Manzoor who secured 502 in ST category and Shahid Zaffar Samson who secured 477 points in the ST category and qualified the competitive examination for selection in medical colleges. The DC also interacted with Class 10th toppers including Insha Faizay from Future Vision Public School Bandipora, Syed Samiya

Zehra from New Greenland Public School Sumbal, Atoofa from ACS Hajin, Asmat Basena Shams from GHS Ajas, Ikhlauq Ahmad Lone from HSS Ajas, Effat Abdullah from GHS Bandipora, Jehangir Ahmad Gojar Qureshi from HSS Aloosa, Gowhar Shareef from GHS Bagh and Imran Hussain from HSS Izmarig. The main highlight of the function was felicitation of Speciality-Abled students of Class X and Class XII Examination 2023. The DC personally met each of them and extended his appreciation to them. The students included Faizay from Future Vision Public School Bandipora, Syed Samiya

GHS Ajas, Rehana Rashid from HSS Aragam, Noor-ul-Huda from HSS Badugam, Mureed Rouf from GHS Bandipora, Feroza Rahim from HSS Badugam, Tabasum Amin from HSS Nadihal, Imtiyaz Ahmad Bajard from HSS Bandipora, and Saraj Ahmad Dar from HSS Sumbal. The DC, along with Chief Education Officer Bandipora, felicitated students and congratulated them and wished them for their bright future. Speaking on the occasion, the DC delivered a motivational talk. He said the students should set a specific goal early in life and prepare accordingly to achieve it. He stressed

proper career counseling to the students in schools.

He advised the students to continue with the hard work, channelize their potential, and use it in the right direction for a successful life ahead. The function was attended by JDP Imtiyaz Ahmad, CEO Mohammad Amin Beigh, DyCEO Mohammad Rafiq Parray, ZEOs, and Heads of Institutions and parents of the meritorious students. At the culmination of the event, DC presented a memento of appreciation to the School Education Department, Bandipora, for increasing the pass percentage of the District from 61% in 2022 to 78% in 2023.

Experiential learning shall be promoted in J&K schools in line with NEP 2020: Alok Kumar

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 26: To inculcate scientific temper among the students, Samagra Shiksha under the aegis of School Education Department, today launched a model lab- ASTRO PHYSICS namely AAGHAAZ, an indigenous integrated initiative for achieving the goals under quality as envisaged in NEP 2020.

Principal Secretary Education, Alok Kumar inaugurated the first of its kind ASTRO PHYSICS-AAGHAAZ Lab at Girls High School Gandhinagar and also hand first hand information regarding the complete project.

Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Deep Raj, District School Education Jammu, Ashok Sharma, Deputy Director, Bilal Rashid, Chief Education Officer Suraj Rathore, Field Advisor Jagdeep Padma, Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha, Ajeet Sharma, senior officers of Education Department along with technical experts were present at the occasion.

Also, sessions from academicians, Scientists and Subject mat-

INAUGURATES FIRST EVER ASTRO PHYSICS LAB AT GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL GANDHINAGAR



ter experts from different Higher Educational institutions and IIT Kanpur shall be arranged for capacity building of Teachers besides conducting various activities in this regard, he said. Principal Secretary, Alok Kumar, while interacting with the media, said that Scientific temper is an attitude of logical thinking and it explores the actual potential of a child. Brainstorming sessions for children and teachers is the need of hour, which shall lead to best experiential learning at all levels,

as envisaged in the NEP 2020 and shall further reduce the learning gaps, he maintained.

He reiterated that, 'Observation' plays a key role in making understanding of science and math easy for children. At an early age, subjects like math and science can be introduced to children in a friendly manner, a system which makes 'learning by observing' the surroundings' practically possible by teaching students about different celestial bodies visible to naked eyes (science), distance of these

bodies from earth (Math), he added.

Principal Secretary also maintained that development of scientific temper among the children is essential for overall development of the nation. He also said that, with these initiatives, UT of J&K may have its own Space Scientists like Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the first Space Scientist hailing from J&K in near future.

Alok Kumar also informed that, the intent of setting up of these kinds of labs, where children can visualize the Universe with naked eyes, shall be a boon for the Society which shall improve the School education system.

He further informed that, 10 Virtual reality Labs, 100 Science Centres shall be established in the current year in various schools, across the UT, which shall give boost to the Scientific attitude of students and teachers.

Principal Secretary also instructed the functionaries of Education Department, to immediately arrange trainings for 376

Science/Physics Teachers, so that the students may get benefit from these labs. Roster shall be prepared for visit of students of nearby Schools for which transportation cost shall be borne by the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, he asserted.

Alok Kumar also stressed for empowerment of students and children and use of digital initiatives should be inculcated at all levels. He asked for launch of campaign for Digital Literacy and Financial inclusion, so that students disseminate the message to the society and may cope up with the students of other States/UTs.

Deep Raj elaborated that, the Project AAGHAAZ has been taken up by the School Education Department in collaboration with IFACET, IIT Kanpur, under which 376 labs shall be established across J&K with financial implication @ Rs. 4.00 Lakh each. Two such Labs in each Education Zone shall be established.

10th round of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan begins in Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUNE 26: The tenth round of ongoing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (Farmers Orientation programme) under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the theme Atma Nirbhar Bharat, commenced today in 3 blocks of district Ramban.

Oriental campaign was held at three panchayat level Venues i.e. at Panchayat Ghar Chareel Banihal, Gham Ramban and Halla Ukhral. People turned up in large numbers and were keen to learn about the schemes of HADP and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes as well.

The participating farmers were sensitized about various schemes aimed at holistic development and promotion of Agriculture and allied sectors so that the farmers can get maximum profit and create employment opportunities from the Agriculture sector. The use of audio-visual aids to explain the schemes engaged and engrossed the farmers. Informative booklets in 03 (three) languages regarding the scheme of HADP were distributed among the participants. A Baseline survey/Skill gap study of the farmers was also being carried out simultaneously during the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan. Farmers were also aware about Daksh Kisan and Kisan Sathi Portal. Farmers were also informed about the mode of application under these schemes using the KISAN SATHI- the IT Dashboard of the schemes developed by APD. A simple scan of the QR codes on the pamphlets takes the farmer to the KISAN SATHI Portal where he can register easily and there is no need for visiting any office for applying under any of the schemes. The farmers were also apprised of DAKSH KISAN- a Learning Management System (LMS) for skill development of the farmers. A first of its kind in the country, DAKSH KISAN, has been developed by Agriculture Production Department, where 118 skilling courses as per the agro-climatic zones of the J&K UT are available for free to the farmers addition to this, three bare discussions and Question Answer sessions were held at every panchayat following each video screening session to address farmers' concerns.

Ramban Admin observes Int'l Day against Drug Abuse

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUNE 26: District Administration Ramban, in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Department today organized a series of programmes and activities across the district to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The main function was held in the District Administrative Complex Conference hall in which a large number of students, youth, civil society members, NGOs besides senior officers of District Administration participated.

Deputy Commissioner, Musarrat Islam presided over the function which was organized by the Social Welfare Department. Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kamal Zaidi; District Social Welfare Officer, Rahul Gupta, besides other senior officers were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner urged the youth to lead the mass campaign against drug abuse and to sensitise children, particularly of adolescent age against the scourge.

He also underlined the need to highlight the devastating impacts of drug abuse on the physical and mental state of those who succumb to peer group resistance.

He also laid emphasis upon the objective of organizing such programmes on a regular basis so that ill



effects of drugs, its consumption and trafficking inculcate deep into the society for creating enough deterrence. The Deputy Commissioner also flagged off Prachar Rath (Awareness Van) from District Administrative complex, which shall move across the district to sensitise the public of the drug abuse and its means and symptoms. The main features of today's programme were essay and painting competitions, educational skits, a Cultural programme, sports activities and speeches by students.

The presentation of skit by the girls of GCHSS Ramban was a show-stealer that enthralled the audience with its powerful message against drug abuse with focus on students and their vulnerability to fall victim to the adventure with drugs.

The students and guest speakers delivered valuable lectures which would help the society, especially youth, in preventing the spread of

drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the district.

While presenting the welcome address, the DSWO Ramban, Sh. Rahul Gupta briefed the participants about the importance of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Later, he also administered a solemn pledge to the participants for taking initiatives to eradicate means of drugs from society.

At the block levels, similar activities were carried out by the concerned SDMs and BDOs, in close coordination with the Social Welfare Department, Ramban.

Similar programmes were also held at Government Degree College Ramban and Ukhral to sensitise students against the plague of drug abuse. The program culminated with the e launch of Nasha Mukta Panchayat campaign as well as plantation drive by Deputy Commissioner, Ramban.

Int'l Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking observed at Pulwama

JI NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, JUNE 26: The District Administration Pulwama in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department today organised a function to celebrate International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking at Govt Degree College Pulwama.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom was the chief guest on the occasion.

Addressing the audience, DC informed them about the harmful effects of drug addiction and said that everyone in the society, especially students and teachers, have an important role in getting rid of this evil from society adding that there is an urgent need to combat the social stigma surrounding addiction. He said that the District Administration has started a campaign to reintegrate such victims in society. He also said that the Administration is committed to make the whole 190 panchayats of the district Drug Free Panchayats. He also urged students to carry out an effective campaign in their schools and colleges to educate students and their parents about the ill effects of drugs and illicit trafficking. On the occasion, the guest speakers enlightened the participants that the drug evil must be eradicated at any cost and public opinion must be created against it. They asked the students to participate in the campaign against drug abuse and help others by making them aware about various aspects of drug abuse prevalent in society Earlier, a rally was carried out by volunteer youth and students of different educational institutes that passed through Main Bazar Pulwama to Govt Degree College to aware people about the ill effects of drug addiction.

Principal GDC Pulwama, District Social Welfare Officer, Chief Education Officer, Religious scholars, lawyers, ICDS workers, members from Chemist and Druggist Association and NGOs and a large number of students were present in the event.

Bal Sabha organised at Wathoo, Shopian

Sabha aimed to address the diverse requirements of children: DDC Member, Raja Waheed

JI NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, JUNE 26: A Bal Sabha was today organised at Government Boys Middle School Wathoo in Keegam area of the district in presence of DDC Member, Raja Waheed. The DDC member, DPO Shopian, Nisar Ahmad Malik and other officers interacted with the children and listened to them. Speaking at the event, Raja said that Bal Sabha is the apex body of children's groups in a village. He said that Bal Panchayats are mobilized so that children are educated and their potentialities identified for their development. He said that the need of the hour is to make these children aware about their rights along with their proper fulfillment and special focus is laid on their health care and nutrition facilities.

The DDC Member said that District Administration is organising a range of activities aimed to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people besides informing them about their rights and duties.

He said that these children are being mobilized and their energies channeled by engaging them in productive activities. A variety cultural programme and Martial Art programme was also presented by the students on this occasion. Among others, Programme Officer, ICDS; BMO, Kellar; District Manager, NRLM; ZEO, ZPEO, Aaqub Bano, representatives from various departments, besides PRIs and prominent citizens were present at the event.

ADC B'pora reviews construction of Walk-way around Wular Lake

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 26: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, (DC) Bandipora, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora Umar Shafi Pandith, today chaired a meeting of officers to discuss various issues related to execution of works on Non Motorable Road/Walk-way around Wular Lake. The meeting conducted thorough discussions on various issues/ aspects of the ongoing project, including Land and Tree Compensation, Irrigation Issue, and disposal of extra excavated material. The concerned officers presented a detailed overview of the steps taken on all the issues. The ADC directed the concerned officers to ensure proper coordination for smooth execution and early completion of the prestigious project. He sensitised officials present in the meeting about the importance of the road towards the upliftment of the area. The locals present in the meeting assured the chair of their cooperation in ensuring smooth and hassle free execution of the project. The ADC directed the concerned officers to take the locals on board while executing the work and get their issues, if any, resolved under the table. The meeting was attended by DDC member Hajin-B, Dr. Mustafa Khan; ACR Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani; Ex. Engineer R&B, I&FC, Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora, Coordinator WUCMA, AD Rakhs and Farms, Tehsildar Ajas and other concerned officers, besides local inhabitants.

Excise department observes International Day against Drug Abuse, Illicit Trafficking

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 26: The Department of Excise and Taxation on Monday organised a day-long awareness programme to observe the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Dak Bunglow, Sumbal.

The event was attended by students, School activists, public representatives and other officers of the sub-division.

The event was chaired by In-Charge North Kashmir Excise and Taxation department Showkat Ahmad Bahar. Officials said the main aim to organise such events is to educate the general public about drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Int'l Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking observed at Kupwara

Rallies, marathons, pledges, awareness programmes held across district to mark the event

JI NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, JUNE 26: On the eve of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, School Education department, Social Welfare and Youth Services & Sports department under the aegis of District Administration Kupwara today organized different activities including rallies, marathons, pledges, awareness programmes across Kupwara district to generate mass awareness regarding the ill effects of drugs. On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Suidan, Cultural Education Wing, CEO Office

Kupwara in collaboration with Youth Services & Sports department organized a bicycle race from DC office complex Kupwara to GDC Kupwara.

The race was flagged-off by Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kupwara, Abdul Hamid Fani in presence of Principal BHSS Kupwara and officials of Y&S&S department. Speaking on the occasion, CEO highlighted the significance of the day and emphasized the need for awareness among the youth to combat the growing menace of drug and substance abuse.

After the culmination of the race, Mohammad Abass Chopan, Malik Adnan

and Malik Mursaleen of BHSS Kupwara secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. Later the students were felicitated with awards within the premises of BHSS Kupwara. At Handwara, the Social Welfare Department in collaboration with BHSS Handwara commemorated the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Boys Higher Secondary School Handwara.

On the occasion, several officers including Additional Deputy Commissioner, Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir, SHO Handwara, CPO Rajwar and Principals of the BHSS/GHSS highlighted the impor-

tance of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The speakers highlighted that Drug abuse remains a significant public health concern, affecting millions of people from all walks of life.

It not only poses serious health risks but also leads to social, economic, and legal consequences. The illicit drug trade exacerbates these issues, fueling organized crime, violence, and instability in communities around the globe. Meanwhile, a large number of students actively participated and pledged under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan to make their community, family, friends and themselves drug free.

Bandipora Admin observes Int'l Day against Drug Abuse, Illicit Trafficking

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 26: The Bandipora District Administration on Monday commemorated the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The event, organized by the District Drug De-Addiction Centre (DDAC) in collaboration with the District Administration Bandipora, Department of Social Welfare Bandipora, and Implementing Agency - JKSWM, aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad was the chief guest on the occasion



while Senior Superintendent of Police Lakshay Sharma; Additional District Development Commissioner, Ali Afsar Khan; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Umar Shafi Pandith; DPO, Mohammad Asraf Hakak; Joint Director Planning, Intimayz

Ahmad; District Social Welfare Officer and other senior officers of the district were present on the occasion. On the occasion, Dr. Owais Ahmed highlighted the need for collective efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking. He emphasized the role of

community engagement, education, and rehabilitation programs in eradicating this menace from society. SSP Bandipora, Lakshay Sharma also addressed the gathering, sharing insights from the law enforcement perspective and stressing the importance of creating a safe and drug-free environment for the younger generation.

Various experts from the medical and counselling fields contributed to the event by sharing their knowledge and experiences.

Dr. Umair Qayoom, Medical Officer, ATF Bandipora, Junaid, Counselor, ATF Bandipora, Adv. Mudaris Nazir, Counselor, DDAC Bandipora, and Dr. Showkat Ahmad, Clinical Psychologist at DEIC Bandipora, delivered insightful talks on the medical,

psychological, and physical impacts of drug abuse and the available support services for addicts seeking recovery.

The commemoration also featured cultural performances and a skit by students from IDPS Bandipora and Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Bandipora.

Student speakers from NM Higher Secondary School Bandipora delivered compelling speeches on the significance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

As part of the awareness campaign, DDAC Bandipora distributed posters and pamphlets to educate the public about the dangers of drug abuse and the resources available for those seeking help.

Stern test awaits India in SAFF Championships football match against Kuwait

BENGALURU, JUN 26: Already through to the semifinals, India will face their sternest test in the SAFF Championship football when they face formidable Kuwait in their last league match here on Tuesday.

With six points from two wins, the same as India, Kuwait has also entered the semifinals and Tuesday's match at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium will decide the Group A winner.

Pakistan and Nepal face each other in the other match of the day, which has been rendered inconsequential as both the sides are already out of contention for the semifinals after losing their two earlier matches. India had brushed aside Pakistan 4-0 but had to work hard in their 2-0 win over Nepal. Their defence looks in fine fettle having managed a clean sheet for a record eight successive matches.

However, the midfield and frontline will have to perform a notch higher against a strong side like



Kuwait.

India had struggled for more than an hour to penetrate Nepal defence, and Kuwait could pose even taller hurdles with a much more organised and experienced defence. India's primary weapon for finding goals still remains the talismanic Sunil Chhetri, who struck a hat-trick against Pakistan and then opened the scoring against Nepal.

It was just an understatement when Sahal Abdul Samad said other players, including himself, need to find the target more often than not to take the burden off Chhetri.

It is imperative for India to find multiple goal-scorers

ing 3-1 and 4-0 victories over Nepal and Pakistan respectively.

They would want to continue in the same vein against India, despite taking time to acclimatise with the conditions here. It will also put them in a good frame of mind ahead of the semifinals.

"We sometimes play well, but our ball possession can get better. Before coming here, we played difficult matches with African teams," said Kuwait head coach Rui Bento.

"It is very difficult to play in this weather, because the humidity is very high. But I have to congratulate our players for the previous two matches."

This is the first time India are facing Kuwait since an international friendly in November 2010. The two teams have undergone layers of transformation in the interim, and they would not want to settle for anything less than a win. Tuesday's matches: Pakistan vs Nepal, 3.30 PM; India vs Kuwait, 7.30 PM.

"The coach asked us to change that, and we need to start scoring. Not just Sunil (Chhetri) bhai."

On the other hand, Kuwait, who enjoy a 2-1 head-to-head record against India, have so far dished out a very disciplined game in the tournament. They were authoritative while script-

behind Sarfaraz getting ignored time and again is not just cricketing one. There are multiple reasons for which he hasn't been considered," a BCCI official privy to selection developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Are the selectors fools to not consider a player who has scored 900 plus runs in successive seasons? One of the reasons is his fitness which isn't exactly of international standard."

"He has to work hard, maybe shed weight and comeback leaner and fitter as it's not just batting fitness that is sole criteria for selection," the source added. However, a source close to Sarfaraz said that he has recently scored 16.5 in YoYo test during his stint at NCA.

According to the BCCI official, fitness is not the only reason for his non-selection. "His conduct on and off the

field hasn't exactly been top notch. Certain things said, certain gestures made and some incidents have been taken note of.

A bit more disciplined approach would only do him a world of good. Hopefully, Sarfaraz along with his father and coach Naushad Khan will work on those aspects," the senior official added.

Reportedly, Sarfaraz's celebrations after his hundred against Delhi earlier this year during a Ranji game, didn't go down well.

Before that, during the 2022 Ranji Trophy final, his conduct during a break had irked MP coach and Mumbai stalwart Chandrakant Pandit.

However, a source close to Sarfaraz said, "Chandu sir treats him like a son and he has hugged my son. He has known him as a kid and loves him like anything."

Yuzvendra Chahal attends Global Chess League, calls Chess his 'first love'

NEW DELHI, JUN 26: India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who knows a thing or two about chess, says playing the sport at a competitive level has helped him to stay patient while dealing with challenges in his cricket career. Chahal, who has represented India in the World Youth Chess Championship, has joined SG Alpine Warriors as their ambassador in the ongoing Global Chess League.

"My first jerseys came from playing chess, and the sport has taught me patience over the years. And that helps me in my cricket because sometimes you may bowl well, but not get a wicket, and it is then that patience is really needed," Chahal said in a press release on Monday.

A well-known chess aficionado, Chahal explained



that the sport has similarities with cricket because it is essential to plan your way through the game in both. "Chess and cricket are similar, but in cricket, you can show your aggression, but in chess, you can't. It is all about how calm you are in chess."

"For example, if I am bowling, I can say some-

thing to the batter, but in chess, you must stay calm and focused. And it will eventually help you in your life as well," the Indian cricketer said on the sidelines of the Global Chess League here.

The 32-year-old Chahal, who said he didn't expect to be playing for the Indian cricket team when he

stepped away from chess, noted that the Global Chess League is a shot in the arm for the sport. "In India, we always follow cricket, but the Global Chess League is the IPL of chess. This is the first edition of this tournament, so a comparison with the IPL isn't fair."

But it is a great initiative as people will learn more about chess and the league. "And the new format of mixed teams is a fantastic thing too. I am waiting for about 10-15 years, and then you will see new players coming through, and people will talk about the Global Chess League. I will be very happy when it comes to that stage."

The likes of world champions Magnus Carlsen and Viswanathan Anand are among those who have praised the tournament.

Clarke blasts Ollie Robinson's approach in the Birmingham Test

LONDON, JUN 26: The Ashes kicked off spectacularly, providing exhilarating entertainment as expected, as Australia won the closely fought 1st Test match by 2 wickets on Day 5. Adding to the drama was Ollie Robinson's 'unsavoury' send-off of Usman Khawaja in the first innings, which did not go down well with the cricketing fraternity, especially

former Australian players.

While Matthew Hayden labelled Robinson's forgettable cricketing, his captain during his playing years, Ricky Ponting, got into a war of words after the under-fire England seamer said, "We've all seen Ricky Ponting, (and) other Aussies do the same to us".

Now, another former Australian cricketer and captain stepped in to give

his two cents on the situation.

Lambasting Robinson during a podcast, Michael Clarke said, "He (Robinson) needs to shush. If England were fully fit, you wouldn't even get a game, Ollie."

I actually don't know what he is doing. If James Anderson is saying all this, he's got the street cred."

This dude has been around for five minutes."

Amid all the criticism, Robinson managed to find support from his teammates, with veteran Stuart Broad echoing similar sentiments.

While backing Robinson, Broad said, "Ricky Ponting had a bit of a nibble because Robbo brought his name into things during a press conference, but not because Ricky was a huge sledger."

India call-up: Sarfaraz Khan might have to work on his fitness

NEW DELHI : Sarfaraz Khan's non-inclusion in the Indian team for the West Indies tour was criticised by none other than Sunil Gavaskar, but BCCI sources claimed that his below-par 'fitness level' as well as alleged 'off-field conduct' has influenced the decision.

The Mumbai batter scored 2566 runs in the last three Ranji seasons. He scored 928 runs in the 2019/20 season, 982 in the 2022-23 and 656 in the 2022-23 season.

The 25-year-old has a very impressive career average of 79.65 after 37 red ball games, so it was very surprising that the two-time former India U-19 World Cup player had to make way for someone like Ruturaj Gaikwad, whose career average is 42-plus.

"The angry reactions are understandable but I can tell you with some degree of certainty that the reason

behind Sarfaraz getting ignored time and again is not just cricketing one. There are multiple reasons for which he hasn't been considered," a BCCI official privy to selection developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Are the selectors fools to not consider a player who has scored 900 plus runs in successive seasons? One of the reasons is his fitness which isn't exactly of international standard."

"He has to work hard, maybe shed weight and comeback leaner and fitter as it's not just batting fitness that is sole criteria for selection," the source added. However, a source close to Sarfaraz said that he has recently scored 16.5 in YoYo test during his stint at NCA.

According to the BCCI official, fitness is not the only reason for his non-selection. "His conduct on and off the

field hasn't exactly been top notch. Certain things said, certain gestures made and some incidents have been taken note of.

A bit more disciplined approach would only do him a world of good. Hopefully, Sarfaraz along with his father and coach Naushad Khan will work on those aspects," the senior official added.

Reportedly, Sarfaraz's celebrations after his hundred against Delhi earlier this year during a Ranji game, didn't go down well.

Before that, during the 2022 Ranji Trophy final, his conduct during a break had irked MP coach and Mumbai stalwart Chandrakant Pandit.

However, a source close to Sarfaraz said, "Chandu sir treats him like a son and he has hugged my son. He has known him as a kid and loves him like anything."

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI
MECH. DIVISION NORTH JAMMU

e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 e-NIT No. 100 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/ tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Replacement / repair of components of 50,000 GPH x 122 mtrs. Head x 200 HP HC pump set along with allied works at CPS R-22.	200/-	02% of the Quoted amount	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing : 24-06-2023 02.00 pm.

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 24-06-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 24-06-2023 (02.00 pm) to 30-06-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 01-07-2023 (02.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

JSM/DNJ/1573-75
Dated: 23-06-2023
SD/
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI MECH. DIVISION NORTH
JAMMU

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION, JAMMU

E-TENDERING

Tender Notice: e-NIT No. 12 of 2023-24 dated: 22.06.2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works: -

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lac)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Receiving/Opening Authority
1	Providing wall panelling in the office of the PCCF at FRMC ICT Lab Narwal, Jammu	6.71	Rs 20,130	"C & D" Class	Rs. 600/-	90 days	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Position of funds: Sanctioned
Position of AA/TS: In Process

Publishing Date	22.06.2023
Download Start Date	22.06.2023
Bid Submission Start Date	22.06.2023
Bid submission End Date	03.07.2023
Date of opening of Technical Bid	04.07.2023 (in the Office of Conservator of Forests, East Circle, Forest Complex, Dogra Hall Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	04.07.2023 (in the Office of Conservator of Forests, East Circle, Forest Complex, Dogra Hall Jammu).

- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Departmental Website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>. The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 04.07.2023 at 03.00 PM in the office of (Conservator of Forests, East Circle, Forest Complex, Dogra Hall Jammu). In case of public holiday on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No. UFD/J/T/185-89
Dated: 22-06.2023.
DIP/J-3952/23
SD/
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION,
JAMMU

JMC ropes in activists to work of cause of animals

'CORPORATION TO SOON HAVE MODERN VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC FACILITIES'

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 26: Jammu Municipal Corporation has roped in animal activists, lovers and volunteers to work for the welfare of stray animals. MVO, Dr. Sushil Kumar Sharma convened a meeting with the volunteers and held threadbare discussions on various issues of animal welfare and protection rights of animals. MVO, JMC briefed about the various animal welfare activities being carried out by the JMC. He informed that till date more than 33,000 street dogs have been ster-



ilized, vaccinated within JMC limits while 3190 different stray animals were rescued and treated at MACC, Roop Nagar during the year 2022-2023. He sought suggestions and coordination from the animal activists for the effective implementation of Animal Birth Control Programme to stabilise the dog population in Jammu city. To implement the ABC programme effectively and timely rescue of sick/injured stray animals, the meeting decided to constitute different levels of coordination committees involving animal activists and volun-

teers and resident welfare associations to monitor and supervise animal welfare activities at ground level. All these committees will also work to sensitize, inform and educate the community about the effectiveness of the ABC programme in helping to reduce the dog population growth as well as in eradicating rabies in Jammu city. MVO, JMC further disclosed that JMC will soon have the facility of ultrasound, X-ray and blood analyzer for providing better health care diagnostic to the ailing stray animals admitted in

MACC, Roop Nagar. Also JMC is going to purchase more hydraulic cattle catcher and dog catcher vehicles so that every rescue call can be attended in a time bound manner. In the meeting various suggestions have also been put forth by the participants for the cause of animal welfare and MVO, JMC assure that JMC will consider them in a phase manner. All the animal activists/lovers/volunteers present in the meeting took pains to work in close coordination with JMC so that sterilization/vaccination of all the street dog population present in Jammu city could be ensured in a time specific period.

Delegation of District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Srinagar calls on Lt Governor Sinha



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 26: A delegation of District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC), Srinagar called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan today. The members of the delegation including Gurmeet Singh Bali, Jaspal Singh, Ranjit Singh, Jasbir Singh Wazir and Jasbir Singh Oberoi apprised the Lt Governor on the preparations made by the DGPC to celebrate the Parkash Parub of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji at Gurudwara Chattipatshahi. The delegation also discussed various other issues of the members of Sikh Community including employment opportunities for youth and protection and conservation of Sikh heritage. The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegation of all the support. He asked the delegation to motivate and encourage young generation to avail the benefits of the self-employment initiatives under Mission Youth and other schemes of the Government. The government is committed to facilitate the spirit of enterprise among the youth and we have taken many steps to create supportive infrastructure for skill development, financial support etc to meet the aspirations of young generation," the Lt Governor said.

SWD Jammu observes Int'l Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking

DC CALLS ON STAKEHOLDERS TO FIGHT THE MENACE RELIGIOUSLY



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 26: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed today by the office of the District Social Welfare Officer, Jammu in collaboration with District Administration Jammu at Teachers Bhawan, Gandhi Nagar. The programme was organized with an aim to make people aware of the harmful effects of drugs and to determine a society free of drug abuse especially among youth. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Arvi Lavasa appealed the participants to deliver

Hon'ble LG, Sh. Manoj Sinha. She further said that efforts of the Social Welfare Department is to reach out to various sections of society by conducting awareness events, campaigns which are all aimed towards creating drugs and substance abuse to create a drug free society, a drug free Jammu and a drug free Nation. Earlier, the event was started with the signature campaign and subsequently Swasth Rath, the Bike rally and Walkathon were flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner Jammu in the presence of Director General, Social Welfare Department Jammu, Vivek Sharma; Mission Director, Mission Shakti/Mission Vatsalya J&K, Harvinder Kour; ADC, Law & Order Jammu, Harvinder Singh and other Officers and Officials of District Administration and Social Welfare Department. During the programme, various activities were organized to inform the participants regarding the harmful effects of drugs. A skit was also presented by students of MAM College, Jammu. The MCC and NSS Cadets of MAM College, Science College, Women College Paradi and Biker Association were also present in the event. Moreover, to celebrate with the message to common masses about the hazards of drug abuse. She encouraged the participants to be a part of the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner also informed the participants that there is a dire need to address reasons which provoke youth towards drugs. She urged the participants to work religiously to eradicate this evil from the society. District Social Welfare Officer, Jammu, Manta Rajput also briefed the participants about the launch of Nasha Mukh Panchayat Abhiyaan in all the panchayats of Jammu district through the Rural Development Department on the direction of

NHM releases ranking of Public Health facilities on JK e Sahaj for May 2023

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 26: National Health Mission J&K today released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) for the month of May 2023. In first phase of implementation, about 578 facilities have been covered under this initiative and will be further extended to other facilities in phased manner. In the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Chest Disease Hospital Jammu followed by GMC Udhampur, SMGS Hospital, Jammu; AH GMC Rajouri, and Government Medical college, Jammu. The bottom five in this category included Super Speciality, Srinagar, GMC Handwara, Children Hospital Bemina, Srinagar, Kashmir Nursing Home, Srinagar and Jammu, Government Dental College. In the category of District Hospitals, first rank has been secured by DH Samba followed by DH Reasi, DH Shopian, Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu and DH Bandipora. The bottom five in this category included DH Kulgam, MCCH Anantnag, DH Ramban, DH Budgam and DH Ganderbal. In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), CHC Doora got the first rank followed by CHC Marh, CHC Shangus, CHC Gool and CHC Ganthal. The bottom five in this category included CHC Nowshera, CHC Taryath, CHC Rohama CHC Kangan and CHC Khanshab. In the category of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and UPHCs, first rank has been clinched by PHC Sallar followed by PHC Mattan PHC Achabal, PHC Aishmuqam and PHC Safapora.

Trustee, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd call on Lt Governor



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 26: Dr C K Gariyali, Trustee, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd. called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan today. Dr Gariyali accompanied by Sh Jhohan Alex, Executive Director, Sh Sunny Rampal, Vice President of the Bank and Sh M K Bhat - Founder Help line humanity held discussion with the Lt Governor on various matters, which includes starting a branch of the bank in Jammu, opening school and vocational courses, assistance in cleanliness of Dal Lake as a pilot project and promotion of local folk art.

Handicrafts, Handloom Directorate, NIFT unveil packaging prototypes for Jammu Handicrafts

INITIATIVE WILL ENHANCE SALES, EARNINGS OF ARTISANS, WEAVERS: ROHIT KANSAL

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 26: Union Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Director General NIFT, Rohit Kansal, and Secretary in Industry & Commerce Department, Smita Sethi today attended unveiling ceremony of packaging prototypes and craft document for Handicrafts and Handloom products of Jammu region at JLN Udyog Bhawan Jammu. The event was organized under the guidance of

Vikramjeet Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce. Dr Javid Ahmed Wani, Director National Institute of Fashion Technology, Srinagar, apprised the artisans and weavers from Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts of the packaging project through a detailed comprehensive presentation. Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu, Dr. Vikas Gupta, MD JKTIPO Khalid Jahangir and other



officers of the Industries and Commerce department. Another important aspect of the event was unveiling of the craft document exhibiting the crafts of Jammu division by the dignitaries. The event was aimed to create a strategic and attractive

packaging design solution for branding Handicraft and Handloom items of Jammu division viz Basohli Painting, Basohli Pashmina, Phulkari Products, Calico Printing and Lathe cum Lacquer. The project envisions evolving a roadmap to create unique and sustainable packaging to add value to the artefacts of the Jammu cottage industry, to give a unique packaging presentation to create a benchmark having international standards and to determine the unique selling point of chosen Jammu Handicrafts and Handloom goods.

Cultural Unit DIPR Jammu organises symposium in Bhadrawah School



JJ NEWS SERVICE

BHADERWAH, JUNE 26: A symposium on Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan was today organised by Cultural Unit of Department of Information and Public Relations Jammu here in Bhadrawah Valley Public School. As many as 10 students participated in the event. Mohammad Tabreeq bagged first position, while Zia Tabassum and Arisha Saleem secured second and third positions, respectively. All the winners and participants were felicitated with prizes and certificates. The competition was judged by Dazy Akhter, Sonika and Nazma Zahoor. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest School Principal Tehsina Begum shared her views on the topic and appreciated the Cultural Unit of Department of Information and Public Relations for organizing such a meaningful program to aware the future of the nation. Among other staff members of the school, officials of the Information Department and a large number of audience witnessed the program. Program was coordinated by Rajid Manzoor, Cultural Assistant of Cultural Unit Jammu.

Commissioner Secretary SWD visits Kulgam; Chairs International Day celebration against Drug abuse, illicit trafficking

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, JUNE 26: Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sheetal Nanda, today visited Kulgam where she presided over a mega function organized by District Social Welfare Department Kulgam and district administration to observe International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. While addressing at the event, Commissioner Secretary highlighted the importance of celebrating the day. She added that the day is being observed to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving the goal of drug free society. She also highlighted the importance of parental supervision to keep their child away



from drugs. She also urged upon the people to utilize the services of Toll free help-line including drug de-addiction help-line 14446 and Tel Manas 14416. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam stressed upon undertaking community intervention measures in the mitigation of substance abuse disasters. Showing his concern over drug menace, he advocated for community support to deal with this menace. He highlighted the measures and initiatives being taken up to curb and eliminate drug menace in Kulgam. He added that illicit poppy was destroyed over about 1000 kanal of land during this season. Experts and resource persons

also shared their valuable suggestions and experiences during this awareness session. Moreover, to celebrate the day, a rally was organized which was flagged off by Commissioner Secretary from Mini-Secretariat to raise awareness about the drug abuse which was participated by students from various schools. Painting competition and essay writing competitions were also organised by the Social Welfare Department in collaboration with Education Department on the theme. In a felicitation ceremony, trophies and medals were distributed among the winners and participants of essay and painting competitions. A book titled Wabal-e- Mansheyat was also released by the Commissioner Secretary in presence of Deputy

Commissioner and Director Social Welfare, Mohammad Shafeeq Chak. Later, a pledge taking ceremony was also held where Commissioner Secretary administered a pledge to the participants on 'Say no to drugs'. The programme was also attended by ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rather, ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACR, ACD, ACP, DSWO, CEO, CMO and other officers besides a large number of students, staff members, PRIs and Locals. Earlier, Commissioner Secretary visited Drug De-addiction Centre Kulgam and took a detailed review of its functioning. DSWO briefed her about the facilities available in the center. Later, Commissioner Secretary also interacted with the patients and attendants.

Excise and Taxation department organises Kabaddi tournament

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 26: Department of Excise and Taxation, Udhampur-Reasi Range, today organized a Kabaddi Tournament in District Udhampur to observe International day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Before starting the tournament, all the participants and officials of Excise department and District Youth Services and Sports took a pledge to promote Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.