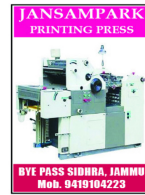




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Two siblings among 7 killed in road accidents in Doda, Ramban



JNEWS SERVICE DODA, RAMBAN, JUN 27

Two siblings among seven people were killed while 12 people were injured in twin road accidents in Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu on Tuesday, officials said. Officials told news agency, that two vehicles skidded off the road and plunged into deep gorges at Guidanda in Doda and Rampara in Ramban.

They said that seven people lost lives and 12 sustained injuries in the accidents. They said an Alto car (JK02N-1856) skidded off the road and fell into a 200-feet deep gorge along Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Rampari Chamalvas in Ramban. "One person died on the spot while two more persons were seriously injured and among

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MHA holds review meeting for Amarnath Yatra; Drones, Dogs, Aerial survey to be undertaken

JNEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUN 27

The Union home ministry on Tuesday undertook a comprehensive security review of the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir and laid stress on inter-agency coordination and the use of drones, dogs and aerial-survey teams to counter any terror act and quickly respond to disasters, official sources said.

The meeting, held in the North Block, was chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, with senior officers from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), such as the CRPF, BSF and ITBP, and those from the intelligence departments, the Army, the Jammu and Kashmir Police and administration and the Amarnath shrine board in attendance, the sources said.

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Mansukh Mandaviya reviews healthcare facilities for Amarnath Yatra

JNEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUN 27

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya reviewed health services and facilities for Amarnath Yatra devotees with senior health ministry and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) officials on June 27. The minister was briefed on medical care and facilities for the Yatra. He directed officials to support the Jammu and Kashmir administration to ensure pilgrims receive necessary health services for the challenging journey. "Will ensure the devotees are provided the best health services and medical facilities during the Yatra," the minister stated. Amarnath Yatra presents unique geoclimatic challenges, particularly

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LG reviews traffic management, comprehensive mobility plan for Amarnath Yatra

JNEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUN 27

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired a high level meeting with the senior officials of Police and Civil Administrations to review traffic management and comprehensive mobility plan during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. The Lt Governor directed for Zone-wise traffic planning on the National Highway-44 in close coordination with concerned departments, District Administrations, SSPs and Traffic Police to ensure smooth traffic, parking, and pedestrian operations. Time slots for the movement of convoys, live-



stock, vehicles carrying essential items and horticulture produce should be notified. Strict enforcement of Traffic Advisories, Schedules and cutoff timings must be ensured, the Lt Governor directed the officials. Traffic Police, NHAI, BRO and other agencies should also deploy more men and machinery to respond to real-time event and to mitigate the effects of a breakdown, he added.

The Lt Governor instructed the officials of the Traffic Police to utilize Integrated Command and Control Centres for effective traffic, transit and travel demand management. He directed the Divisional Commissioners and ADGPs to overall supervise the traffic management in their respective divisions. The meeting also discussed utilization

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Newly recruited Al-Badr militant killed in Kulgam encounter

JNEWS SERVICE KULGAM, JUN 27

A newly recruited militant of Al-Badr militant outfit was killed in an encounter at Hawoora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday, an official said. The official told news agency, that a local militant who was recruited in militant group of Al-Badr outfit has been killed in the encounter.



They said that police personnel was also injured in the initial exchange of firing. "The condition of

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Nine foreign militants killed in Killed along LoC this month

JNEWS SERVICE KUPWARA, JUN 27

Nine foreign militants have been killed along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's kupwara district alone in the ensuing month leading to the recovery of huge quantities of ammunition, war-like stores. Suspected 55 narcotics packets were also recovered from the killed infiltrators in two different operations of

Police and Army, security officials said Tuesday. Both the joint operations are this year's major infiltration bids which were foiled in joint operations. Kupwara district shares its border with neighbouring Pakistan. Over the last 2 to 3 years the hasn't seen any encounters. Peace has prevailed in the district with youth engaging in mainstream activities and taking up different

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Man found hanging from pole in Rajouri, relatives block Highway

JNEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUN 27

The body of a 30-year-old man was found hanging from a pole in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Monday, sparking a protest by his family demanding a probe in the case, officials said. Parveen Kumar, a sales-

man living on rent along with his wife and a child, was found dead at Bareri village in Nowshera area in the early hours of the day, the officials said. Kumar is a native of Jammu's Khorh. His relatives first staged a protest outside Nowshera police station and later blocked the

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"Can a country be run on two laws?..." PM Modi's big statement on uniform civil code

AGENCIES MADHYA PRADESH, JUN 27

Battling for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the country cannot be run with "two laws" when the Constitution of India talks about equality for all. He asked how different rules could apply to different family members. "Will a family function



if there are two different sets of rules for people? Then how will a country run? Our Constitution too guarantees equal rights to all people," PM Modi said

in Bhopal today while addressing party workers under the BJP's "Mera Booth Sabse Majboot" campaign. The Prime Minister further said that people are being instigated in the name of the Uniform Civil Code. He said that appeasement politics had left many people behind, including the Pasmanda Muslims.

"Pasmanda Muslims have become a victim of politics. Some people are using the politics of appeasement to break the country. The BJP cadre should go and explain this to the Muslims and educate them so that they do not fall victim to such policies" PM Modi said. "If they were really supportive of Muslims the Muslim brothers

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Eid-ul-Adha holidays on June 29-30: Govt

JNEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUN 27

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday modified its previous order and said that the holiday of Eid-ul-Adha will now be observed on June 29-30 (Thursday and Friday). According to an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency, the government modified its earlier order and said that the

holidays of Eid-ul-Adha will be on June 29 and June 30 instead of June 28 & June 29. "In partial modification of Government Order No. 1596-JK (GAD) of 2022 dated 30.12.2022 and Government Order No. 1597-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 30.12.2022, it is hereby ordered that the holiday on account of "Eid-ul-Azha" shall now be observed on 29th

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LG Manoj Sinha pays obeisance at the holy Hazratbal Shrine



JNEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUNE 27

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at the holy Hazratbal Shrine, today. He was accompanied by Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board, Sh Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and senior administrative officials. During his visit to the holy Shrine, the Lt Governor conducted on-site inspection of arrangements being put in place to facilitate the devotees for Eid-ul-Adha festival. The Lt Governor said the festival of Eid-ul-Adha is an occasion for happiness and to further strengthen the bond of brotherhood, peace, compassion, unity and harmo-

ny in the society. The traditions of communal harmony, tolerance, respect for all religions known to mankind and celebration of all festivals together have always been the bedrock of our civilisation. It is the duty of the administration to make all arrangements for every pious occasion, he added. "Rishi, Sufi saints have strengthened unity in diversity and harmonious co-existence, which is the defining feature of our great nation and it inspires everyone to ensure peace, progress and prosperity for all," the Lt Governor said. Today, J&K is at par with developed states/UTs on several parameters of development.

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Dr Jitendra Singh announces DoPT approval for 1,592 mass promotions

JNEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Ministry of Personnel has approved the mass promotion of 1,592 officials working in the capacity of Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) to the post of Section Officers on adhoc basis with immediate effect. The regularisation of these adhoc promotions will also take place soon in due course. Announcing this here today, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances,



Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the promotion orders will be issued soon by the respective Cadre Controlling authorities. Sources said, the Promotions had been expedited at the directions of the Minister Incharge DoPT, Dr Jitendra Singh

who personally reviewed the entire process. "Government has been granting mass promotions to employees in order to motivate them and overcome the problem of long stagnation. Another 2,000 promotions in ASO and other Grades are in process and hopefully

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MeT predicts intermittent Rains, mostly during evening in Jammu and Kashmir

JNEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUNE 27

Weather department here on Tuesday forecast intermittent light to moderate rain towards afternoon and evening in Jammu and Kashmir. A meteorological department official said that from June 28- July 1, weather is expected to be partly cloudy. "Rain likely in the evening," he said. He said that water level in rivers and streams and nallas are also expected to rise. "All are requested to remain cautious/alert during the active phase of monsoon in J&K," he

added. In last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, he said, Srinagar recorded rainfall of 0.6mm, Qazigund 4.2 mm, Pahalgam 1.4 mm, Kupwara 0.0 mm, Koker-nag 12.4 mm, Gulmarg 0.0 mm, Jammu 7.9 mm, Banihal 5.4 mm, Batote 8.8 mm, Katra 4.8 mm, Bhaderwah 16.6 mm and Kathua 25.4 mm. Regarding the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 19.4°C against 17.6°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.1°C for the summer capital. Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 17.0°C against 16.6°C on the pre-

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vious night and it was above normal by 1.3°C for the gateway town of Kashmir. Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 13.0°C against 13.8°C on the previous night and it was 2.3°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 17.5°C against 15.4°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.1°C for the north Kashmir area. Koker-nag recorded a low of 16.0°C against 16.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C above

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Modi govt always kept 'India first' in 9 yrs, set challenging targets to achieve before deadlines: Tejasvi Surya



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: As India marks nine years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, 'Seva, Sushan and Garib Kalyan' has been the cornerstone of the BJP government which has led to upliftment of crores of people across India. This was stated by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) national president and MP Tejasvi Surya who is on two day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

During his visit, a huge rally was organized by the state unit of Yuva Morcha. Addressing the media, Tejasvi Surya said that the Modi government has completed nine years at the Center and they have been dedicated to bring about development which is inclusive, progressive and sustainable.

"The focus has not been just to create employment opportunities for youth but also to build entrepreneurship, transforming the youth from job seekers to job creators. New AAIMS have been built to strengthen the health sector, developmental projects have been taken up to improve the lives of the people", he said.

Unlike earlier when people were risk averse and

opled for salaried jobs, the youth, and is ready to go because of the conducive policy environment. As India enters Amrit Kaal, its demographic dividend is uniquely poised to usher in an era of rapid social, economic, and technological innovation and advancement.

The government in the last nine years has been fully committed to supporting the youth in all its goals and endeavours. During a programme in Jammu, BJP leaders talked about the way PM Modi has brought the politics of development 'Vikasvaad' into the mainstream, making it the focal point around which political discourse and policy action now revolves.

"Since assuming office in 2014, PM Modi has remained firm in his resolve of keeping 'India first' in every policy formulation and action. This resolve is evident in the government's handling of both external and internal security, economic management, empowerment schemes for marginalised groups, efforts at cultural conservation", said BJP UT president Ravinder Raina. State President BJYM Jammu Kashmir Arun Prabhat said that Prime Minister Modi's government has always

believed in setting challenging targets and achieving them before the set deadline. "Since assuming office as the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has embarked on a transformative journey, steering the nation toward a new era of progress and vision. Through his visionary leadership, dynamic policies, and tireless efforts, PM Modi has propelled India to unprecedented heights across various sectors, igniting hope and transforming the lives of millions of Indians", he said. The government's efforts to extend welfare provisioning and poverty alleviation have received recognition from global institutions.

Prabhat in his address, expressed his admiration for the Modi Government's tireless efforts in promoting inclusive development and progress. He reiterated that the youth in Jammu and Kashmir have emerged as key beneficiaries of the government's pro-people policies.

Earlier, the Member of Parliament Tejasvi Surya was accorded a warm welcome in the City of Temples as a grand bike rally commenced from Jammu Airport Satwari and concluded at the BJP Office in Trikuta Nagar. Arun Prabhat, President BJYM,

received the National President at Jammu Airport and accompanied him throughout the rally up to the Party Headquarters. The bike rally, comprising fervent party members and supporters, showcased their unwavering support for the National President.

The enthusiastic bike rally served as a vibrant display of support and admiration for MP Tejasvi Surya. It provided a platform for supporters and well-wishers to join in solidarity, expressing their excitement and enthusiasm for his visit to Jammu.

Furthermore, as part of the Abhiyan, BJYM National President Tejasvi Surya felicitated young achievers and businessmen during an Intellectual Meet held at the Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium in the University of Jammu.

The Intellectual Meet served as a platform to recognize and honor young individuals who have achieved remarkable success in various fields, thereby inspiring others with their accomplishments. MP Tejasvi Surya's presence and encouragement further motivated the young achievers to strive for excellence and contribute to the nation's progress.

During the Intellectual Meet, MP Tejasvi Surya emphasized the crucial role played by the youth in shaping the future of the country. He lauded their dedication, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit, highlighting their potential to drive India towards greater heights. Others who spoke on the occasion are National Media Head BJYM Amandeep Singh, Prabhari BJYM Munish Sharma, Sch. Prabhari Ajay Vaid & others.

Resolution Passed: Special Privileges for Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, other gallantry award recipients in JMC

JAMMU, JUNE 27: The resolution for the General House Meeting proposal was moved regarding providing the special privilege under JMC like basic amenities to Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and other Gallantry Award Recipients on priority. The proposal moved by the Baldev Singh Billawaria Deputy Mayor, Jammu which was passed in the General House on 27/06/2023 with full majority in the general house. Baldev Singh Billawaria Deputy Mayor, Jammu said that the General House of JMC has passed a resolution to provide special privileges to Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and other Gallantry Award Recipients under the jurisdiction of JMC. It is a moment of pride for all of us to recognize the invaluable contribution of these eminent personalities towards the nation. The resolution aims to provide basic amenities to the above-mentioned award recipients on priority, such as water supply, sanitation, and electricity. It is a small



but significant measure to honor these national heroes who have brought laurels to the country and inspired generations. Both ruling and opposition members welcome a resolution moved by Baldev Singh Billawaria, the Deputy Mayor, it suggests a significant level of support and consensus across political factions.

Baldev Singh Billawaria Deputy Mayor, Jammu said that the JMC has always been committed to serving the citizens of Jammu with the utmost dedication, and

we believe that this resolution will further strengthen our resolve to provide a better quality of life to all. We are confident that this initiative will go a long way in reinforcing the trust and confidence of our citizens in the JMC.

Baldev Singh Billawaria Deputy Mayor, Jammu said that we would like to thank all the members of the General House of JMC for their unanimous support and approval of this resolution. We look forward to working with all stakeholders to ensure its successful implementation.

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Shiv Sena rue over deplorable condition of ancient Hindu Temples in Kashmir



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has expressed deep concern over the distressing condition of the ancient Mameshwar and Ganeshbal Temples, situated near the main base camp of the grand Shri Amarnath Yatra in Pahalgam, which is set to commence from July 1st.

The party has urged the government to halt hollow claims and alleged Hindutva agendas, and to immediately initiate the

reconstruction of these revered sites associated with Hindu worship.

Addressing a press conference at the central office in Jammu, Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena J&K, said that the condition of the ancient and famous Hindu temples associated with the grand annual pilgrimage is pathetic condition. Sahni revealed that the Shri Ganesh Temple in Ganeshbal has been reduced to just a board and a few sacred red stones. According to beliefs, these Holy stones are adorned

with the blood of Lord Ganesh. As per mythological stories, Goddess Parvati took a bath in the courtyard fountain of the ancient Mameshwar Temple and requested Lord Ganesh to guard the entrance. However, Lord Shiva, in a fit of anger, obstructed Ganesh's entry, separating his head from his body. Later, at the request of Parvati, Lord Shiva revived Ganesh.

According to legends, these sacred stones bear the marks of Lord Ganesh's blood. A temple dedicated

to Lord Ganesh used to exist there, which was severely damaged during the devastating floods in 2014, and since then, it has not been renovated.

For Hindus residing in Kashmir and tourists alike, this temple holds immense significance as a symbol of faith. Along with this, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is being openly flouted and the condition of the Shri Amarnath travel route / tourist places of Jammu division has also remained pathetic.

Sahni said and called on the government to put an end to hollow claims and alleged Hindutva agendas and immediately reconstruct these sites that hold religious importance for Hindus.

Among those who were present include President Women's Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, President Kamghar Wing Raj Singh, Mangu Ram.

Sawhney, Praises PM Modi for his Remarkable Popularity among the Muslim Community across the World

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: In a momentous occasion for India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt awarded him the prestigious 'Order of the Nile', the highest state honour of Egypt, on Sunday. This recognition marks the 13th such honor bestowed upon PM Modi by various countries around the world. In response to this remarkable achievement, Sardar Tejwant Singh Sawhney, a prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Minority Morcha, has expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the Prime Minister. Sawhney, who is known for his unwavering commitment to the welfare and representation of minority communities, hailed Prime Minister Modi's strong leadership and his ability to foster cordial relations with countries across the globe. Recognizing the significance of this latest accolade from Egypt, Sawhney emphasized the Prime Minister's exceptional popularity even among Muslim-majority nations. "Prime Minister Modi's remarkable global recognition is a testament to his extraordinary leadership and the positive impact he has made on the world stage," said Sawhney.



"This honor from Egypt, a Muslim-majority country, highlights his ability to build strong relationships and garner immense respect and admiration from diverse communities around the world, including the Muslim community." Sawhney further noted that the 'Order of the Nile' award symbolizes the deep appreciation and acknowledgment of PM Modi's efforts to strengthen diplomatic ties between India and Egypt. He emphasized that the honor serves as a significant milestone in India's growing engagement with the African continent.

"The 'Order of the Nile' is a testament to the warmth and friendship shared between India and Egypt. It is a reflection of the Prime Minister's tireless efforts in deepening bilateral relations and fostering mutual understanding," said Sawhney. "This recognition further solidifies India's position as a trusted partner and showcases the international respect and trust garnered by Prime Minister Modi."

Sardar Tejwant Singh Sawhney extended his heartfelt congratulations to Prime Minister Modi, expressing his pride in the recognition bestowed upon the leader by Egypt and other nations. He emphasized that these accolades not only reflect the accomplishments of the Prime Minister but also highlight the growing stature of India on the global stage.

As a prominent leader within the BJP Minority Morcha, Sawhney reiterated his commitment to supporting Prime Minister Modi's vision of inclusive development and his efforts to empower all communities, irrespective of religion or background.

The 'Order of the Nile' bestowed upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi serves as a testament to his remarkable leadership and popularity, both within India and abroad.

Apple production crisis ravages Kashmir Valley, threatening economy and Livelihoods

J I NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, JUNE 27: In the picturesque region of Kashmir, a deepening crisis in apple production has sent shockwaves through the valley, with up to 20% of the total apple production severely affected. The impact has been particularly devastating in Sopore Pulwama and Shopian regions, where apple production has plummeted by 20 to 30% and 10 to 15% respectively.

The repercussions of this crisis are far-reaching, causing a dangerous ripple effect on the valley's economy. Business activities have come to a grinding halt, with the once-thriving markets now witnessing negligible purchasing power among the population. As a result, there has been a reduction in the use of essential agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides, further exacerbating the problem.

The profound effects of this crisis have seeped into all aspects of daily life for the people of Kashmir. The scarcity of apples has disrupted the traditional lifestyle, impacting eating habits, drinking prefer-



ences, socializing patterns, commuting choices, and even marriage celebrations. The absence of money in the markets has led to surreal scenes, where owls are speaking, instead of vendors. The crisis has also dealt a severe blow to the construction industry, with a drastic decline in construction work. Not only have big projects been halted, but small-scale initiatives have also been forced

to shut down. This has caused widespread unemployment and financial distress among workers and contractors in the region.

In response to the dire situation, the government has initiated relief measures to support the farmers and growers who have been hit the hardest. Among the relief measures, KCC loans and cooperative loans should be waived, providing much-needed financial

respice. Additionally, the government has to waive at least 50% of the loans under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. The authorities also have to take steps to ensure that ration and other necessities of life are provided to affected individuals and families.

While these relief measures offer some reprieve, the road to recovery remains challenging. The apple industry crisis continues to pose a significant threat to the economy and livelihoods of the Kashmiri people. Efforts have to be made to explore alternative sources of income and revive the apple production industry through improved agricultural practices and technology.

Modi Govt removed chronic discrimination syndrome among regions in J&K: Sham Langar

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Sham Lal Langar, Convener BJP Trade Cell, J&K, said that Modi Government not only realized the colossal development in J&K but it also eliminated chronic discrimination syndrome among the people of different regions of the UT by ensuring equitable progress.

In a statement issued to media persons, the BJP leader said that those having knowledge of politics in the erstwhile State of J&K must be knowing that before the advent of Modi Government there used to be a big issue of discrimination between the different regions including Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, but soon after the inception of Modi Government the terms like step-motherly treatment,

prejudice, etc. vanished from the vocabulary of people of J&K as Ladakh was made a separate UT, while Kashmir and Jammu provinces were given so much in the last nearly four-five years that their complaints over discrimination among regions, religions, and other distinctions have been eliminated fully. Sham Langar said that Modi government has brought so much in the Union Territory that the people are more than satisfied and archaic issue of discrimination has gone forever.

"This is the biggest achievement of the Modi Government because conventionally the Kashmir-centric parties used to act in a lopsided manner making it difficult for the people of Jammu and Ladakh regions to lead a life with convenience forcing them to protest",

he said adding that this situation often used to deteriorate the situation and caused wedge among people of different regions.

The senior BJP leader said that schemes and policies envisaged by Modi Government are all universal and meant for one and all thus removing the grudges between people of different regions.

"This was one of the biggest achievements of the incumbent dispensation in the centre and has led to satiate aspirations of all the minuscule groups living in J&K as there is no rancor existing anymore", he said and sought people's support in strengthening BJP in coming days to ensure more of such initiatives which would help in improving lives of people and making J&K a better place to live.

SSP Awantipora chairs joint security meeting

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: SSP Awantipora Shri Ajaz Ahmed Zargar-JKPS chaired a joint meeting with the officers of Police, Army, CRPF and BSF at DPL Awantipora in which threathare discussions were made regarding overall security arrangements to be adopted for safe and smooth conduct of upcoming SANJY-2023.

During the meeting, SSP Awantipora discussed various security aspects and provided valuable suggestions and feedback for

strengthening the security grid and providing fool proof security cover to Yatisra and stressed the officers, both jurisdictional and those deployed for Yatra to adopt proactive and coordinated approach towards ensuring adequate arrangements for smooth and successful conduct of SANJY-2023.

He further directed the officers to maintain strict surveillance over the anti-social/anti-national elements who are hell bent towards disrupting the peaceful atmosphere and creating law and order problems for their vested interests.

Altaf Bukhari calls on Amit Shah in New Delhi



J I NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 27: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Tuesday, held a meeting with the Union Home Minister in New Delhi to address various crucial matters concerning the Political, economic, and administrative issues of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a party statement issued here, "The discussions between the two leaders focused on a wide range of issues, aiming to enhance prevailing peace, foster development, improve governance, and address the political dynamics in the region."

During the meeting, Mr. Bukhari provided a comprehensive appraisal to Mr. Shah regarding the existing state of peace and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir. He told the Home Minister that J&K people have played a significant role in fostering and maintaining peace, demonstrating their commitment to a peaceful environment. He also conveyed that the people are eager to contribute even more to strengthen the ongoing peace process, as they aspire to reap the ben-

efits that come with an enhanced state of peace, the statement said.

However, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari conveyed his urgent appeal to the Union Home Minister, stressing the need for New Delhi to take immediate Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) to further bolster the prevailing political sentiment.

In particular, he recommended two significant actions: the release of prominent religious leaders ahead of the upcoming Eid celebration, and the timely announcement of assembly polls in the Union Territory (UT).

"The release of prominent religious leaders, including Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Maulana Abdul Rasheed Dawoodi, and Maulana Mushtaq Ahmad Veeri, will further fill the environment with a spirit of positivity. These influential figures possess the ability to play an important role in helping eradicate social evils, including the prevailing drug abuse in the Valley."

Furthermore, the long-awaited announcement of assembly polls in the region would instill a sense of political empowerment among the

people. These measures would not only foster a positive atmosphere but will also signify the government's commitment to empowering the people and upholding democratic processes in Jammu and Kashmir," the Apni Party President conveyed to the Home Minister.

"Since Jammu and Kashmir has been experiencing an extended period of peace and harmony after a considerable duration, it is an opportune moment to take proactive measures to strengthen democracy and enhance peace further in the region. It is primitive that people are not deprived of their constitutional right to choose their own representatives any longer," Mr. Bukhari added.

Welcoming the Amarnath Yatra, which is beginning soon, Apni Party President informed the Home Minister that J&K people are eager to greet the pilgrims as this Yatra has always played a pivotal role in fostering religious harmony, strengthening cultural bonds, and yielding significant economic benefits for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the statement, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari stressed the importance of granting people every opportunity to showcase their warm hospitality by wholeheartedly welcoming the yatra and embracing pilgrims with open hearts and minds. He emphasised the need for the government to have unwavering trust in the people and to ensure ample opportunities for them to extend their gracious hospitality to the yatis.

He said, "By doing so, it would not only enhance the overall experience of the pilgrims but also foster a positive and inclusive environment that promotes cultural exchange, understanding, and harmony between the local population and the visiting devotees."

Illegal construction of commercial huts goes unabated in Village Mada in Kud, buyers allege harassment

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR: The illegal construction of commercial huts along the main road of Village Mada in Kud, Chenani area of Udhampur district has raised serious concerns as the construction activities persist without proper building permissions and have been constructed with substandard material which is unsafe for lives of people.

These commercial huts are being constructed by a builder namely Rajan Dutta of Paloura, Jammu along with his partner Chandni Sharma of Mehwar (Poonch) without obtaining any necessary approval from the authorities.

Disturbingly, the builder has collected a substantial amount of money in advance from buyers for the construction of these huts which were promised to deliver their proposed owners in the month of July 2022 but has miserably failed to deliver till today and after giving more than sufficient time to them by bonafide purchasers of all the huts. The construction is going on in full swing that too in clear violation of building regulations, without any oversight from the relevant authority.

It appears that there may be a significant nexus operating in the Kud area, as constructing buildings without the involvement of senior government officials would be impossible.



Genuine buyers who have visited the construction site and inquired about possession have received inadequate responses from the builder. Instead, they have faced harassment and threats from the builder, allegedly with the support of the Station House Officer (SHO) Kud namely Vijay Thakur.

The bonafide buyers said that the builder namely Rajan Dutta is using the influence of the SHO to intimidate them. They claimed that they have been threatened with false molestation charges at the behest of said Chandni Sharma, if they raise their voices against them and the SHO concerned is in fully hand in gloves with them and giving threats to bonafide purchaser to implicate them in frivolous cases if they will again dare to come on their respective sites.

The buyers raised voice against the working of Police Department, specifically the behavior of SHO Kud, who is alleged to be

supporting the builder and pressuring the bonafide buyers to continue their construction work with Rajan Dutta and his partner Chandni Sharma.

When contacted, SDM Chenani, Parvaiz Naik expressed surprise over the ongoing illegal construction of huts and refusal regarding the issuance of any building permission to builder. He assured the affected buyers that he would take appropriate action against the builder, Rajan Dutta & Chandni Sharma, and investigate the matter thoroughly that how they have started construction work without getting requisite permissions.

Furthermore, the alleged harassment of bonafide purchasers by SHO Kud, Vijay Thakur, is a matter of grave concern. The buyers claim that they are being coerced into continuing their construction work with Rajan Dutta, against their wishes as many of buyers are continue with construction works at their own but the concerned SHO did not let

the same to be happened by putting unecessarily pressure upon them to get their huts complete by Dutta builder only, reason best known to SHO.

The buyers urged the government to address their concerns and take swift action against the builder for cheating with them and failing to hand over the huts to bonafide purchasers despite accepting significant amounts of money from them. They called for strict measures to be taken against those involved in the illegal construction activities.

The situation calls for immediate intervention from the concerned authorities to halt the illegal construction and protect the rights of the buyers. The government should investigate the alleged nexus between the builder, the local police, and other government functionaries. This case highlights the need for stricter oversight of illegal construction activities and ensuring the welfare and protection of buyers in such cases.

Former BJP minister seeks action against RDD officials for violations

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Demanding clearance of payments of Rural Development Department's vendors who supplied sand, cement and other construction related materials in 2016-2017 for MNREGA works, the senior BJP leader and former Minister Choudhary Sukhmandan Kumar sought action against RDD officials who committed violations and delayed payments of vendors cum suppliers.

The former Minister demanded government's immediate attention towards the genuine demand of the local traders.

Stating that their payments are pending as they have supplied sand, cement, bricks and other construction related material to the department of rural development to carry out various works started under different schemes of UT government and central government.

Here it is relevant to mention that already a delega-



tion led by former minister Sukhmandan Kumar had met the LG Manoj Sinha and apprised him about the issues being faced by the suppliers and vendors of the UT.

The former minister and senior BJP leader reminded that the Sinha Sb had assured to get the issue resolved.

The government has accepted that there was violation, said the former minister, adding, "Who is responsible for this. Why

the payments of vendors delayed and stopped? Instead of this action must be taken against RDD officers who have committed violations," said Sukhmandan Kumar.

Today while addressing the press conference, Choudhary Sukhmandan said that it is a long pending issue and I am sure that it will be resolved at an earliest.

The government should take the action against the officers who did the violation and make the payments to

the vendors so that the livelihood of vendors is not affected as most of the small vendors are suffering a lot in absence of no payments to them in the past few years.

Under the guidance of Modi government, the government of UT of J&K has initiated many works especially in rural areas besides the Srinagar and Jammu Smart Cities project, Sukhmandan said, demanding payments to vendors be released at an earliest.

Mir presides over block level party workers meet of Sagam Kokernag

J I NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, JUNE 27: Former Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPC) President Ghulam Ahmad today sought adequate arrangements for the public on the very auspicious occasion of Eid Ul Adha.

Mir also demanded release of salaries in favour of various Govt employees including working indigenous J&K LG to personally look into the employee's issues for their timely redressal.

Ghulam Ahmad Mir who presided over a Block level worker meeting of Block Sagam in Kokernag area of Anantnag District had a detailed discussion with the

party workers over the socio-political scenario obtaining in Jammu and Kashmir. Mir also received feedback with regard to multiple problems confronting people in absence of the elected Govt which has rendered common people unrepresented at every appropriate forum. The Government is drawing sadistic pleasure out of punishing people on one pretext or the other.

Mir also expressed concern over the economic crisis confronting people due to the extreme rise in unemployment and many other developmental and economic issues concerning common people and centred the BJP Govt at State and LG Govt for fail-

ing to win the trust and confidence of the people. Mir termed the actions and attitude of the bureaucrats towards common people disappointing and urged the Govt to streamline the administration to ensure that people and employee's grievances are addressed. There have been reports of mismanagement in different Govt departments in the UT, which has to be taken seriously and their functioning must be made smooth and transparent over the larger interest of the common people.

On this occasion Ghulam Ahmad Mir sought adequate arrangements including electricity, availability of ration, drinking water and various other facilities,

besides keeping a vigil on price hike on the eve of Eid Ul Adha. There have been reports of over pricing on essentials in the markets, but the irony is that the administration is not bothered about these anti people measures, which is not only unfortunate, but highly condemnable, Former JKPC President added.

Mir further told the workers that Congress Party and people of J&K in union shall continue fighting for restoration of democratic rights and statehood to J&K, which are being denied under a well-planned conspiracy by the BJP Govt in order to evade the humiliating defeat it (BJP) is set to face in elections.

BJP workers listen "Mera Booth Sabse Majboot" samvad across J&K



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Ravinder Raina, along with former deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, listened to the "Mera Booth Sabse Majboot" samvad through virtual mode, which was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, BJYM National President and MP Tejasvi Surya, who was in Jammu, also joined them to listen to the samvad.

Ashok Koul, J&K BJP General Secretary (Org) along with other party workers listened to the "Mera Booth Sabse Majboot" samvad at Hiranagar in Kathua. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister along with other party workers listened to the "Mera Booth Sabse Majboot" samvad at Hiranagar in Kathua.

BJP National President JP Nadda and MP Chief Minister Shriyraj Singh Chauhan also graced the occasion in Bhopal.

BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal President Lucky Puri (JMC Councillor) had organised the virtual mode programme at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Similar programmes in virtual mode were organised at mandal and booth levels across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his address, the Prime

Minister, Narendra Modi, said that today the BJP is the largest political party, and this milestone has been achieved through the hard work and dedicated services of the party activists at the grass root level. He said its workers are the biggest power, for which each one of them deserves a salute.

The Prime Minister said that for every worker of BJP, the nation is first and self is last. He said that selfless service for the nation has become the core principle of BJP activists. He also thanked JP Nadda for organising this event, through which he was able to virtually address around 10 lakh booth workers of the BJP.

No such virtual programme has ever taken place in the history of any political party, the Prime Minister said while interacting with BJP booth workers who have been selected from all the states and UTs through a process defined by the party via the Nano App.

Short Term Course in ECCE concludes at GCOE Jammu



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Short Term Course in ECCE concluded today at GCOE Jammu. Over seventy students participated in the five days course.

In the valedictory ceremony, Principal Prof. Aekta Gupta expressed her gratitude to all the resource

persons for the successful culmination of the ECCE course. She also appreciated the efforts of Dr. Parikshit Manhas Director, SCERT for providing expert Resource Persons from the institution for this course.

She also added that it was an effort on the part of the college to meet the expectations of NEP 2020.

The Resource Persons in

the 5 day ECCE course were :-Dr. Rachna (D.L.E.T.), Ms Amarjyoti Kour (D.L.E.T.), Ms Arshdeep Kour (SCERT), Dr. Sarita (SRML HSS), Mr. Anil Sharma (SCERT), Ms Monika Dogra (SCERT), Ms Meena Thakur (SCERT), Ms Tripta Charak (D.L.E.T.) and Mr Deepak Sharma.

During the final day, an assessment test was con-

ducted, and trophies were presented to the top performers. The winners were :- Mehak Khajuria (1st place), Shavni (2nd place), Shivani Sharma (3rd place).

The coordinating teams of GCOE were Prof Shalini Rana, (IQAC Convener), Dr Rajinder Kour (Coordinator), Dr Maandhi Sharma, Convener, ECCE Committee.

The Students learned about the introduction and basic concepts of ECCE, Classroom organisation as per ECCE, Introduction to NCF2022 at foundational Stage learning through Play way method, Foundational Literacy, Story telling, Domains of Development PanchKosha, Delay, Disability and development at early stages, JaduPitara, School based Assessment and Teaching minors through Pupperty during these five Day



FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Two siblings among...

them, one succumbed on the way to hospital," they said.

The deceased brothers have been identified as Mohammad Afzal Malik son of Gull Mohammad Malik and Mohd Azmat son of Gull Mohammad Malik from Sarbagni and injured identified as Shabir Ahmed Malik son of Gull Mohammad Malik from Sarbagni.

In another accident near Guldanda on Baderwah Pathankot road in Doda district five people killed and nine were injured after a Trax vehicle (JK06-5071) they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell 250 metres deep gorge, officials said. They said injured people were shifted to a hospital for treatment.

The deceased has been identified as Chulam Nabi from Ludna Doda, Vinod Kumar from Monda, Firdous Ahmed from Basoli Bani and Barkatullah from Babrohal while another remains unidentified.

Injured were identified as Irshad Ahmad, Rafiq Ahmad, Mohd Shafiq all from Doda, Nazir Ahmad, Riaz Ahmad both from Gundna Doda, Naresh Kumar from Bani, Tariq Ahmed from Nalthi, Mohammad Abdullah, Bilal Ahmad, Sadiq Ali all from Kudola Doda, Nadeem Ahmad from Bikthryan Doda.

Police have registered cases and started investigations into the accidents.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives in the twin accidents.

"Extremely pained by the loss of lives in unfortunate road accidents in Doda and Ramban. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the early recovery of the injured. Directed the DCS to ensure all necessary assistance to the affected", Office of LG J&K tweeted—(KNO)

MHA holds review...

The 62-day annual pilgrimage is scheduled to start on July 1 and continue till August 31.

The final contours of the security grid were reviewed at the meeting and it was stressed that inter-agency coordination should be flawless, keeping in mind all the threats and inter-changed duties among the forces.

The sources said the use of drones, apart from the traditional methods of patrolling the yatra routes, was underlined, besides using search-and-rescue dogs at all places, including near the cave shrine, in order to respond quickly in case of a natural or man-made disaster.

A team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) canines has already been deployed so that the dogs are acclimatised with the height and cold weather, they said. A team of experts and the NDRF will undertake an aerial survey of the upper reaches to provide early warnings for any glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) or flash flood-like situation, the sources said.

A major change effected this time in the security apparatus is the deployment of the mountain-warfare trained personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at the cave shrine in place of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The ITBP, officials said, is adept at undertaking rescue operations at a high altitude and hence, it has been given the task at the cave shrine this time.

The CRPF has been traditionally guarding the cave shrine, located at a height of 3,888 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas, and some vital pilgrim camps en route for decades.

The CRPF will now be present just below the stairs of the cave shrine, even as the ITBP and Border Security Force (BSF) will guard about half-a-dozen camps that were earlier guarded by the CRPF, the lead internal security force of the country.

The sources had earlier said that this new arrangement was made keeping in mind the "emerging security threats and challenges" and in accordance with the "requirements of the Jammu and Kashmir Police".

As a huge number of CRPF units have been inducted in ethnic violence-hit Manipur and for the panchayat polls in West Bengal, the force has been asked to secure the yatra route in the Kashmir valley, where the pilgrims will board buses before starting the uphill journey.

The Amarnath Yatra pilgrims travel through two routes – Baltal and Pahalgam.

Last year, 3.45 lakh people visited the cave shrine and the figure could go up to five lakh this time, the officials said. (Agencies)

Mansukh Mandaviya...

related to high altitude. In line with the directives of the Union Health Minister, the Ministry of Health is supporting the Government of Jammu and Kashmir in organising healthcare arrangements for the pilgrimage.

This collaborative effort aims to enhance and anticipate the necessary health requirements for the journey. Medical facilities have been set up by the Union Health Ministry at the base camp and en route with the required infrastructure.

According to the Ministry of Health's official statement, the ministry has fully funded and supported the establishment of two 100-bedded hospitals by DRDO at two axis routes, Baltal and Chandanwari, which have been operationalised.

"These hospitals will include the accommodation facilities of staff deputed for yatra. These hospitals would have all facilities for diagnosis and treatment including lab facilities, radio diagnosis, gynaecological, ICUs, hyperbaric oxygen chambers," the statement added.

These hospitals would be functioning 24*7 and would be manned by specialist doctors with an independent trauma unit also.

DGHS is deputing healthcare workers from 11 states/UTs and central government hospitals for the Amarnath Yatra in four batches.

The ministry is also providing capacity building to doctors and paramedics for managing high-altitude sickness. The Emergency Medical Relief Division is conducting an on-site assessment of medical facilities and makeshift hospitals for reviewing preparedness.

A customized real-time data collection module is being developed for the Amarnath Yatra. This module, integrated into the National Centre for Disease Control's IHP portal, aims to enhance emergency preparedness and gather information on disease patterns and health-related issues.

The Health Ministry has developed advisories for pil-

grims and SOPs for medical management of high-altitude emergencies during the Amarnath Yatra. (Agencies)

LG reviews traffic...

of Mughal Road, alternate routes, public utilities along Mughal road and traffic management at Pahalgam and Sonamarg.

Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP gave a detailed briefing on the action plan for the Yatra.

RK Goyal, ACS Home; Dilbag Singh, DGP; Shaileendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Dr Mandep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; ADGPs; Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners; SSPs and senior officers attended the meeting.

Newly recruited Al-Badr...

army's 1st RR and the CRPF cordoned off the suspected spot in Hawoora village of Kulgam, where the hiding militant fired upon the forces triggering an encounter.

Meanwhile, a police spokesman said that acting on a specific input regarding the presence of a terrorist in village Hawoora, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, Army (1st RR) and CRPF (8 Bn) in the area.

The statement reads that during the search operation, as the joint search party approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorist fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, in which one police personnel got injured who was subsequently shifted to hospital for treatment.

"The hiding terrorist was also given an opportunity to surrender, however he kept on firing on the joint forces. The fire was effectively related, leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, a local terrorist linked with proscribed terrorist outfit Al-Badr was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter."

It added that he has been identified as Adil Majeed Lone son of Abdul Majeed Lone, a resident of Akbarabad, Hawoora, Kulgam.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including OI Pistol with live ammunition and a grenade were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered material has been taken into case records for further investigation," the police statement said.

It reads that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation is in progress. "People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," it added—(KNO)

Nine foreign militants...

been reported from time to time to push illicit things into the valley.

As per the details available with the news agency a total of 9 infiltrators were killed in two different joint operations of the Jammu and Kashmir police and Indian Army at the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district in the ensuing month leading to the recovery of arms, ammunition, warlike store and narcotics.

On June 16 this month five foreign militants were killed in a joint operation of Army and Police at Jumagand close to LoC. "The specific inputs were generated by Kupwara police about the likely infiltration and movement of the infiltrators," reveal the details.

From the killed infiltrators, the figures reveal that a huge quantity of arms, ammunition and other warlike stores was recovered. "Recoveries include SAK-47 Rifles, I4 Hand Grenades, 500 AK rounds, Night Vision Goggles and other huge quantities of warlike stores," reveal the figures available.

The details available also reveal that on 23 June four foreign militants were killed in a joint operation close to the LoC in forward Machil sector.

"Four infiltrators were killed in a joint operation at Kala Jungle. They were killed while trying to infiltrate into this side. Huge quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them including the suspected narcotics as well," reveal the details.

The recoveries as per the figures include, 9-AK Rifles, 3 Pistol, 4, grenades, 288 AK & Pistol rounds. "Apart from these 55 suspected narcotics packets were also recovered from killed infiltrators."

On June 17 Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh said that the continuous infiltration bids are being made along the LoC in the region to keep "terrorism alive." He also said that this year major infiltration bids have been foiled but yes some terrorists have managed to enter into this side from Rajouri- poonch and Kupwara sectors.

Notably earlier on 03 May, two infiltrators were killed in a joint operation at Pichmad in Machil sector. As per the figures available a total of 2 AK 47 Rifles, 8 AK 47 Magazines with 159 rounds, 2 hand grenades, eatables and cigarettes with Pakistan markings were recovered from them. "Pakistan currency of rupees 660 was also recovered from the killed infiltrators in Machil sector."

Security forces in all the aforementioned operations stated that these infiltration attempts were aimed to disrupt peace in the valley. Also they appreciated the close synergy between the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir police. Besides the role of troops deployed close to the LoC received appreciation for braving the extremely difficult conditions including bad weather conditions—(KNO)

Man found hanging...

Jammu-Poonch National Highway near Nowshehra bridge.

They demanded an in-depth investigation into Kumar's death, claiming that he might have fallen victim to a conspiracy.

The protesters dispersed after the police officers who visited the scene assured them that the investigation into the matter has been initiated and will be taken to a logical conclusion, the officials said. (Agencies)

"Can a country be...

would not be poor or deprived...Supreme Court has also asked for the implementation of the UCC. But these people are hungry only for vote bank," Modi said accusing the Opposition in the country of employing vote-

bank politics of appeasement.

The Prime Minister asked if the practice of triple talaq was inalienable from Islam then why was it not practised in Muslim-majority countries like Egypt, Indonesia, Qatar, Jordan, Syria, Bangladesh, and Pakistan?

"I feel that whoever is supporting triple talaq are doing vote bank politics of appeasement. They are doing injustice to our Muslim sisters for votes only. Some people think this issue concerns only women, but it's beyond this. Triple Talaq damages the entire family. If the practice was inalienable to the community, it would have not been removed from Muslim countries," PM Modi said.

"I was in Egypt a day before where almost 90 per cent of the population belong to the Sunni community. They had abolished Triple Talaq around 80-90 years ago. They did away with triple talaq 80-90 years ago. If Triple Talaq is a necessary tenet of Islam, then why don't these countries have triple talaq? Why do Qatar, Jordan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia not have the practice of triple talaq?" PM Modi said. (Agencies)

Eid-ul-Adha...

& 30th June, 2023 (Thursday & Friday) instead of 28th & 29th June, 2023 (Wednesday & Thursday) in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir," the order reads—(KNO)

Dr Jitendra Singh...

they will get promoted by this year end," the Minister said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that in the last nine years, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government has periodically reviewed the longstanding stagnation issues in the various Central Ministries that are a legacy of the past due to pending court cases, lack of vacancies in higher grades and other personnel issues.

The Minister said, last year also about 9,000 mass promotions were made and prior to that the DoPT granted 4,000 promotions in the preceding three years.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, he himself personally feels disturbed to come across cases where some of the employees working in the lowest rung of administration spend their entire life in the service of 30 to 35 years without securing a single promotion. He said, he has discussed the issue with all the senior officers in the Ministry and several innovative means have been evolved to avoid stagnation at middle and lower rungs of the administration.

Dr Jitendra Singh also regretted that in a large number of cases, stagnation in promotions was the result of litigation amongst the employees themselves and even though the DoPT tries its best to put forward its view in the court of law, it still becomes inevitable. "PM Modi has made efforts to ensure that government jobs are available to the maximum extent possible. It is extremely painful and disheartening to see employees sometimes superannuating in the same grade as promotions remained stuck," said the Minister.

The orders for mass promotion of these employees belonging to the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) have been issued after several rounds of high-level meetings in DoPT chaired by Dr Jitendra Singh in the last few months. The Minister said, even legal experts were consulted as some of the orders are subject to the outcome of pending writ petitions.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in order to bring in the ease of governance as well as objectivity in empanelment, the government has, in the last nine years, improvised upon the procedures so as to ensure that there are no subjective preferences involved in carrying out the promotions.

"Procedures have been made more hi-tech using sophisticated technology tools to minimize the human intervention in the process," he said.

The DoPT Minister said that the Modi government has done away with over 1,600 rules which were either obsolete or had become irrelevant with the passage of time.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, "All this is meant not only to ensure effective and timely delivery of outcomes for the public, but also to enable the employees to perform to the best of their ability."

MeT predicts intermittent...

normal for the place, the officials said. Gulmarg recorded a low of 11.5°C against 11.0°C on previous night and it was above normal by 0.1°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 25.1°C against 23.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 16.3°C (0.1°C below normal), Bateote 17.1°C (0.8°C below normal), Katra 22.0°C (0.5°C below normal) and Baderwah 17.1°C (above normal by 1.0°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 7.4°C and 17.9°C respectively, he said. (Agencies)

LG Manoj Sinha pays...

Spiritual leaders enable young generation to understand our common heritage and values to shape the destiny and future of a society. We welcome the suggestions from spiritual leaders and the common man to take J&K to new heights of development, he said.

"I call upon the community elders, religious heads, prominent citizens and all stakeholders to join hands to defeat the nefarious designs of a handful of people who are making malicious attempts to disrupt peace and development journey for their vested interests," the Lt Governor said.

Responding to the demands including Multi-storey parking at Hazratbal and widening of road, the Lt Governor assured that appropriate steps will be taken in this regard and it will be ensured that these demands are fulfilled at the earliest.

The Lt Governor also assured every support from the government in the development of Ziyarats and other religious places.

He called for a comprehensive strategy to explore all possibilities to increase the tourist influx in Hazratbal, Char-e-Sharif and other prominent religious places in J&K. Spiritual leaders, Waqf officials, senior officers of Police and Civil administration and prominent citizens were present.

Govt, Pvt Schools in central, North Kashmir to seek permission for picnic

JNEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUN 27

In the backdrop of recent episodes of drowning and deaths of children at various picnic spots, School Education Department Tuesday ordered all private and government schools to seek proper permission from the district administration for the picnics.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Central and North of School Education Department said this in a communique to all Chief Education Officers of district Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora.

"The recent episodes of drowning and deaths of children in different rivers, Nallahs and streams in picnic spots of Kashmir have given sleepless nights to parents, children and teachers who have approached us for intervention in the matter," the joint director said.

The officer said that in order to handle this significant and sensitive issue pertaining to student community and parents there was an immediate need of attention, consideration and disposal as well as redress of these grievances on top priority as it involves the safety, security and well being of tender boys and girls studying in government as well as private schools of various districts of Kashmir Division.

It also said that a new trend of summer camps has begun and in its backdrop many reports have come to fore "where students have drowned, or got hurt, or indulge in eve teasing, molestation, theft and other crimes during these camps."

"The matter needs to be looked upon seriously and a proper modus operandi should be adopted on these Summer Camps up to 8th or 10th class at least; besides, other matters of overcharging the parents should be looked in to," it reads.

The joint said that in this behalf, all the CEOs and ZEOs concerned are requested to be extra vigilant.

"They need to walk an extra mile to check the violations and nab the guilty involved in such illegal practices and sensitize the Head of the Institutions and Headmasters of private as well as government schools to maintain high standards of professionalism in their respective schools," it reads.

According to the official communique, the concerned school authorities have been asked to desist from organizing, picnics, excursions, outing and out station campus of school children without seeking proper permission from CEOs and ZEOs concerned.

"In no case children below 18 years of age be forced to go for picnic or get consent of the parents after putting undue influence on such innocent children," the official said.

It also said that the Heads of the institutions and schools shall also designate 5 to 10 staff members as nodal officers or supervisors to safeguard the students and monitor their to and fro movement from school premises to picnic spots and back to their homes. ❦

This Eid, business down in Kashmir, say traders as markets witness 'all-time low' sales

JNEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUN 27

Markets in Kashmir witnessed a thin foothall of shoppers ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, the festival of sacrifices, while the trade leaders term the recession, inflation and online marketing as the main reasons behind the sluggish market.

The shopkeepers told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that they were expecting a good sale but said the markets lacked enthusiasm. They said the flow is even low than Eid-ul-Fitr.

People were seen jostling and swarming around mutton and bakeries shops; however, the overall market sentiment was low, the shopkeepers said, adding that their business has shrunk and the middle-class people are facing the music when they have to get the necessary items on Eid despite facing a huge financial crunch.

Sameer Ahmad, a trader from Anantnag, said that despite Covid restrictions in the last two years, sales were good and whoever was visiting his shop was at purchasing at least a couple of items.

This time, the sales remained at an "all-time low" because the customers are not in a position to afford items. Another trader from Srinagar said, "Sales on Eid-ul-Fitr were low but today, it is very low." We are very much worried, he said, adding, "Inflation and poverty due to Covid-19 lockdowns have badly hit J&K and the poor are hardly able to make ends meet."

Irfan Ahmad, a shopkeeper dealing with readymade materials, said he used to make lakhs of rupees in sales on festive occasions but "this year, very few customers are visiting his shop. "One out of ten customers is able to afford an item," he said.

President Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Javed Ahmad Bhat, told KNO that business is slumping in Kashmir as well as in other parts of the country, including Delhi, due to the recession. He said that online shopping is also playing a part as the young generation prefers online shopping.

"Market is not good, and as per the ground situation, business is down by around 50 percent as compared to Eid-ul-Azha last year," he said.

He said the horticulture sector was hit last year and its impact is coming to the fore. The handicrafts and industries are also suffering badly.

President Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTFM) Mohammad Yaseen Khan told KNO that business is very down mainly because of inflation and markets are witnessing a very low rush.

He said that people owe money to financial institutions as in the last few years, business was almost on halt and people have to first clear the debt amount.

"There is no business on the ground that too on the festival. We won't say how much percent down is business but the fact is that there is no business on the ground," Khan said, adding, "Even the main markets that used to remain jam-packed on such occasions are deserted today."

IGP CID interacts with KU students on first-of-its-kind internship programme



JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Senior IPS officer, Mr Nitish Kumar, presently posted as Inspector General of Police, CID J&K, on Tuesday interacted with students of the University of Kashmir.

The special session, organized by the varsity's Directorate of IT & SS and Department of Computer Sciences, was chaired by Vice-Chancellor, Prof Nilofar Khan.

In his special remarks, Mr Kumar said the J&K Police's CID wing is embarking on an ambitious internship programme which offers to give a wide exposure to the internees in various IT-related domains in the J&K police department.

"This hands-on internship programme will help

in honing the skills of the internees while enabling the Police Department to gain from these young minds. It is a two-way module which aims to encourage the students to learn about the newer challenges in emerging IT areas like cyber security, social media etc.," Mr Kumar said.

He said a select group of students will be taken for the paid internship programme for a period of three months on the basis of an application format which includes all the essential eligibility and other prerequisites.

Urging IT students to gear up for the new challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence and its offshoot applications like ChatGPT, Mr Kumar advised the students to "run in the right

direction to catch this fast-moving AI bus."

"You need to understand what the market wants today so that you align your career pathways accordingly and evolve in this field which is full of challenges," he said, adding that "this is the age of start-ups and unicorns and the students must create their own start-ups to become the owners of tomorrow."

In her presidential address, Prof Nilofar Khan said the internship programme is a great opportunity for young students to gain practical experience in the field. She assured complete support of the University for such pro-student initiatives which help the institution to link itself with the government offices like the J&K Police

Department.

Registrar KU, Dr Nisar A Mir, highlighted the University's efforts to engage with various departments to secure internships for its students. He thanked the CID for proposing the internship programme. Director IT and SS, Dr Maroof Qadri, earlier briefed the audience about the genesis of the internship programme and highlighted various achievements, programmes and new initiatives of the Directorate of IT and SS. Mr Dawood Ayoub, SSP CID Headquarters gave the opening remarks about the first-of-its-kind internship programme. Dr Javid Iqbal, HoD Computer Science, was also present. Later, a question-answer session was held wherein the students interacted with Mr Nitish Kumar about academia-industry linkages as well as the proposed internship initiative.

Several officials from KU and CID, including Zahid Nazir, Senior Prosecuting Officer, attended the programme.

NCC Special National Integration Camp 2023 Concludes



JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: NCC Special National Integration Camp 2023 concluded today at JAKLI Regimental Centre, Srinagar. The SNIC was organised under aegis of NCC

Directorate Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh from 15 Jun to 26 Jun 2023 in which 200 senior cadets from 17 Directorates all over the country participated in the camp.

The theme of the camp was "Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh towards Peace,

Prosperity and Development".

The Camp was visited by Hon'ble Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, GOC 15 Corps, ADG NCC J&K and other senior Army officers who interacted with cadets.

Apart from achieving the aim of cultural exchange between all the States and Union Territories of the Country, Cadets also gained the first hand experience of life in Kashmir Valley.

The memories of visit to Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Line of Control at Uri, Dal lake, Mughal Gardens and performing yoga in "Paradise on Earth" will always be cherished by Cadets.

An interaction program with college students of Kashmir Region was also organised on various issues. Maj Gen ERK Sachdeva, ADG appreciated efforts of NCC Group headquarter, Srinagar for successful conduct of this special camp and thanked all Army organisations for their support.

Charak conducts door to door outreach in tribal dominated area of Bahu Constituency

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Rajeev Charak conducted a door to door outreach program at Booth number 41 of tribal dominated area located in Bahu assembly constituency under Maha Sampark Abhiyan.

Speaking on the occasion, Charak said that for the first time in the history of the country, the Prime Minister's public welfare schemes have reached the Gujjar Bakarwal community. He said Narendra Bhai Modi, gave recognition to the tribal community of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, BJP leader Rajeev Charak said that the Ghar Chalo, Ghar Ghar Chalo campaign has been started by the BJP from June 20, under which at least 200 families will be contacted at one booth. The BJP leader said that for the democratic empowerment of Gujjar Bakarwal community, for the first time in 70 years, the Modi government has reserved 9 seats for the Gujjar Bakarwal community in Jammu and Kashmir.

Nominated, which has increased the



respect of the Gujjar Bakarwal community, for which the Gujjar Bakarwal community welcomed and felicitated the Government of India.

BJP leader Rajeev Charak said that the people of Jammu are thanking the country's illustrious Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi and Iron Man Home Minister Amit Shah and the BJP leadership from the bottom of their heart that Jammu and Kashmir has been restored today by removing Article 370 and 35A.

He said that today our student class is not stumbling in other states for big

colleges like IIT, IIM in other states of the country because today both these institutes have been established in Jammu. Arrangements have also been made for AIIMS so that in case of emergency, the patients here also do not have to go to other states.

BJP youth leaders Chaudhary Liaquat Ali, Chaudhary Abdul Hameed, Chaudhary Tariq Hussain, Chaudhary Arif Hussain, Chaudhary Saraj Deen, Chaudhary Hameed Ali, Deepak Kumar, Abhinandan Singh Chimb and others were present on the occasion.

Manjit Singh concerned over unscheduled power cuts in Jammu City

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Apni Party Provincial President Jammu and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today expressed concern over unscheduled power cuts and irregular drinking water supply in Jammu City.

Speaking at a meeting organised by Apni Trade Union State President Ajaz Kazmi here in ward number 5, the former minister discussed the issues faced by the people in Jammu City.

"The Govt has claimed that they are providing electricity 24/7 in the city but it is not happening on the ground.

The ground reality is contradictory to the claims made by the administration," he said, expressing anguish over the plight of the residents and business community.

He said that the temperature in Jammu is soaring day by day and the summer season has become unbearable especially when the PDD fails to ensure round the clock electricity even in metered areas.

"The metering of Jammu appears to be an exercise which has wasted Govt money with a false promise



to provide electricity without curtailment but the situation remains the same as it was one decade back," he said.

He blamed the PDD for failing to project the demands and requirements of electricity that should be purchased for the summer season for consumers but the electricity shortage is not projected and the Govt is shown a rosy picture. He said that the Govt must purchase the needed electricity for the people.

"The people pay charges even as they do not get electricity. The administration is minting money even when they do not supply the electricity," he said and referred to the worsening supply of drinking water in

the city. He said that the city residents get drinking water supply once in four days. "The drinking water should be supplied in a regular manner and meet the demands of the people," he demanded.

He said that the ration in Govt depots is also not available on time and these issues should also be addressed by the Govt.

"The people have complained that the ration depots are without ration and the supply remains hampered for days without ration and it has affected the economically poor people," he added.

Meanwhile, State President Apni Trade Union Ajaz Kazmi also

spoke on the occasion and highlighted various issues of public concern.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Vice President Jammu, ex MLA Prem Lal, Provincial President Trade Union Shafi Sheikh, State Coordinator SC Wing Bodh Raj Bhagat, Provincial President Jammu Youth, Vipul Bali, District Vice President Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, District Secretary, Asif Choudhary, District President Legal Cell, Gourab Sharma, Media Coordinator, Sandeep Vaid, District Vice President Youth, Abhinav Gupta, Sanju Singh, Gurtej Singh, Rabi Paul, Zaher Abbas, Shabir Malik and others.

Community Outreach Programme on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse held



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: NSS unit and Population Club of Dogra College of Education under the guidance of IQAC organized a Community Outreach Programme on the Occasion of "International Day Against Drug Abuse on 26th of June, 2023 in Doliyan Village, Bari Brahmana. On this occasion, an Awareness Lecture on the theme "A People First - Stop stigma and Discrimination, strengthen Prevention" was organized. The resource person on the occasion was Mrs. Sarika Kumari, Convener, Population Club, Dogra College of Education. She discussed about various types of intoxicants like Alcohol, Nicotine, Caffeine etc and their effects on present generation. In her lecture, she shared about various categories of

Outreach Programmes for the welfare of the society.

Dr. Vikesh Kumar Sharma, Principal, Dogra College of Education appreciated the student teachers for putting valuable efforts for organizing awareness programme. A formal vote of thanks was presented by Ms. Shivangi Dhrova who thanked the learned speaker for delivering a thought provoking lecture and local community people for participating in the programme.

Power shutdown

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Sangaldan, Gool and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 28 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Marheen, Bandhore, Rajbagh, Paharpur, Hariachack, Kotepunnu, Salalpur, Sanji Morh and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 30 and July 01 from 6 am to 10 am.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Badhori and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 28 and July 01 from 6 am to 10 am.

One-day awareness program held to observe "International Day against drug abuse & Illicit Trafficking"

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: JKSPYM State Level Coordinating Agency Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA) organized awareness program to observe "International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking" i.e., June 26

JKSPYM, SLCA & IRCA organized a one-day awareness program to observe "International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking" i.e., June 26 in collaboration with NISD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India at JKSPYM Centre, Village Parkkoo, Post-Domana, Akhnor Road, Jammu. Director General, Madam Vivek Sharma, was the chief guest on the occasion. Dy Director Madam



Kailash was also present on the occasion along with the special guest Mrs. Rajni Devi, Sarpanch, Vill. Parkhoo. Drug users, their families and community members took part in the program.

Program started with the inaugural ceremony. Project Coordinator, Ms. Pallavi Singh presented plants to chief guests. Then, aware-

ness regarding drug abuse prevention was imparted to audience by Ms. Rudrakshi Raina and Ms. Nivedita Arora, Counsellors at IRCA, Jammu. Ms. Kirti Padhiar, SLCA official generated awareness to parents and community members about their role in drug abuse prevention. After the awareness program, Director General, interacted with the

clients/drug users of Mashwara IRCA. Pledge was taken at the end of the program. SLCA team includes Ms. Kirti Padhiar, Mr. Deepak Bhati and Mr. Anshuk Gupta. Program concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Deepak Bhati. SLCA official to all the chief guests and audience present on the occasion.

Bhajan Kirtan, Hawan, Puraan Aahuti mark day two of Sarthal Devi Yatra in Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JUNE 27: The second day of 3-day world famous Shri Ashadash Bhujia Mata Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra was marked with Bhajan Kirtan, Hawan and Puraan Aahuti here at the temple of Maa Sarthal Devi.

It is pertinent to mention that Sarthal Mata, considered as re-incarnation of Goddess Durga, is the chief deity of Hindus in Kishtwar and adjoining areas. Originally made from the stones by locals under patronage of Raja Agar Dew of Kishtwar, this holy temple was renovated by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1936 from the wood of Dayalwan and Deviyun-van forest. Situated at approximately 6000 feet, this scenic temple remains snow clad during winters. A number of peaks in the Pir Panjal Range are visible from the temple.

The annual three-day Yatra is being organized by Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust under the patronage of Dr Karan Singh, Sole Trustee and Vikaramditya



Singh Chairman Trustee of the Trust. The Hawan and other religious rituals were performed today by DC Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav, ADDC Sham Lal, ACR Varunjeet Charak along with Sarthal Devi Ji Management Council members here at Sarthal Devi Ji Bhawan, Sanjeev Parihar, Vice Chairman,

Shri Sarthal Devi Management Council three light on the importance of this Yatra. He also thanked Directorate of Tourism and District Administration for making adequate arrangements for the three-day Yatra, in which hundreds of devotees from Kishtwar and beyond took part to seek the blessings of Maa Sarthal Devi Ji.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Chinese threat demands exhaustive strategy

China continues to pose a major territorial threat to India and other neighbouring countries. It has now increased its defence spending by 7.2 per cent to nearly \$225 billion in 2023 and it was the eighth consecutive year of increase notwithstanding the fact that there was a global unease over its aggressive behaviour. China, which also shares its border with India, has already entered into several military standoffs with its neighbour and its attempt to continuously increase its defence budget is a matter of concern for India. The reports have suggested that China has hiked the allocation for general public expenditure by 5.7 per cent and it dropped enough hints that Beijing is prioritising national security over development. What is worrisome is that it's the second year in a row that the annual hike in military spending has exceeded 7 per cent, reversing a two-decade trend under which the expansion of defence capabilities took a back seat to economic growth. If one counts on official statistics, China's military spending may only be a third of the US level, but is over three times higher than India's. The neighbouring country has even justified the increased spending as appropriate and reasonable, claiming that it faces escalating threats from the outside world. China is already having bitter ties with the United States and these ties are counterpoised by a warm embrace of President Putin. The security challenges range from Chinese-claimed Taiwan to the US naval and air missions in the disputed South China Sea near Chinese-occupied islands. Through increasing the defence budget, China has attempted to give an impression that it is on a mission to strengthen its military power and would not tolerate any aggression, of any kind, on its soil. The responses have included holding unprecedented exercises last August to punish Taiwan for hosting the then US House Speaker Pelosi. China's neighbours are already baffled due to the policy of aggressive, assertive and offensive use of military force. For India, the border standoff in eastern Ladakh stands out as unprovoked belligerence. The world is closely monitoring China's gradual military build-up through its continuous increased budget spending at a time when the National People's Congress set to confirm Xi Jinping's third term as President and head of the armed forces. The neighbouring country now controls the world's largest navy by size and it also aims high by increasing military power. Going by the media reports, China's key areas of spending are most likely to include the commissioning of its third aircraft carrier, the rapid production of new destroyers and fighter aircraft and investments in space technology and artificial intelligence for missile targeting systems. These are quite disturbing signals for China's neighbours, especially India and the latter should accordingly devise its defence strategy to deal with China's growing challenge in near future.

FOCUS ON REDUCING DEMAND FOR DRUGS THROUGH AWARENESS

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG ABUSE IS A REMINDER THAT NOT ENOUGH ATTENTION HAS BEEN PAID TO RESCUE THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY IN THE WORLD OF DRUGS.

BANDARU DATATRAYA

INTERNATIONAL Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed on June 26 with the aim of strengthening action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse. This year's theme is 'People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention'. The emphasis of the campaign is on raising awareness about the importance of treating people who use drugs with respect and empathy, offering alternatives to punishment, prioritising prevention and promoting language and attitudes that are respectful and non-judgmental.

A couple of years back, the Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights conducted a survey and found that 50% of the students of government schools consumed intoxicants such as poppy husk, weed, tobacco, alcohol, cocaine and other party drugs. As per the last survey (2019) sponsored by the Ministry of Social Justice and conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, 57 million alcohol addicts and around 1% of the 31 million cannabis users are in dire need of treatment. A whopping 12 million Indians use sedatives and 11.8 lakh of them are dependent. 1.2% of children use some inhalant; 2.1% of the people consumes opioids, including 4% of all males, 0.2% of females and 1.8% of children below 18 years.

It is shocking that 22.4% of the Indian population is hooked to one or the other type of drug use; more than one-third of the prisoners are drug abusers. Rave parties, nights out and club-nights, where drugs are easily available, is the new trend seen even in small towns. These are indicators of a dwindling familial and societal control system, changing food habits and social behaviour of people, easy availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (NDPS), poor implementation of laws and misplaced priorities of law enforcers, uneven coordination among multiple agencies involved in giving effect to policies and inadequate outreach programmes to deal with the addicts.

Till two decades back, sandwiched between the 'Golden Crescent' of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan and the 'Golden Triangle' of Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, India used to be a transit route for



drug trafficking to Europe and the western world; gradually, it has emerged as a huge consumer market of narcotic contrabands, as well as the biggest producer and supplier of synthetic and intoxicating pharmaceutical drugs to south-east Asian countries. The traditional supply routes have also changed and NDPS are now being smuggled into India mainly through seaports.

The pattern of substance consumption in India has undergone a qualitative change in the 21st century; refined opioids, cocaine and synthetic and pharmaceutical drugs are fast replacing the local-street NDPS such as cannabis, ganja and poppy husk. Online delivery and supply of drugs through courier services, without the risk of being caught by the police, have started in a big way; the fragile KYC (know your customer) norms in the postal system are proving handy. Due to high profitability, the involvement of influential people and connivance of law-enforcers with the traffickers have been amply substantiated from time to time.

This year's campaign is a reminder to the policymakers that not enough attention has been paid to rescue those who have lost their way in the world of drugs. The focus is on people-centric policies, of demand reduction, disruption of supply chain, risk reduction and rehabilitation. It is in sync with the objective of the Draft National

Demand Reduction Policy, 2014, which envisages demand reduction through awareness, education and counselling.

Medical professionals see drug abuse as a composite psycho-social-medical problem, requiring the combination of medical treatment and psycho-social interventions. It is reported that 75 per cent of the consumers tried to quit drugs but did not receive any help or treatment. The lawmakers identified this problem very early and included Section 71 in the NDPS Act, 1985, mandating the state to open de-addiction centres. The National Drug Policy 2012 also recognised the need for quality de-addiction centres in adequate numbers, both in private and public sectors. Accordingly, the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (2018-23) was prepared by the Ministry of Social Justice to implement the 'people first' policy. Despite that, not many quality drug de-addiction and counselling facilities are available to cater to the needs of every victim of drug abuse.

The legal policy of not stigmatising the substance abuser is already established under Section 64A of the 1985 NDPS Act, which provides immunity from prosecution to addicts charged with the consumption of contraband drugs or possession of small quantities of drugs. Immunity from prosecution under Section 64 is also available to petty

offenders in order to obtain their testimony against big drug smugglers. Both these progressive provisions of the NDPS law have failed to find favour with the agencies.

'Strengthening prevention' has been on the radar of Indian lawmakers. Very strict punishments are prescribed for drug traffickers, including death penalty for repeat offenders. Preventive detention up to one year, without any trial, of convicts, arrestees and suspects in offences entailing punishment of imprisonment of 10 years or more is provided under the Prevention of Illegal Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988. In order to make drug-trafficking a bargain of loss, provisions relating to the seizure, freezing and forfeiture of illegally acquired properties of the offenders and their relatives and associates were added in the NDPS Act in 1989. The state of affairs being bad is evident from the fact that the police and other agencies are not using these provisions adequately, either due to lack of professional skills or for want of priority. The National Crime Records Bureau has not thought it proper to even log data on both these counts.

The International Day Against Drug Abuse is a wake-up call for society in general and law enforcers in particular to set their priorities right for the benefit of future generations, before it is too late.

Focus on neighbourhood at the core of India's foreign policy

LUV PURI

The BJP-led NDA government has claimed that India's foreign policy has moved towards establishing the nation as a decisive player in global politics over the past nine years. Backed by a strong majority in Parliament, the Modi government has had plenty of leeway in shaping foreign policy, in contrast to the coalition governments that ruled from 1991 to 2014.

At the practical level, no government can perform miracles in the realm of foreign policy without domestic economic strength and a favourable geopolitical environment. US diplomats advance their interests with the economic and military leverage at their disposal. The diplomatic weight of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the political and economic alliance of the six West Asian countries correlate with the wealth accrued from crude oil and, thus, enhance their ability to scout for newer investment opportunities globally.

An assessment of India's foreign policy over the past nine years shows that it is not much in contrast to the post-liberalisation foreign policy orientation as changes in geopolitical dynamics and domestic strength determine the overall engagement.



In India's case, the current foreign policy priorities pertain to the neighbourhood, including Pakistan and the economically disconnected South Asian region, besides relations with the US, the Gulf countries, ASEAN and the European nations. There is also the Chinese challenge as well as the military and economic dependence on Russia. Africa and Latin America are also becoming important as new frontiers of engagement. The present trend lines are similar to what happened with Japan and South Korea in their era of industrial expansion. Their diplomats created newer trading opportunities in West Asia and

Africa, apart from the traditional European and North-American economic zones. In the context of the neighbourhood, the economic potential of the India-Pakistan relationship is predicated on the security aspect. Strikes across the Line of Control have been carried out as a deterrent in response to cross-border acts of terrorism. These strikes have put the onus on the Pakistani state. The relations with Bangladesh, whose per capita income has surpassed India's, are in line with the stance of the previous governments as there is a determined support to the Sheikh Hasina government. Both governments are careful in managing

occasional irritants of domestic politics that spill over to the other side. The \$1-billion credit facility that India extended to Sri Lanka last year is part of the lessons that the Indian government has learnt over the years to engage with and support the country without getting entangled in its ethnic fault lines. India's external engagement is getting greater visibility outside the region. China's economic and military threat has made India shed its inhibitions in terms of its military partnership with the US. Efforts are on to accelerate US-India defence co-development and co-production, keeping in mind the initiative on

Critical and Emerging Technologies (CET).

Scepticism about the future of the bilateral relationship matters little in the context of the US stakes in Asia and India's military and economic needs, which are creating win-win opportunities. Apart from the bipartisan consensus within the US, the relationship is a work in progress. The then PM Narendra Modi's visit to the US in May 1994 was a watershed moment and the progress continued during PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure. The then PM Manmohan Singh got the credit for stitching the 2005 India-US nuclear deal despite opposition

by the Left allies. India's ability to utilise potential foreign investments continuously in key employable sectors will be shaped by its domestic capacity. China's present economic power is seen as a consequence of the US support after the 1972 Nixon initiative as it tried to wean it away from the Soviet Union. China's heavy outlays in education and health enabled it to create a trained citizenry to capitalise on that rare economic opportunity.

In India, southern states are ahead of the others because of their higher investment in health and education. FDI will flow to the states which are ready for the investors. For instance, Apple established its unit in Tamil Nadu in 2017 and will set up one in Karnataka in 2024. The Modi government has got credit for its engagement with the Gulf countries.

There were occasions when the anti-Muslim narrative of some members of the ruling party triggered a sharp response from the Gulf, but damage control was quick.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with China, Turkey and Egypt, didn't participate in the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar in May, but the development was underplayed in the larger interest of

bilateral relations. India has faced criticism from Turkey on the development in J&K, but Foreign Minister S Jaishankar has been quick to retaliate diplomatically by underlining that the UNSC resolutions in respect of Cyprus must be respected. The engagement with Russia seems to be because of its dependence on the available cheaper crude oil and weaponry servicing. A serious challenge that the Modi government has faced is China's military adventurism in Ladakh.

The huge military and economic gap between the two nations has led the government to avoid being hyper-aggressive on this issue in the public domain. This indicates the importance of domestic capabilities over mere grandstanding.

Comparing the Modi government to its predecessors in terms of foreign policy is unfair as the context is constantly evolving.

The most populous country in the world, with 65 per cent of the population below 35 years, is an attractive market for the world. In order to alleviate poverty, a basic domestic economic ecosystem, including trained human resources, social cohesion, higher female participation in economic activities and the rule of law, is needed to translate the external initiatives and claims into outcomes on the ground.

Understanding the nutritional profiles of rice and oats for successful weight loss

Rice is a staple in many Indian states and is also one of the most loved and comforting everyday foods. It is consumed for breakfast, lunch, as well as dinner with various gravies and curries. However, when on a mission to lose weight, many people – more often than not – give up rice fearing that consuming it would lead to excess calorie intake. However, when eaten in moderation, it can actually be a good option to include in your diet. That is exactly what Mac Singh, a nutritionist, stated in an Instagram post as he shared the various health benefits of rice, and also compared it to oats – a cereal grain loved by many.

1. Easy to digest: As rice is easy to digest, it is great for boosting the metabolic rate, which accelerates the weight loss process.

2. Low in fat: 100 gm of uncooked rice has just 0.6 gm fat. Ironically, it has less fat than the so-called healthy grains like oats and quinoa, which people consume for weight loss.

3. It's gluten-free: Yes, you read it right. We buy expensive gluten-free bread and flour, but we ignore our very own desi rice, which is gluten-free too.

4. Rich nutrition: Rice is rich in vitamins and minerals such as vitamin B and magnesium, to name a few. 100 gm of rice contains 7 gm of protein.

Studies have shown that rice protein might also help to reduce blood pressure

and blood fats. 5. White rice does not contain an anti-nutritional factor. Unlike other grains, this one contains



phytic acid which reduces the absorption of certain minerals like calcium, iron, and zinc in the body.

Nutritional profile of rice and oats: Rice and oats have different nutritional values. Breaking them down, Sameena Ansari – Senior Dietitian and Nutritionist, CARE Hospitals, Hi-Tec City, Hyderabad

told indianexpress.com, "The nutritional profile of instant oats varies depending on the brand and serving size, but in general, a ½ cup serving of dry instant oats contains around 150-170 calories, 3-4 grams of fiber, 4-5 grams of protein, and 27-30 grams of carbohydrates, including 1-2 grams of sugar".

Rice, on the other hand, also has varying nutritional profiles depending on the type of rice and serving size, she continued.

"For example, a ½ cup serving of cooked white rice contains around 100-110 calories, 0.5 grams of fiber, 2 grams of protein, and 23-25 grams of carbohydrates, including 0.5-1 gram of sugar. Brown rice is slightly more nutrient-dense and contains more fiber, protein, and vitamins," she said.

A bowl of rice can have lower calories than oats. (Pc source: Pexels) A bowl of rice has lower calories than a bowl of oats. (Pc source: Pexels)

Why is rice, usually, not a part of diet plans? According to Ansari, rice can be a part

of a healthy diet plan when consumed in moderation and paired with other nutrient-dense foods.

She added that it is, however, not a part of diet plans because "rice is primarily

"Rice is rich in vitamins and minerals such as Vitamin B and Magnesium, to name a few. 100 gm of Rice contains 7 gm of protein. Studies have shown that rice protein might also help to reduce blood pressure and blood fats," writes nutritionist Mac Singh.

composed of carbohydrates, specifically starch. It can cause blood sugar spikes and insulin resistance, especially in people with diabetes or those with insulin resistance".

What about oats? Decoding why oats, on the other hand, are part of diet plans, Ansari said, "Oats are considered healthy because they are a good source of fiber, specifically beta-glucan, which has been shown to lower cholesterol levels and improve heart health.

They are also low in sugar and contain a range of vitamins and minerals. Oats are often part of diet plans, especially breakfast, because they can help keep you full and satisfied throughout the morning, which can help prevent overeating and snacking on unhealthy foods".

In general, incorporating whole grains like oats and brown rice into your diet can provide numerous health benefits.

"But it's essential to keep portion sizes in check and pair them with other nutrient-dense foods," concluded Ansari.

Children diagnosed with TB suffer from poor lung function after recovery



A new study has revealed that young children, aged 5 years or younger, diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) are at an increased risk of subsequent wheezing, poor lung function, and reduced height and weight later in their childhood.

The scientists from Boston University School of Public Health, US, involved in the study said while there are treatments for children who develop PTB, no studies have examined the long-term impact of this disease on children's health post-recovery. They have published their study in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

For the study, study lead and corresponding author Leonardo Martinez and colleagues from the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa, the University of Cape Town, and the University of Western Australia followed a cohort of 1,068 children from birth up to nine years old in two communities outside of Cape Town, from March 2012 to March 2015.

THIS new flu virus is plaguing India - Know all about causes, symptoms and treatment

The researchers found that children in the study who developed TB before one year of age had a lower weight and BMI for their age by the time they turned five years old, and those who developed PTB between one and four years of age had a lower length for their age.

Prevalence of latent tuberculosis in India The researchers also found that children who developed PTB were at a greater risk of post-TB wheezing, regardless of when they developed the infection. Children who developed PTB before they were six months old were found to have more than double the risk of wheezing after 6 months, compared to children who did not develop PTB.

Restless Leg Syndrome and Pregnancy: Finding Relief

Restless Leg Syndrome (RLS), also known as Willis-Ekbom disease, is a common neurological condition that affects both men and women, but it is more prevalent in women.

RLS causes an irresistible urge to move the legs, usually accompanied by an uncomfortable sensation in the legs. RLS symptoms tend to get worse at night, which can lead to disrupted sleep and daytime fatigue. In pregnant women, RLS is a common condition, affecting up to one in four women during pregnancy.

In this article, we will discuss the causes of RLS in pregnancy, home remedies to manage RLS symptoms, and how to get rid of RLS while pregnant.

The exact cause of restless leg syndrome is still unknown, but there are several factors that can trigger or worsen the condition, such as genetics, pregnancy, iron deficiency, and certain medications.

During pregnancy, hormonal changes, particularly the increase in estrogen and progesterone, can affect the nervous system and lead to RLS.

Moreover, the increased weight and pressure on the legs can also trigger RLS symptoms in pregnant women.

Iron deficiency is another common cause of RLS, as iron plays a crucial role in the production of dopamine, a neurotransmitter that regulates movement. Pregnant women are at a higher risk of iron deficiency due to the increased demand for iron to support the growing fetus. Certain medications, such as antidepressants and antihistamines, can also worsen RLS symptoms in pregnant women.

Home Remedies for Restless Leg Syndrome in Females

While there is no cure for RLS, there are several home remedies that pregnant women can try to manage their symptoms and improve their quality of sleep. Here are some effective home remedies for RLS in females:

Regular Exercise: Regular exercise can help reduce RLS symptoms and improve sleep quality. Pregnant women should engage in low-impact exercises, such as walking, yoga, and swimming, to promote circulation and reduce the discomfort



in their legs.

Warm Baths: Taking a warm bath before bedtime can help relax the muscles and reduce RLS symptoms. Adding Epsom salts or essential oils, such as lavender or chamomile, to the bathwater can enhance relaxation and promote better sleep.

Massage: Massaging the legs with a gentle, circular motion can help reduce discomfort and improve circulation. Pregnant women can use massage oil or lotion, such as coconut oil or almond oil, to make the massage more effective.

Stretching: Gentle stretching exercises, such as calf stretches

and hamstring stretches, can help reduce RLS symptoms and improve sleep quality. Pregnant women should avoid overstretching or holding a stretch for too long, as this can cause muscle strain or cramps.

Iron-Rich Foods: Eating a diet rich in iron can help reduce RLS symptoms in pregnant women. Iron-rich foods include red meat, poultry, fish, beans, lentils, spinach, and fortified cereals.

How to Get Rid of Restless Leg Syndrome While Pregnant?

While managing RLS symptoms can improve sleep quality and overall well-being, some pregnant women may still experience

persistent and severe symptoms that affect their daily activities. In such cases, medical treatment may be necessary to alleviate the symptoms and improve the quality of life.

The first step in treating restless leg syndrome is to identify and address any underlying medical conditions, such as iron deficiency anemia or peripheral neuropathy. Pregnant women should talk to their healthcare provider about the possible causes of their RLS symptoms and undergo any necessary tests or evaluations.

If iron deficiency is the cause of restless leg syndrome symptoms, iron supplements may be prescribed to increase the body's iron levels. Pregnant women should talk to their healthcare provider about the appropriate dosage and potential side effects of iron supplementation.

In some cases, medication may be prescribed to manage RLS symptoms in pregnant women. However, most medications used to treat RLS are not recommended during pregnancy due to potential risks to the developing fetus.

'Highest return on investment' habits for mental health revealed by expert



Adopting simple mental health-promoting habits can significantly impact your mental wellbeing in the long term. Mental health is increasingly being prioritized and given the same (if not greater) importance as physical health as a result of growing awareness. You don't have to do drastic things to improve your mental wellbeing. Developing simple yet impactful daily habits can be a great start.

Simple habits for mental health Cognitive neuroscientist Naval Mustafa shared some of these habits on Instagram, explaining that "Taking care of your mental health does not have to be expensive or complicated." Bhaskar Malu, Lecturer and Assistant Dean (Academic Affairs) at Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences, explains that "good mental health habits are important." In many ways, positive habits allow the brain to preserve energy since a particular task is already decided.

World Liver Day: Autoimmune Hepatitis, Hemochromatosis, Wilson's Disease — Liver Diseases And How To Prevent Them

World Liver Day is observed every year on April 19 to raise public awareness about liver diseases, which claim about 20 lakh lives annually worldwide. Liver diseases in India alone contributed to 18.3 per cent of the two million global liver disease-related deaths in 2015, implying how significant the burden of liver disease in India is, according to the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Since 1980, the contribution of cirrhosis and its complications, collectively called chronic liver diseases, as causes of mortality in India has been increasing progressively. Liver diseases are a significant cause of premature death and disability in India.

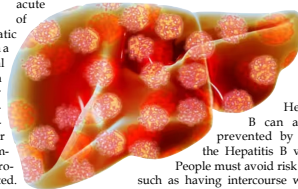
The different types of liver diseases are acute hepatitis, alcoholic liver disease, chronic liver disease, drug-induced liver injury, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis E, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, Wilson's disease, and

hemochromatosis, among others.

Hepatitis Acute hepatitis refers to a wide variety of conditions characterised by acute inflammation of the hepatic parenchyma (the functional parts of an organ) or injury to hepatocytes resulting in the liver function becoming compromised or affected. People suffering from acute hepatitis may experience symptoms such as fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, jaundice, nausea, vomiting, dark urine, and joint pain, among others. Hepatitis, which means inflammation of the liver, can be caused by the viruses Hepatitis A, B and C.

Hepatitis A can be prevented through frequent handwashing with

soap and water after using the wash-room, and before eating or preparing food. It is also important to take the Hepatitis A vaccine.



Hepatitis B can also be prevented by taking the Hepatitis B vaccine.

People must avoid risk factors such as having intercourse with an infected person and sharing needles. Hepatitis C can be prevented by avoiding behaviours that spread the disease, especially injecting drugs.

Alcoholic liver disease Alcoholic liver disease is of three types: fatty liver disease, alcoholic hepatitis, and alcoholic cirrhosis. The build-up of fat inside the liver cells, which leads to an enlarged liver, is called fatty liver disease.

LIVER DISEASES IN INDIA ALONE CONTRIBUTED TO 18.3 PER CENT OF THE TWO MILLION GLOBAL LIVER DISEASE-RELATED DEATHS IN 2015, IMPLYING HOW SIGNIFICANT THE BURDEN OF LIVER DISEASE IN INDIA IS.

This is the most common alcohol-induced liver disease, according to Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Alcoholic hepatitis results in the death of liver cells due to acute inflammation of the liver, and it is often followed by permanent scarring. Alcoholic cirrhosis is a liver disease characterised by the destruction of normal liver tissue, and leaves scar tissue in place of the working liver tissue.

The heavy use of alcohol results in alcoholic liver disease. Therefore, the disease can be prevented by avoiding alcohol consumption.

Chronic liver disease A progressive deterioration of liver functions for more than six months, which include synthesis of clotting factors, other proteins, detoxification of harmful metabolic products, and excretion of bile, is known as chronic

liver disease. It is a continuous process of inflammation, destruction and regeneration of liver parenchyma, which leads to fibrosis cirrhosis.

Fibrosis and cirrhosis are the two types of chronic liver disease. The growth of scar tissue in the liver due to infection, inflammation, or injury, that can prevent the liver from functioning properly, is known as fibrosis.

While fibrosis refers to any degree of scarring in the liver, cirrhosis is the most severe and extensive form of scarring, and is characterised by the incidence of higher complications of liver disease. In other words, fibrosis is the first stage of liver scarring, and cirrhosis is the final stage of chronic liver disease.

Chronic liver disease can be prevented by avoiding alcohol, getting hepatitis vaccination, avoiding non-

steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, taking iron supplementation when appropriate, and consuming a low-fat diet.

Hepatocellular carcinoma Hepatocellular carcinoma, the most common type of liver cancer, occurs more often in men than women, and is most often diagnosed in people aged 50 years or above.

It is a primary tumour of the liver. Long-term damage and scarring of the liver, or cirrhosis, may lead to hepatocellular carcinoma.

Childhood vaccination against hepatitis B, preventing and treating viral hepatitis when one contracts it, avoiding excess consumption of alcohol, screening for liver cancer in people with certain types of hemochromatosis or iron overload, and in people with hepatitis B or C or cirrhosis can prevent hepatocellular carcinoma.

Influencer Sapna Gill's molestation allegation against Prithvi Shaw false: Police



MUMBAI, JUNE 27: Social media influencer Sapna Gill's allegation that Indian cricketer Prithvi Shaw had molested her at a pub in suburban Andheri in Mumbai is "false and unfounded", the police told a court here on Monday. The investigating officer appeared before the magistrate, presiding over the case, on Monday and submitted a report about the matter.

After the police submitted the report, Gill's lawyer Ali Kaashif Khan requested the court to allow him to present the video footage of the alleged brawl that Gill's friend had recorded on his phone, which went viral in the media. He also sought a CCTV grab of the incident that occurred outside the pub.

The court asked the police to submit the footage of the entire incident and adjourned the matter to June 28.

Gill had lodged a complaint before a magistrate court in Andheri seeking registration of FIR under IPC sections 354 (Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her

Control (ATC) tower, which is in the vicinity, and it is seen that the social media influencer was following Shaw's car with a baseball bat in her hand. The footage shows that she smashed the windshield of the cricketer's car, the court was told.

The report also mentioned that police have recorded statements of CISF officials and they too said no such incident had taken place as claimed by Gill.

According to a CISF official, they were alerted about a scuffle in the area. Upon reaching the spot, he saw a car's windshield smashed. The car driver said an argument broke out inside the pub and the manager had asked them to leave and that he wanted to lodge an FIR, as per the report.

The official said a woman holding a baseball bat in her hand. Her male friend took the bat from her and threw it to the side when they saw police approaching the spot. None of the men at the spot was assaulting the woman, stated the report citing the statement of the CISF official.

The investigation conducted in accordance with the complaint of Gill revealed that the allegations against Prithvi Shaw and others are false (unfounded), police said.

Gill was arrested in February along with some others in connection with an alleged attack on Shaw following an argument over clicking selfies at a suburban hotel.

After securing bail, Gill approached the Airport police station with a complaint against Shaw, his friend Ashish Yadav, and others, for alleged molestation and outraging modesty.

She later moved the court after the police didn't register a case against the cricketer.

modesty), 509 (Word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 324 (Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means) against Shaw and his friend Ashish Yadav for assaulting her with a bat in February.

Before moving the court, Gill had approached the Airport police station in Andheri for registration of a molestation case against the cricketer and his friend.

Police told the court that examination of the CCTV footage of the pub shows that Gill and her friend Shobit Thakur were drunk and dancing.

Thakur wanted to record Shaw with his mobile phone but the cricketer stopped him from taking videos. On perusal of the footage, it doesn't appear that Shaw and others molested Gill in any way, the police said.

Police said they have recorded statements of witnesses present in the pub where the alleged incident occurred and they stated that no one touched Gill inappropriately. Police also examined CCTV footage of the Air Traffic

Would not allow Sri Lanka to be used as base for threats against India: President Wickremesinghe

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka would not be allowed to be used as a base for any threats against India, President Ranil Wickremesinghe has said, asserting that the island nation remains "neutral", having no military agreements with China.

Wickremesinghe, who was on an official visit to the UK and France, made the comments during an interview with France's state media on Monday.

In an interview with France24, Wickremesinghe said, "We are a neutral country, but we also emphasise the fact that we cannot allow Sri Lanka to be used as a base for any threats against India." Responding to a question about China's perceived military presence in Sri Lanka, the president said that the Chinese have been in the country for about "1500 years and, so far, there has been no military base". Wickremesinghe



asserted that the island nation has no military agreement with China and said, "There won't be any military agreements. I don't think China will enter into one." The president said there were no issues of military use by the Chinese of the southern port of Hambantota, which Beijing took over on a 99-year lease as a debt swap in 2017.

He assured that even though the Hambantota harbour has been given out to China's Merchants, its security is controlled by the Sri Lankan government.

"The Southern Naval Command will be shifted to Hambantota, and we have got one brigade stationed in Hambantota in the nearby areas," he added.

Last year, Sri Lanka allowed the Chinese ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship Yuan Wang 5 to dock at the Hambantota port, raising fears in India and the US about China's increasing maritime presence in the strategic Indian Ocean region.

There were apprehensions in New Delhi about the possibility of the vessel's tracking systems attempting to snoop on Indian installations while being on its way to the Sri Lankan port. The ties between India and Sri Lanka had come under strain after Colombo gave permission to Chinese nuclear-powered submarine to dock in one of its ports in 2014.

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

Titanic Submarine Search, Live Updates: Missing sub may have less than 20... Wickremesinghe, 74, was elected president last year following the resignation of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who fled the country amid the turmoil caused by Sri Lanka's economic crisis, its worst since its independence from Britain in 1948, triggered by forex shortages.

Since Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, more than 1,000 civilians were killed in attacks, UN says

WASHINGTON: The United Nations said Tuesday it has documented a significant level of civilians killed and wounded in attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover — despite a stark reduction in casualties compared to previous years of war and insurgency.

According to a new report by the U.N. mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA, since the takeover in mid-August 2021 and until the end of May, there were 3,774 civilian casualties, including 1,095 people killed in violence in the country.

That compares with 8,820 civilian casualties — including 3,035 killed — in just 2020, according to an earlier U.N. report.

The Taliban seized the country in August 2021 while U.S. and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their withdrawal from Afghanistan after two decades of war.

According to the U.N. report, three-quarters of the attacks since the Taliban seized power were with

improvised explosive devices in "populated areas, including places of worship, schools and markets," the report said. Among those killed were 92 women and 287 children.



The statement said that the majority of the IED attacks were carried out by the region's affiliate of the Islamic State group — known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province.

However, the U.N. report said a "significant number" of the deaths resulted from attacks that were never claimed or that the U.N. mission could not attribute to any group. It did not provide the number for those fatalities. The U.N. report also expressed concern about "the lethality of suicide attacks" since the Taliban takeover, with fewer attacks causing more

civilian casualties. It noted that the attacks were carried out amid a nationwide financial and economic crisis. With the sharp drop in donor funding since the takeover, victims are struggling to get access to "medical, financial and psychosocial support" under the current Taliban-led government, the report said. The U.N. agency demanded an immediate halt to attacks and said it holds the Taliban government responsible for the safety of Afghans.

The Taliban said their administration took over when Afghanistan was "on the verge of collapse" and that they "managed to rescue the country and government from a crisis" by making sound decisions and through proper management.

In a response, the Taliban-led foreign ministry said that the situation has gradually improved since August 2021. "Security has been ensured across the country," the statement said, adding that the Taliban consider the security of places of worship and holy shrines, including Shiite sites, a priority.

Despite initial promises in 2021 of a more moderate administration, the Taliban enforced harsh rules after seizing the country. They banned girls' education after the sixth grade and barred Afghan women from public life and most work, including for nongovernmental organizations and the U.N. The measures harked back to the previous Taliban rule of Afghanistan in the late 1990s, when they also imposed their strict interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia. The edicts prompted an international outcry against the already ostracized Taliban, whose administration has not been officially recognised by the U.N. and the international community.

CAG audit into 'irregularities' in 'reconstruction' of Delhi CM residence: Raj Niwas officials

NEW DELHI, JUNE 27: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India will conduct a special audit into alleged "irregularities and violations" in the "reconstruction" of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, Raj Niwas officials said on Tuesday.

The Union home ministry has recommended the special CAG audit taking note of a May 24 letter by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena which pointed out the "reconstruction" gross and prima facie financial irregularities in the "reconstruction" of the chief minister's official residence, they claimed.

No immediate reaction was available from the CAG's office or the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, which has locked horns with the BJP over the issue since it first came to light in April.

While the AAP claimed it was a dilapidated structure built in 1942 and needed repairs, the BJP has alleged irregularities and pressed for a probe.

In his May 24 letter to the MHA, Saxena said the "alleged irregularities" were highlighted by the media after which Delhi's chief



secretary submitted a factual report on April 27 and then again on May 12.

The reports detailed "deviations, violations from rules, regulations and guidelines" by the Public Works Department and the Delhi government "in the name of renovation of the Chief Minister's residence", he said.

According to the reports of the chief secretary, a full-fledged "construction/reconstruction" of a new building was effected by the PWD in the name of renovation, the LG's letter said.

The report also flagged that the ownership of the property was not ascertained by the Public Works Department before commencing the construction, it

expenditure of Rs 52,71,24,570 (approximately Rs 53 crores) has been spent till date which is more than three times the initial estimate, the letter said.

"Further, record show, that to avoid approvals from Principal Secretary (PWD) who has been delegated powers for giving financial sanction above Rs 10 crore, split sanctions of amount less than Rs 10 crore on every occasion were obtained convolutedly," the report said, according to the letter.

The report had also flagged the "gross violation of the MPD-2021" or Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) which is the law of the land in matters of land and spatial development/redevelopment, it said.

"To avoid obtaining approval of Competent Authority for felling/transplantation of trees of more than 10 numbers, as per Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, split approvals were taken five times for felling/transplantation of 9,2,6,6 and 5 ie total 28 trees. This issue regarding violation of Environmental Laws is also pending before NGT," it said.

As per the report, a total

Over 1 500 people detained, 270 vehicles seized in central district during night patrol says Delhi Police

New Delhi, JUNE 27: The Delhi Police detained more than 1,500 people and seized around 270 vehicles from its central district during an intensified night patrol to contain street crimes in the national capital, officials said on Tuesday.

The move comes days after a delivery agent and his associate were allegedly robbed of Rs 2 lakh at gunpoint by four motorcycle-borne men inside the Pragati Maidan tunnel. Five people have so far been arrested in connection with the Saturday incident.

In the Central district alone, more than 1,500 people were detained Monday night under section 65 (persons bound to comply with the reasonable directions of a police officer) of the Delhi Police Act and over 270 vehicles were seized, a senior police officer said.

The vehicles were seized under section 66 (police to take charge of unclaimed property) of the same Act, he said. According to the police, action was also taken against "bad characters" and those for disturbing peace under relevant sections of the CrPc.

Officers of all ranks were on the ground on Monday night with special emphasis on foot patrolling. The force was mobilised in all vulnerable areas of the district and verifications were carried out in the homes of "bad characters", they said.

A large number of police personnel were deployed across the 15 districts

of the force to check suspicious movements and curb criminal activities, police said.

The special drive was carried out under the supervision of the special commissioners of police (law and order) Dependra Pathak and Sagar Preet Hooda who were also on the ground to ensure that no untoward incident takes place and citizens feel safe to travel even late at night, according to police.

Intensified checking was carried out at all important locations, including Red Fort, the Pragati Maidan tunnel, the main roads, dark spots and border areas of the national capital. Extra pickets have also been installed to keep an eye on suspicious vehicles, a police officer said.

Pedigree based on caste will have no role in appointment of temple priests rules: Madras HC

CHENNAI, JUNE 27: The Madras High Court has ruled that pedigree based on caste will have no role to play in the appointment of Archakas in temples and allowed trustees to appoint any person well-versed and qualified to perform the 'pooja' as per the requirements of the temple Agama.

Agama generally means the traditional ritual followed in temple-visa-vis the worship.

The court was hearing a plea from Muthu Subramania Gurukkal against an advertisement issued by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (HRCE) department calling for applications for the positions of Archakas/Sthanikam of Sri Sugavaneswarar Swamy Temple, Salem. The petitioner's grievance was that

the impugned advertisement infringes upon the hereditary right of his and others, who are rendering their services as per the customs and usage in the line of succession from time immemorial.

His counsel contended the temple in question is an Agamic temple and hence any appointment of Archaka/Sthanikam can be done only as per the customs and usage.

Justice N Anand Venkatesh referred extensively from various Supreme Court judgements, including the Seshammal and others vs State of Tamil Nadu case. "It is clear from the apex judgment of the Apex Court in Seshammal's case that the appointment of an Archaka is a secular act and hence, the hereditary right cannot be claimed. The Apex Court held that an

Archaka owes his appointment to the shebais and managers of a temple and they are the one who choose the Archaka," the court said.

Therefore, in the matter of appointment of an Archaka, the rule of next-in-line of succession cannot be insisted and a trustee is not bound to make the appointment on the sole ground that the candidate is next-in-line of succession to the last holder of the office. In another case, the Apex Court once again held that there is no justification to insist that only a Brahmin (in this case, a Malayalee brahmin) alone can perform the rites and rituals and that it can be performed by any one who is well-versed, properly trained and qualified to perform the 'pooja' in a manner conducive and appropriate to the worship of the particular deity.

"Hence, the Apex Court frowned on insisting for a pedigree based on caste to perform the rites and rituals in a temple," the judge said. "In the considered view of this Court, it is always left open to the Trustees/Fit Person to appoint Archakas/Sthanikam in Agamic temples (where there is no doubt on the Agama that governs the temple) by ensuring that the Archakas/Sthanikam are well-versed, properly trained and qualified to perform the pooja as per the requirements under the Agama."

"At the risk of repetition, it is made abundantly clear that the pedigree based on caste will have no role to play in the appointment of Archaka if the person so selected otherwise satisfies the requirements," the court said.

Strictly follow govt's animal sacrifice guidelines: Jamiat to Muslims ahead of Eid

New Delhi, JUNE 27: Prominent Muslim organisation Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind on Monday urged Muslims to strictly follow government guidelines while offering sacrifice on Eid-ul-Azha and not to share pictures of slaughtered animals on social media. Eid-ul-Azha, also called the festival of sacrifice, will be celebrated on Thursday.

Muslims across the globe offer sacrifice of animals as permitted by law in their respective countries as a symbol of the willingness and obedience to God that Prophet Ibrahim showed in

offering his son Ismael as sacrifice. In a statement, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madani said that in view of the current situation, it is important that Muslims take precautionary measures while offering the sacrifice of animals. He urged them not to share pictures of slaughtered animals on social media. Madani also urged Muslims to strictly follow the government guidelines while performing 'qurbani (sacrifice) and not to sacrifice prohibited animals.

He urged them to take the adminis-

tration into confidence whenever anyone tries to stop the legitimate sacrifice.

Madani also advised Muslims to take special care of cleanliness on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha and stressed that animal waste should not be thrown on the streets and drains, but buried in a manner that it does not raise any stench.

The Jamiat chief asserted that every possible effort should be made so that no one gets hurt by the actions of Muslims.

Secretary Tourism visits Pahalgam, reviews Tourism department preparations for Shri Amarnathji Yatri

J I NEWS SERVICE

PAHALGAM, JUNE 27: Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah today conducted an extensive visit to South Kashmir areas to review the preparations made for the smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The Tourism Secretary visited the Nunwan base camp and inspected the arrangements in place.

During his visit, the Secretary Tourism, accompanied by Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob, reviewed the deployment of staff along the Yatra route by the Tourism Department to ensure effective management and



Secretary of Tourism, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, is seen with officials to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place to provide a secure and comfortable pilgrimage experience for the devotees.

necessary arrangements are in place to provide a secure and comfortable pilgrimage experience for the devotees.

Dr Abid Rashid also had an interactive meeting with the tourism stakeholders of Pahalgam comprising hoteliers, guest house owners, ponywallas and other stakeholders in which he impressed upon them to ensure that they provide all necessary facilitation to the yatri. He expressed satisfaction over the feedback from the stakeholders and impressed upon the need for close coordination between the Department and the stakeholders to ensure a smooth and hassle free experience for all yatri. The stakeholders assured the Secretary of their commitment to

welcome the Yatri and assured their full cooperation in facilitating a smooth and hassle-free Yatra. During this meeting, the stakeholders raised several pertinent matters and issues and the Tourism Secretary assured them of early redressal.

Later in the day, the Tourism Secretary reviewed arrangements made at other transit camps enroute the Yatra. He called upon all officers of the department to ensure that all facilitation must be kept forthcoming for the yatri who are our valued guest. Chief Executive Officer Pahalgam Development Authority, Tariq Ahmad Naik and other officers of Tourism Department accompanied the Tourism Secretary during the visit.

SP College launches series of programmes to observe 'Int'l Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking'

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: The NSS Units of Sri Pratap College today launched a series of programmes to observe 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' in and outside the campus.

The event was inaugurated by the Principal of SP College, Prof (Dr) Ghulam Jeelani Qureshi along with NSS Programme Officers Dr. Nadia Shah and Dr. Syed Rashid Maqsood. 50 NSS volunteers registered for the event and carried out activities to create awareness regarding drug abuse and drug trafficking.

NSS volunteers visited various schools and delivered brief lectures in classrooms and morning assemblies regarding the social and medical implications of substance abuse. Volunteers conducted a rally on M. A Road and pasted messages regarding drug trafficking and substance abuse on public and private vehicles to increase the reach of the awareness. Besides, Volunteers spoke to drivers of public vehicles regarding the growing menace of substance abuse.

DC Bandipora convenes DRAC meeting; approves 10 rent assessment cases

J I NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 27: The District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC), which met here today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad, approved 10 rent cases. The rent cases pertaining to Health, Education, Agriculture, Sheep and Animal Husbandry, Jal Shakhi and Horticulture were approved by the committee. The Committee discussed the fixation of rent of various structures in which various government offices are functioning across the district. 12 cases were taken up for discussion in the meeting out of which 10 cases were approved. Addressing the meeting, the DC asked the officers to pay rent to the concerned owners of land and structures on time and ensure safety of the Government/ rented property.

He further asked the intending authorities to pay the approved rent along with the arrears after the title verification certificate is issued from concerned Tehsil. The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning, Intiyaz Ahmad, Executive Engineer R&B and other District/ other concerned officers of various departments.

10 day long intensive training programme for Tourist Guides concludes at TRC

Secy. Tourism underscores the role of young entrepreneurs in shaping future of tourism sector



J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: A 10 day long capacity building programme for the Tourist Guides concluded here at the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir. The programme was organised by the Department of Tourism in collaboration with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The programme is part of the initiative of the Department of Tourism to improve the technical skills and further enhance the professionalism among the frontline staff of the Tourism industry for which the SIDBI has lent all support. Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah was the chief guest at the concluding function.

The program was designed to teach participants about the local culture and uncover the lively old and culturally rich areas. The training program comprised five days of classroom sessions followed by four days of immersive experiences visiting significant cultural destinations and engaging with local artisans to understand the rich traditions of the place. Addressing the participants at the felicitation ceremony, the Tourism Secretary congratulated the tourist guides for their commitment and dedication to the training program. He highlighted the role of the tourist guides as ambassadors of Jammu & Kashmir, emphasizing their responsibility in showcasing the region's unique culture and fostering sustainable tourism practices.

Dr. Abid said Tourism Department shall provide platform to young minds to hone their skills and become success stories of coming days. He underscored the role of these young professionals in shaping the future of tourism sector.

The Tourism Secretary appreciated the role and concern of the SIDBI who came forward and lent all support to make the programme series a success.

Addressing the participants, the Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob underscored the need for skillful and professional guides in the tourism industry. He said post Covid-19 and with an increased tourist footfall to the Valley the need for professional and technically trained staff is being felt very much and the Department being conscious of this fact has rolled out this series of training programmes.

Senior officers of Tourism Department, SIDBI and representatives of programme conducting agency were present on the occasion.

Earlier, the Department in collaboration with SIDBI has organized similar training programmes for frontline staff of hotels and guest houses, Tour/Ski guides/Ski patrol who have been working in various activities at the famous ski resort of Gulmarg and other destinations.

DSC discusses skill development plan for district Doda

Training of youth in Hospitality, Agro Industry, Tourism sectors stressed upon

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 27: District Development Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, who is also Chairman of the District Skill Committee (DSC), today chaired a meeting of the Committee members here in the Meeting hall of DC office complex to discuss the skill aspirations of the unemployed youth, availability of the opportunities and resources in the district.

At the outset, the Chairman was briefed about the District Skill Plan and the Youth Skill Development courses being offered in different institutions in the district. Manujender Singh, who is Mahatma National Gandhi Fellow (MGNF) for District Doda, presented a detailed report on objectives and plan of action for Skill up-gradation and handholding of Skilled youth in the district. He also presented the sketch of courses run under PMKVY 40 by Government and private institutes in the district. Chairman stressed on the up-skilling of the youth in Hospitality, Tourism, Agriculture Product Processing and other market

linked courses. DC has instructed the GM DIC/ CDD Employment to conduct a career counselling session/ interaction of the youth to know the expectations of the unemployed people and give them information on the available resources/ opportunities. He informed that District Administration is working on creating the tourism industry in the district to create an opportunity for the youth as well as to promote local tourist places, cultural heritage, and traditions of the district.

DC was informed that the ITI Doda has successfully completed the training course on Tunnelling Techniques. It was decided in the meeting that a batch of 30 persons shall be trained in Hospitality by RSETI soon. Horticulture and Agri and allied sectors shall give hands-on work to the people at Malan (Dessa), Goa (Marmat), Gandoh, and Baderwah for processing of the agri-products from next month onwards.

The meeting also discussed the District Skill Plan, and the suggestions/ comments have been sought from the members for its finalisation. DC urged the members to make the District Skill Plan in consonance with

the local demands, available resources, and educational qualifications of the youth. He directed the heads of all the ITIs and Principal Polytechnic College Doda to ensure the practical exposure of trainees to the industries and business units so that they remain updated with the latest technologies and can be able to fit in their job profile for better earning of livelihood. DC has asked the concerned to send the batches to the ITIs and IIMs for the better upskilling of the youth for their future endeavours. DC also pitched for short-term courses in Health sector and Banking sector keeping in view of their demand in the society. He also asked all the departments involved in providing Skill training to take up only relevant courses.

The meeting was attended by ADC Doda, CPO Doda, GM DIC Doda, CAO Doda, DSHO, DSWO Doda, DIO Doda, Functional Manager DIC Doda, Principal Polytechnic Doda, Superintendent ITI Doda and Baderwah, LBM, Zonal Officer JK Bank, Director RSETI, MGNF and representatives of the line departments.

DC Doda reviews performance of Banks

Seeks focus on Priority Sectors, convergence of Self Employment Schemes with Agro & Allied Start ups and Tourism Sector

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 27: District Level Review Committee/District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) meeting was held today under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Vishesh Mahajan here in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, Doda, to review the performance of the Banks and other Financial Institutions.

DC has urged the banks and the government agencies to focus on the Priority sector, especially in the Agro and Allied activities, to utilise the natural resources in achieving sustainable livelihood for the district. He stressed on the motivation of the unemployed youth with proper hand holding in agro based ventures/ start-ups, including processing of the local agro products. DC has urged the RBI officials and Bank authorities

to take the decisions of the DLRC meeting with utmost seriousness to cater to the financial needs of the district for its overall development. Taking cognisance of the absence of some bankers and officers, Vishesh Mahajan has asked them to explain the reasons for their absence in the DLRC meet.

Chairman/ DC has urged banks and sponsoring agencies to encourage and handhold innovative entrepreneurs and give them all the permissible help in setting up their business units. Chairman has asked the concerned to identify piece of land on Baderwah Road for setting up Tourism Industry and the banks have been asked to finance the Tourism sector to create an opportunity for the unemployed youth and the district to earn from the great potential of the tourism and promote the local tourist places, cultural heritage and traditions.

While emphasising the need for penetration of social security schemes in society, the Chairman has asked all the banks to subscribe their account holders (eligible and willing) to register for PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY. Besides, directions have been made to enrol eligible/ willing beneficiaries of MGNREGA, Social Welfare schemes, and other such beneficiaries for the said social security schemes so that the poor can get financial security.

During the meeting DC held threadbare discussion with regard to the lending in priority, non priority, agro sector, number of cases sponsored by the intending departments, the cases sanctioned, cases disbursed, and cases pending for disbursement. Besides, the committee also reviewed the implementation of Munkin scheme, Tejaswani, PNEG, MUDRA, NULM, NPAs,

and progress of ADHAAR linkage and Mobile seeding. The Deputy Commissioner Doda took a sector wise performance review of the Banks in implementation of different Government initiatives with respect to employment generation etc. Disbursement of pending cases of loan in Agro, Handloom, and other allied sectors were also reviewed by the Chairman DLRC and banks were asked to focus on lending in priority sectors including Education and Agro based sectors. DC asked banks to promote education loan schemes and proliferate the Vidya Lakshmi portal. Additionally, the DC urged bankers and other financial agencies to lay special focus on providing financial help to unemployed youth so that they can earn their livelihood with dignity. Regarding the establishment of SETI, it was informed that suit-

able land has been identified and indent has been submitted to the concerned authority. R-SETI has been instructed to give skills and training to the unemployed people on Lavender, Horticulture, Agriculture, Processing of Agriculture Products etc. Bankers were asked to earmark the share of CSR for the district and utilise it in improving the quality of education in government schools and in Swachhata sectors.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Doda Pran Singh, Chief Planning Officer, Suresh Kumar, Dy Director Employment Idrees Lone, LDM Parveen Kumar, CAHO, CAO, DSHO, Zonal Officer JK Bank, District Manager KVIB, representatives of Private Commercial Banks, and other officers/representatives of various departments.

Secretary Tourism interacts with VM Sports foundation; Discusses promotion of adventure, motor sports

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Secretary Tourism and Culture, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, had an exclusive interaction with VM Sports foundation regarding promotion of adventure and motor sports in Jammu and Kashmir.

The foundation representatives headed by Vamcy Merla desired to join hands with Tourism Department in its initiatives towards promotion of Adventure Sports and Motor Sports in the UT supporting the local aspiring young talent in this regard.



Secretary asked the VM sports foundation to train the local youth of J&K in motor sports activities, and organise off-road events for channelising the untapped sport's potential of talented youth in this field. Secretary, while mentioning

the role of VM foundation, appreciated their efforts in promoting motorsports in India and abroad. He asked the foundation to come up with a complete action plan for honing the skills of the youth of UT in such spheres.

Dr. Shah, while expressing his keenness to see the adventure activities happening at grassroots level, visualised the revival of sport's culture in all parts of the UT. He shared his belief with the delegation about the power of sports being capable to invigorate the youth and also help create a strong economic chain to benefit the stakeholders and local population. Secretary also assured concerted efforts for revival of popular Mughal road rally in J&K, a national off-road activity that has considerable following of motor-

sports fans from all over the country. Ashwin Naik, Lokesh Godwa and Amrith Pal Singh Balli, national names in rally sports and sports writers, were also present in the meeting who briefed the Secretary about the working of motorsports and VM foundation. Secretary assured all support from the Tourism department to the foundation, the gesture was well reciprocated by the representatives by assuring the Secretary to collaborate and associate at all levels for making the sports canvas of UT a vibrant hub of adventure and rally sports.



DC Gbl discusses significance of Yatra with PRIs, Civil Society members

Highlights role of locals in conducting safe, secure & peaceful SANJY-2023

JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, JUNE 27: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting with PRI members to discuss the preparations and arrangements for conducting Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2023 via Ballal route.

During the meeting, the DC highlighted the significance of yatra and maintained that the role of locals is essential for conducting a safe, secure and peaceful Yatra.

The meeting was attended by DDC - Vice-Chairperson, Bilal Ahmad, Additional Deputy



Commissioner Ganderbal, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, President Municipal Council Ganderbal, BDC Chairpersons, DDC members, Councilors, Sarpanchs and Civil Society Members. During interaction, the participants shared their valuable suggestions for facilitating the yatra like traffic management, installation

of surveillance cameras, services camps in Yatra enroute, sign boards, etc. The DC said that all the suggestions and inputs are welcomed to make the pilgrimage more comfortable for the devotees.

While interacting with the PRI members, the DC appreciated the suggestions put forth by them and said that district administration will examine all the suggestions.

He urged them to sensitize the locals about the importance of Yatra both from an economic perspective and tourism as well. He asked them to ensure cleanliness is maintained throughout the

Yatra route. The DC maintained that this year preference was given to locals to provide various services during the Yatra period and permissions were issued to the applicants accordingly.

Participating PRIs and Civil Society members assured the DC their cooperation at all levels for ensuring a successful Yatra in the district adding that the whole district Ganderbal is ready to welcome the pilgrims.

They also assured support and cooperation to the district administration in the peaceful and smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

DC Ramban reviews enrolment of 0-5 year Children at DLAMC meeting

RAMBAN, JUNE 27: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Musarat Islam today chaired a meeting of the District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee to review the status of Aadhaar enrolment and Aadhaar seeding of beneficiaries.

Programme Officer, ICDS, Jahangir Hashmi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Giasul-Haq, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, Ganesh Kumar, Chief Education Officer, Devanand, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kamal Iqbal Zaidoo, Dy. SP, Om Parkash and other committee members attended the meeting.

Director, UIDAI Regional Office, Chandigarh Sanjeev Mahajan and other officers joined the meeting through Video Conference.

The Deputy Commissioner enquired about the status of Aadhaar enrolment of children in the age group of 0-5 years and directed the DPO, ICDS to ensure 100% coverage by mobilizing the Aadhaar enrollment staff.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed all the stakeholder departments and agencies to motivate the residents to enroll children below 5 years for Aadhaar enrolment and to get Mandatory Biometric updates done (MBU) after attaining the age of 5 years and 15 years.

Encouraging the Aadhaar holders to update Aadhaar with valid supporting documents, identity and address proof by visiting the nearest Aadhaar centres was also stressed upon. The stakeholder Departments were asked to launch an enrollment drive on mission mode to achieve 100% coverage. Pertinent to mention, the district administration has constituted a team of Informants and Notifiers to collect the data of vital events like Births and Deaths as per the timeline. The enrollment for Aadhaar Linked Birth registration at the time of birth was also emphasized.

The Director UIDAI, Chandigarh informed that to simplify Aadhaar usage, an array of services have been made available on mAadhaar app which can be accessed online. He noted that the benefits of Aadhaar have not only led to monetary savings but also stimulated responsible behavior, transparency, and faster delivery of benefits of various schemes of the Government.

DC Pulwama chairs NCORD meeting

JJ NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, JUNE 27: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee of Narcotics Coordination (NCORD).

At the outset, the DC stressed on the need to identify the major drug peddlers and hotspots of drug consumption and illicit cultivation of Poppy and Cannabis to bring the drug peddlers, cultivators and traffickers to task.

He said that collective efforts are needed to curb the drug menace and all stakeholders shall have to work in tandem to enhance the rehabilitation of persons involved in drug abuse. He emphasised on conducting awareness camps in schools and colleges on mass scale to sensitize the youth about hazards and ill effects of consuming drugs.

The Education Department was

asked to promote anti-drug abuse awareness in all educational institutions.

The DC directed the CEO to form a cluster of schools for carrying out mass awareness and to collaborate with CMO for Orientation/ training of at least one teacher from each school for identifying the medical signs/ symptoms of Drug addiction and to carry out the intense identification of students that might have fallen prey to illicit use. He added that special teams shall be constituted to have vigilance around institutions. Ex. Engineers of I&FC, R&B and EOMCs were directed to identify and carry out the operations of destruction of Poppy and Cannabis Cultivation along riversides & roads intensively. He also directed CAO and CHO to explore avenues for growing alternative crops in these areas besides providing valuable inputs to land owners.

Dr. Basharat asked officers of all line departments to make coordinated efforts to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain besides taking stringent action against the persons involved in this dangerous trade. The DC directed Assistant Drug Controller Pulwama and CMO Pulwama to get CCTV cameras installed at all medical shops, clinical establishments and chemist/ druggist shops. He also directed the Assistant Drug Controller to establish a 24*7 flying squad to check the unauthorized functioning of Chemists besides checking the sales of contraband drugs in the district. The Police Department was asked to keep strict vigil against drug proliferation, consumption and intensifying awareness against such addictive substances involving concerned stakeholders from civil administration.

DC Rajouri discusses plan to promote walnut export under One District One Product Initiative

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JUNE 27: Rajouri district is taking significant strides towards promoting its local products under One District One Product. Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri, Vikas Kunda, chaired a meeting to review plans for the promotion of Walnut for

export purpose under the ODOPI initiative in the district here in a meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner Rajouri emphasized the need for promoting local products and creating sustainable job opportunities for the people of the district. He said that the One District One Product initiative is an

excellent opportunity to promote Walnut, which is one of the key agricultural products of the district. The officials expressed their support for the initiative and pledged to work together to make it a success. They also discussed the need to involve local farmers and stakeholders in the initiative to ensure its success.

International Day against Drug Abuse observed at Budgam

Small camps to be organised at block level to ensure awareness against drugs menace reaches to the last corner of the District: Akshay Labroo

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, JUNE 27: To commemorate International Day against Drug Abuse, a one day seminar was organised by District Administration Budgam in collaboration with the Social Welfare department. The seminar was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo.

Besides SSP Budgam Al-Tahir Gilani, District Programme officer Budgam, CEO, CMO, DSWO, DIO, other officers and officials of the department were present on the occasion. Speaking as chief guest on the occasion, the DC emphasised on massive awareness generation on drug abuse as



it is an important part followed by administrations are doing their work however, we all as society have to play the role and save our youth.

Administration is putting all efforts to curb the menace. He said the need is to involve youth towards co-curricular and sports to channelize their energy into positive directions, which could help them build their careers in different sports.

The DC said small camps need to be organised at block level so that awareness against menace of drugs percolates to the person living in the last corner of the District. SSP Budgam, while addressing the seminar advised the parents to pay keen attention towards the behavior of their children and desist from putting any psychological pressure upon them which could attract them

towards drug menace. He also advised youth to take part in sports activities besides excelling in their academics.

He said Drug victims should be treated as a patient not as a criminal, so that together we could take him out from this drug-net which is spreading in our community at large. While presenting the welcome address, the DSWO, Dr Farhana Asgar highlighted the achievements by the District Administration in curbing the menace in Budgam.

He said that the Social Welfare office Budgam has been working tirelessly to create awareness through nukkad natak, seminars and other public outreach programmes under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan to ensure the drug abuse is controlled and fully curbed in the District.

DLSA Bandipora observes 'International Day against Drug Abuse'

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 27: A day long awareness programme on International Day against Drug Abuse was organized by the Office of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in collaboration with District Education Department Bandipora under the aegis of JK Legal Services Authority at Govt. Boys Secondary School Bagh Bandipora.

The programme was held under the supervision of Chairman DLSA (PJ) Bandipora, Amit Sharma and guidance of Secretary DLSA Bandipora, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The objective of the programme was to sensitize participants about the ill effects of drugs in personal and social spheres of human life.

Resource person, Advocate Ishiyaq Ahmad spoke on the importance of the day. He said that today drug abuse has become an international concern and it has



destroyed thousands of individuals and their families. He requested everyone that three things are needed to fight drug abuse and they are awareness, motivation and will power. He also threw light on various laws related to drug abuse. He said anyone involved in drugs shall face tough legal conse-

quences and stressed on staying away from drugs for eradicating this menace. He emphasized how imperative it is to generate awareness through preventive programmes at grass roots level particularly in schools, colleges and public places to educate and inform the public about the ill effects of drug abuse and drug addiction.

He called upon the staff members and students to collectively fight towards eradication and elimination of drug abuse from Distt Bandipora. He ended his speech by requesting youth to be motivated, aware and create will power to avoid drugs.

The programme ended with a cultural programme including a vibrant and colorful display of talent presented by the students of the GBSS Bagh Bandipora. A pledge taking ceremony was also held on the occasion. The programme was attended by faculty members of the GBHS Bagh Bandipora, Staff Members of DLSA Bandipora, Para Legal Volunteers, students and other participants.

DC Kupwara undertakes visit of Handwara

Inspects Transit accommodation of GMC Handwara

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, JUNE 27: In order to take on site review of pace of work on different developmental projects going on at Handwara Sub division of Kupwara district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan paid a visit of Handwara and inspected transit accommodation for Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara.

The DC visited the makeshift administrative block, Physiology, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Microbiology sections, office of the Principal GMC, Library, lecture halls and other facilities. Principal GMC, Dr. Irfat Hassan Shah, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Handwara, Tehsilidar Handwara and other concerned officers were present at the occasion.

The DC said it is a matter of great privilege for the people of Kupwara district that the transit accommodation for GMC is at final stage of completion and first Batch will start soon. She said that GMC Handwara is the pride of Kupwara district and its functioning will definitely add a feather in our cap and a big dream is coming true.

The DC also visited Handwara Municipal committee and checked the pace of work of different projects.

Later, she also undertook a visit to Handwara market and took stock of different facilities.

SANJAY 2023: DC Bandipora inspects Amarnath Yatra Transit Camp at Shadipora; reviews arrangements



JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 27: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmed on Monday visited Yatra Transit Camp at Shadipora Sumbal to review the arrangements and other facilities for pilgrims ahead of the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. The 62-day yatra is scheduled to commence on July 1 and culminate on August 31. Dr. Owais, on the occasion, inspected the upgraded facilities for the convenience of the stay of Yatis visiting for the pilgrimage. It was informed that all necessary arrangements, including facilities of drinking water and electricity, etc. at Yatra Transit Camp have been made in advance besides the deployment of sufficient staff at the camp.

Dr. Owais also inspected other completed works at the transit camp, including the langar facility, prefabricated huts, etc. and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements put in place. He stressed upon the concerned for ensuring cleanliness, sanitation, hygiene, and medical facilities at transit camps round-the-clock.

Dr. Owais also interacted with employees of various departments on duty to ensure smooth and hassle free Yatra. He urged the employees to ensure that the Yatis do not face any hardship during their holy journey.

The DC directed the concerned agencies for the macadamization of the inner links within the camp timely. Nodal Officer-Coordination, Bandipora M Ashraf Hakaak; SDM Sumbal, Joint Director, Planning, ACP, CRPF and police officers and other senior officers of the district were present on the occasion.

12th NCORD meet held at Doda

Strict check on habitual offenders, Monitoring of Educational Institutions, Medical Stores stressed to prevent proliferation of Drug abuse

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 27: District Magistrate Doda, Vishesh Mahajan and Senior Superintendent of Police Abidul Qayoom today asked the enforcement agencies to keep a close eye on Educational Institutions, Medical Stores and Medical Institutions to prevent proliferation of drug abuse in the district.

Charing the 12th NCORD meeting here today, they asked to tighten noose on the habitual offenders, drug peddlers and their supporters to free the district from drug abuse. It was informed that 50 panchayats of the district have been declared as drugs free by the collective efforts of all the stakeholders and PRIs. Drug testing kits are in use to confirm the suspect and take a further course of action. The meeting discussed the achievements and plan of action to curb the drugs menace in the district.

The DM, the Chairman of the NCORD, instructed the CMO and other concerned to enforce installation and functioning of CCTVs in all the medical stores, clinics, and nursing homes in the district. The CMO was further asked to give final shape to the proposed Rehabilitation Centre in the old hospital Baderwah, to put the facility to use immediately. SSP Doda, who is the Convener of NCORD, directed the Police officers down the line to prepare the Dozier against the peddlers including the detail of their property so that the same can be processed for strict action as per law. He informed that though the drug addiction and its trafficking have reduced considerably in the district by the consistent efforts of all the stakeholders.

but the miscreants continue to make attempts to revive it. By the reduction in the availability of drugs, addicts and peddlers are switching to the other modes and means, of which the agencies must remain vigilant and watchful for timely action, he added. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, ADC Baderwah, SP Headquarter, SDM Thathri, SDM Gandoth, SDM Assar, SDOs, SP FWD, ACP Doda, CAO, CEO, DIO, DMO Doda, DFO Baderwah, Tehsilidars, SHO's and other concerned officers and officials.

This World Cup is going to be very competitive as the game has become faster: Rohit Sharma

MUMBAI, JUN 27 : India skipper Rohit Sharma is expecting the upcoming ODI World Cup in the country to be a highly-competitive affair since "the game has become faster".

Twenty-20 cricket, the slam bang version of the game, has impacted all formats, including the traditional five-day games where the batters are not averse to going for their strokes from the word go.

India will aim for their third title and the second at home when they begin their campaign against five-time champions Australia in Chennai on October 8.

India play all their nine league matches at different venues including, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Lucknow and Bengaluru.

"This World Cup is going to be very competitive as the game has become faster and teams are playing more positively than ever before," Rohit was quoted as saying in an ICC release. "All this augurs well for fans worldwide, promising them some thrilling moments. We look forward to preparing well and being at our best this October-November," he added.

After their duel with Australia, the hosts will move to Delhi for a clash against Afghanistan on October 11. India's much-anticipated clash with



arch-rival Pakistan is scheduled for October 18 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The two Asian neighbours now play against each other only at the ICC and ACC events as bilateral cricket ties are frozen due to diplomatic tension. The most recent match between the two nations was during the T20 World Cup in Australia, last year. India and Pakistan have faced each

other seven times in ODI World Cup - in 1992, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2011, 2015 and 2019. The only time they didn't clash in a 50-over World Cup was in 2007 when both the teams crashed out of the tournament in the opening round itself. India's other big-ticket fixtures include matches against New Zealand and England on October 22 and 29 in Dharamsala and Lucknow respectively.

Bumrah bowling seven overs a day at NCA nets no timeline yet on comeback

Bengaluru, JUNE 27: When is Jasprit Bumrah returning to the Indian team? Neither the injured pacer nor the ones working on him have a definitive answer to that.

But the good news is that Bumrah has bowled seven overs a day at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) nets, a development that will bring a smile to the Indian fans looking forward to the 2023 World Cup with optimism. The schedule for the mega event was released in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Bumrah had undergone surgery for a recurring back niggle in New Zealand in March and since then he has been on the recovery path. Bumrah has last played for India during the home T20s against Australia in September, 2022.

So, will he be able to make a comeback during the T20I series against Ireland or in the Asia Cup?

"For an injury of this nature, it is not wise to set any timeline as constant monitoring is necessary. But it can be said that Bumrah is recovering well and he has bowled seven overs at NCA nets. It is a steady increase in his workload from the light workouts and bowling sessions of the initial period. "He will play a few practice matches



(at NCA) next month, and there will be a close assessment of his fitness then," a source tracking the development told PTI.

Ramji Srinivasan, former strength and conditioning coach of Team India, said extreme care should be taken while bringing back Bumrah.

"He should not be hurried. Playing practice matches at the NCA is a good step as it will help tune his body to the demands of a match. But he should be made to play in some actual (domestic) matches before bringing him to top level cricket. "The demands of international cricket

are different and the body should be absolutely ready to take that amount of workload. Recovering from stress fracture is a delicate exercise and Bumrah should be allowed maximum recovery time," Ramji told PTI.

KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, who have also been recuperating at NCA, are also progressing as expected, though no specific timeline has been set for their return as well. Rahul had undergone a thigh surgery in London while Shreyas went under the knife in London after being troubled by a bulging disc on his lower back.

Alex Lees, David Bedingham drive Durham into ascendancy

LONDON: Division Two leaders Durham will seek to turn a lead of 391 runs into a fifth win of the season on the final day of their LV= Insurance County Championship meeting with Leicestershire after opener Alex Lees posted his second hundred of the match. Lees, who made 101 in the first innings, was stranded on 99 when bad light threatened to end play earlier, but after stewing in the dressing room for almost three quarters of an hour was able to celebrate shortly after the resumption.

The leecher, scoring tons in each innings for the first time in his first-class career, finished on 138 not out with David Bedingham unbeaten on 112, the third-wicket pair having added 212 so far as Durham closed on 296 for two. Earlier, Leicestershire posted their second highest total of the season but were still 95 behind on first innings, despite Colin Ackermann's fine 146,

Ben Raine taking four for 114 and on-loan leg spinner Matt Parkinson three for 115 as the home side were bowled out for 422.

Durham skipper Scott Borthwick will look to declare early, bearing in mind it took his bowlers almost 110 overs to take 10 first-innings wickets on a pitch still holding together, and with the seaming but light-friendly Kookaburra ball. Durham were able to replace 19-year-old Stanley McAlindon with Matty Potts following the latter's release by England. Leicestershire's young leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed, who had been named as a potential substitute in this match, remained with Ben Stokes's squad. The addition of Potts, who took 13 wickets in the corresponding fixture last season, added to the challenge facing Leicestershire on the third morning in cool, overcast conditions after resuming on 335 for four. Nonetheless, while they avoided

the follow-on and picked up a couple more batting points, they would have been disappointed to lose their last six wickets for 77. In the event, Potts too often dropped short to no great effect in his opening six-over burst, while Raine demonstrated the virtue of bowling at the stumps by dismissing Wiaan Mulder, Tom Scriven and Chris Wright all leg before in two spells, one from each end, lifting his wickets tally to 34 for the season, two more than Potts. Ackermann, with whom Mulder shared a 106-run stand for the fifth wicket, was much harder to dislodge, yet with the sixth 150 of his first-class career just one boundary away a rather weary-looking cut shot at a ball from Matt Parkinson outside off stump saw him caught at gully.

Potts returned after lunch, bowled full and straight and nipped out Callum Parkinson and Matt Salisbury in the space of three deliveries

of his second over, knocking off stump out of the ground in each case, in so doing grabbing a third bowling point for Durham in the nick of time. As in the first innings, Durham went hard against the new ball and had doubled their lead by the 20th over, although at a cost of a couple of wickets. Michael Jones was well caught in the leg-side deep by Ed Barnes as he pulled the ex-Durham seamer Salisbury. Scott Borthwick pulled Salisbury for six over the shorter boundary but misread a ball from off-spinner Ackermann, who took an almost casual return catch one-handed above his head.

Meanwhile, Lees combined muscle and innovation to post 50 from 65 balls before Bedingham launched into Ackermann and then Parkinson with driven sixes. By tea, Durham's lead was 240, putting them on course to be 400 in front by the close.

Tom Bailey burst threatens Surrey unbeaten run

WELLINGTON: Tom Bailey took four wickets in 16 balls in an 11-over opening spell of 4 for 34 to reduce Surrey to 57 for 5 in an extraordinary final hour at the Kia Oval and give Lancashire the chance of inflicting a first defeat of the season on the Division One leaders.

The county champions had earlier been frustrated by Will Williams, Bailey's new ball partner, who as nightwatcher batted four-and-a-quarter hours for a defiant career-best 61 to leave Surrey needing 208 to clear a sixth victory in 2023 matches this season.

But by stumps on day three it was a Lancashire win that looked more likely as Bailey wrecked Surrey's top order after the home side had eventually bowled out Lancashire for 293 in their second innings, held up by Williams' stubborn resistance and also by a powerful 54 from Phil Salt, his second fifty of the game.

Bailey's magnificent opening burst brought him the wickets of Dom Sibley for 1 and Tom Latham next ball for a duck in his fifth over and then, in his sixth and seventh overs, he scalped courageously and, in all, faced 22 balls.

Surrey had only enjoyed one success in a tense morning session, with Burns leading high at mid-off to pull off a superb one-handed catch from Daryl Mitchell's lofted drive at Worrall. New Zealand Test batter Mitchell, on 17 overnight, looked in good touch as he moved to 30 but in the 12th over of the day was left stunned by Burns' athleticism as he somehow clawed down a ball that seemed to be clearing him.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice						
S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1	102-2023-24-BGDM-DRM-FZR	Ordinary repair and Maintenance works including flooring, plastering, painting, plumbing, sewerage & other allied works for residential & service buildings at BDGM station under ADENBDGM.	1,19,46,241.78/-	2,09,700/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work:-Any civil work other than track work.						
2	103-2023-24-BGDM-DRM-FZR	Ordinary repair and Maintenance works for Residential Quarters, Station Buildings, Station Yards, platform structures, Drainage Works and other Misc and allied works from Barammala to Srinagar Station (excluding Budget/sanction) in the section of SSE/WSD/UD under ADENBDGM.	74,85,188.97/-	1,49,900/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work:-Any civil work other than track work.						
3	104-2023-24-BGDM-DRM-FZR	Ordinary repair and Maintenance works for Residential Quarters, Station Buildings, platform structures, Drainage Works and other Misc and allied works in the section of SSE/WBAH/UD under ADENBDGM.	1,44,96,811.71/-	2,22,500/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work:-Any civil work other than track work.						
4	105-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR	Ordinary repair and Maintenance works for Service buildings, Residential Quarters, Rest house, Barracks, Station Building, platform structures, Drainage Works and other Misc. and allied works in Zone from KM 54.00 TO 79.724 on UHP-SVDK in the section of SSE/WSD/UD under ADENUHP.	1,04,41,643.52/-	2,02,200.00/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work:-Any civil work other than track work.						
5	106-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR	Ordinary repair and Maintenance works for Service buildings, Residential Quarters, Rest house, Barracks, Station Building, Drainage Works and other Misc. and allied works in Zone from KM 1.00 TO 54.00 on JAT-UHP in the section of SSE/WUHP under ADENUHP.	1,14,99,587.37/-	2,07,500.00/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work:-Any civil work other than track work.						
6	107-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Ordinary repair and Maintenance works for Residential Buildings, Service buildings, Residential Quarters, Rest House, Barrack, station buildings, stations yards, platform structures, Drainage Works and other Misc. and allied works in Zone from Kathua Station to Ghagwal station on BHR/JAT section under ADENJAT.	1,19,45,947.27/-	2,09,700.00/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work:-Any civil work other than track work.						
7	108-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Ordinary repair and Maintenance works including flooring, plastering, painting, plumbing, sewerage & other allied works for residential & service buildings at Jammu Tawi under ADENJAT.	94,97,166.58/-	1,90,000/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work:-Any civil work other than track work.						
8	109-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Ordinary repair and Maintenance works for Residential buildings, Service buildings, Residential Quarters, Rest House, Barrack, station buildings, stations yards, platform structures, Drainage Works and other Misc. and allied works in Zone from Ghagwal station to Jammu Tawi Station (excluding Jammu Tawi station) on BHR/JAT section under ADENJAT.	1,29,87,704.58/-	2,15,000/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work:-Any civil work other than track work.						

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.
Tender Notice No:-175-W168/WA1/FZR/2023-24 Date: 26.06.2023 1974/2023

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UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. II, JAMMU

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. 79 of 2023-2024/Div-2 Dated 24-06-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete e-bid	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contract
1	Construction of Lane from Jerry Khery Road Lane No. 03 at Raipur Jammu. (Non-Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu	5.00	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	01-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	A&C&B Class
2	Construction of Balance work on link road from Bajalta Main Road 1st Pully RS Toward Rajpote Colony Bajalta Jammu.(UNDER CAPEX)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu	7.07	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	01-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	A&C&B Class
3	Providing Laying RBM Filling and WBM Gr-II at Mohalla Gujranagar Road at Khanpur Nagrota. (Under Capex Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu	2.14	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	01-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	A&C&B Class
4	Improvement/Upgradation of Drain from Main Road to Village Pangala Khanna Chargal. (Under Non-Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu	8.81	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	01-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	A&C&B Class
5	Construction of Road from Upper Ropora GPS Ropora to Lower Ropora, Sidhra. (Under Capex Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu	11.65	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	01-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	A&C&B Class
6	Const of Protection Work Near Mohalla Teli Ward No. 02 NHO Charag Din, Khanna Chargal Lowerby way of Construction of Retwall. (under Non-Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu	6.90	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	01-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	A&C&B Class
7	Construction of RWall on Road from Japta to Challani Via Simbaloli at Nagrota. (Under Non-Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu	5.00	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	01-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	A&C&B Class
8	Construction of Lane Near the Ho Teja Master and Madan Lal at Raipur, Jammu. (Under Non-Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu	5.00	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	01-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	A&C&B Class
9	Construction of Retaining Wall at Dewar, Khanna Road at Raipur.(Under Non-Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu	5.00	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	01-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	A&C&B Class
10	Construction of Lane and R/Wall at Teshwal to Ho Ndzir Ali Kanger Jammu. (Under Non-Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu	4.00	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	01-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	A&C&B Class

Position of AAA: Accorded.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jtenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :-

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	24-06-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24-06-2023 to 30-06-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	23-06-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	30-06-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	01-07-2023 on or after 180 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly copying to MH 0509 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu and upload the same in the e-tendering system / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BCG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BCG shall be valid for 45 days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 is submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu at the time of allotment.

No.:- 1675-39
Dated :- 24-06-2023

DIP/404/23
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD (R&B) CONST. DIV. NO. II
JAMMU

Jammu Smart City organises grand Yoga session to mark 8th anniversary of Smart Cities Mission

INDIA TRANSFORMING JAMMU INTO A SUSTAINABLE AND VIBRANT CITY: RAHUL YADAV

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: In a spectacular celebration of the 8th anniversary of Prime Minister's landmark Smart Cities Mission, the Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) organised a mega Yoga practice session on Tuesday at newly developed Indoor Gym and Park with Cycle Track, Channi Himmat. The event witnessed an overwhelming response of residents from across Jammu city.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), JSCL, Rahul Yadav, Additional CEO, Rakesh Gupta, Director, Technical, JSCL, S. L. Kapoor, IT Manager JSCL, J. P. Singh, GM Finance Ashish Anand and other officials attended the session.



Embracing the spirit of the Smart Cities Mission, the event aimed to commemorate the remarkable progress achieved through the implementation of this visionary initiative in Jammu. Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 25, 2015, the Smart Cities Mission strives to enhance the quality of life of resi-

dents and drive economic growth throughout India.

Jammu, chosen as one of the smart cities in Round-3 in June 2017, has emerged as a shining example of modernization and sustainable development.

Speaking on the occasion about the mission's vision for Jammu, Chief Executive Officer of JSCL,

Rahul Yadav, stated, "Our goal is to transform Jammu into a sustainable and economically vibrant city with a focus on tourism and quality of life."

Yadav added that JSCL has successfully completed several remarkable projects as part of the Smart City Mission. "These notable achievements include the newly inaugurated 'Improvement of Road from Dogra Chowk to KC Chowk', and many others like modernization of Narwal Mandi, the introduction of a Public Bicycle Sharing System, the construction of state-of-the-art multi-level parking facilities, the facade lighting on the iconic Tawi Bridges, and the mesmerizing Sound and Light Show at Bagh-

Bahu," he said. Furthermore, he informed that the JSCL has played an instrumental role in enhancing the aesthetic appeal of Jammu with vibrant wall paintings across the city and landscaping projects outside esteemed institutions like Jammu University and Government College for Women (GCW). CEO JSCL also revealed that JSCL is actively pursuing the ambitious development of Tawi Riverfront project, which will be a game-changer for the city's allure and tourism potential.

He also informed that the electric buses will arrive soon. "The electric buses will promote eco-friendly transportation as well as reduce carbon emissions in the city."

DC Samba reviews arrangements for Baba Sidh Gorla Mela

J I NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, JUNE 27: Deputy Commissioner Samba Abhishek Sharma today convened a meeting at the Shrine of Baba Sidh Gorla to review the arrangements made for the forthcoming annual mela at the shrine.

Mela Baba Sidh Gorla at village Swankha will be held on July 2, 2023. During the meeting, the DC directed the functionaries of R&B to ensure the blacktopping of all major roads connecting the shrines well before commencing of these famous Melas.

He further asked for early completion of the repair and improvement works for the convenience of the devotees visiting the twin shrines. The PHE Department was asked to ensure uninterrupted water supply with provision for additional water tankers, while the FPD was asked to make provision of lighting at the venue during the Mela days.

Stressing on maintaining sanitation during Mela at the shrine, the DC asked the concerned departments to provide adequate number of dustbins at the venues keeping in view the huge rush of devotees visiting the shrines during this annual event. The DC asked different departments to establish stalls of their respective departments to inform the visiting devotees regarding the schemes and welfare programmes. He stressed on synergy among the concerned departments and asked them to ensure that the requisite arrangements are put in place on time for smooth conduct of the Mela.

EPFO J&K conducts 'Nidhi Apke Nikat 2.0' - a participatory outreach programme in GMHSS Doda

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 27: Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) J&K and Ladakh today conducted "Nidhi Apke Nikat 2.0" - a participatory outreach programme to benefit stakeholders.

Regional Provident Fund Commissioner J&K and Ladakh, Rizwan Uddin, who was the chief guest, inaugurated the session. He explained the importance of social security in today's scenario. He highlighted the key features of the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976. These two prominent social security schemes are being extended to workers in J&K and Ladakh from November 2019. He also discussed the features of these schemes in detail.

The nominee, of an employee (having been a member of Provident Fund for at least one year of employment) dying while being in service or away from service is entitled to a minimum

of Rs 2.5 lakhs of insurance. "Maximum insurance under the EDLI scheme is Rs 7 lakh. EPFO is paying monthly pensions to the families of employees who met with accidents a few months ago. Wife and children of deceased employees are entitled to a pension. The wife would get pension till her lifetime."

The workshop lasted for more than one hour, where Commissioner Rizwan listened to the issues being faced by the establishments and employees. A hand holding session continued for another hour in which various stakeholders went live and learnt how to deal with the problems faced by them with the help of Mr. Raj Shekhar, SSSA, Sh. O. P. Chandali, Principal, Green Model Hr. Sec. School Doda, thanked the P F Commissioner in taking out his precious time to visit this district and help the employees as well as employers. The representatives of various schools and contractors throughout the district participated in this workshop. The PF Commissioner thanked the

school management for organizing an interactive session where a number of workers and representatives of adjoining schools were present.

Amongst the attendees were Mohd Arif of Atikhar Public HS School, Priya Kohli, B V HS School, Bhaderwah, Imran Abham, Chenab Valley School, Gh Hassan Shah, Farida Modern HS School, Surinder Singh Katoch, AIER Public School, Yawar Khurwani, Shaheen Public HS School, Shubam Thakur, Paramount HSS, Doda.

Responding to the media queries about non-enrolment by some of the Contractors engaged in Infra Projects on National Highway by NHIDCL and NHAI and other government agencies, P F Commissioner advised all such establishments to enroll all eligible employees as members, otherwise appropriate action would be initiated against Principal Employers and concerned contractor under provisions of EPF and M P Act, 1952. Employers and workers can reach EPFO, Jammu through 6006567049 and to jammu@epfindia.gov.in.

Market Checking intensified across Srinagar City ahead of Eid ul Azha

Over Rs 1.30 lakh fine imposed | Dozen erring Food Business Unit inspected; Huge Quantity of Substandard Food Items Destroyed

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: In order to prevent profiteering and black marketing in Srinagar District ahead of the upcoming auspicious festival of Eid-ul-Azha, the Special Market Checking teams of District Administration Srinagar Tuesday conducted intensified market checking in all Tehsils of the District.

The Drive was conducted on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad to curb the practice of illegal profiteering in markets and ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the quality standards with

sufficient availability of consumables ahead of the Eid ul Azha festivities.

The Market Checking Squads headed by Tehsildar concerned and Officers from Police, Food Safety, SMC, FCS&CA and Legal Metrology Departments under the supervision of SDM West and SDM East conducted intensive market checking in South, Eidgah, North, Khanyar, Chanpora, Baghat, Panthachowk, and Central Shaleng Tehsils of the District Srinagar.

During the drive the checking teams inspected number of markets of the City including Eidgah, Soura, Lalbazar, Chanpora, Hyderpora, Sanant Nagar, Nowhata, Khanyar, Nishat,



Brein, Parimpora, Barhana, Qamarwari, Hazratbal, Panthachowk, Dalgate, Lalchowk, Karan Nagar during which several erring shopkeepers found failing to maintain the quality of food items, not displaying rate lists of essential com-

modities, selling expiry products, besides indulging in practices of illegal profiteering and sale of underweight products.

A fine to the tune of over Rs 1.30 lakh was also realised from the erring shopkeepers like Bakery, confectionery, grocery,

vegetable, fruits, milk, meat and chicken selling shops for violating different provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act.

In addition, huge quantities of substandard food items including fruits and vegetables were destroyed besides polythene bags were sealed and damaged on the spot. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad stressed on owners of all Business establishments/shopkeepers to maintain quality and standard of essential commodities and ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates. He asked the Market checking teams to continue the drive even after Eid-ul-Azha.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu addresses faculty members

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology-Jammu, Dr. B. N. Tripathi today addressed all the faculty members, scientists of different faculties stationed at Chatha and R. S. Pura Campus of the University.

This was his first interaction with all the faculty members after assuming the charge as Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. The purpose of the address was to share his opinion and road map for the development of the University to enhance its presence at national and International level.

The Vice Chancellor said that it was an immense pride for him to address the faculty of this premium institution of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and he

was feeling excited and enthusiastic. The SKUAST-Jammu is in its initial phase of development "But I am happy to see that in a short span of time it has achieved new heights and that has been possible only due to the tremendous work done by the faculty/ scientists of the university." He further added that National Education Policy is the key to enhancing the quality education and we are committed to increase ten per cent students every year under NEP. He said "We at SKUAST-Jammu should be passionate in supporting the learning goals of the students."

He emphasised the need to continuously explore ways to improve the quality of education, equipping students with the necessary skills for their future endeavours. He stressed the importance of

keeping pace with advancements and nurturing innovative thinking among students. "We understand the concerns of our students and assure all of you that efforts will be made to reach out to every student to help him/her to cope with the difficult circumstances," he said. The systems and its relevant solutions shall be designed keeping in mind the concept of optimization and its implementation on a day to day basis. Imparting education through quality learning is my absolute priority. Hence to ensure this, we should continuously evolve our processes through consultation and communication with respective stakeholders to address the issues and concerns timely. We must learn to capitalize on our available resources, which will help us to face the challenges

more efficiently. He advised teachers to encourage students to explore entrepreneurship and thereby highlight the need for students to be self-reliant and not solely depend on government jobs. He emphasized the importance of enhancing their skills and leveraging entrepreneurial opportunities to contribute to the growth of the region.

The Vice Chancellor stressed on linkages with industries under Corporate Social Responsibility which will not only enhance research and development efforts but also open paths for students to learn and develop new and innovative skills. He was also of the opinion to have strong linkage with other universities of the region for quality teaching and research. He emphasized the

need to enhance resources and equip laboratories with modern machines to meet the growing demands of the evolving educational landscape. He urged faculty members to seek the opportunities available and work collaboratively to achieve the institution's vision. The Vice Chancellor said that his vision is to take the SKUAST-Jammu to its rightful place as the leading university in the world. The overall goals of universities are to generate knowledge, disseminate information universally and provide community service through teaching, research and extension. Prof. Tripathi further added that he has a strong belief in research as a distinguishing feature because a university that promotes research and publication will definitely achieve new heights.

Mental Health Screening Camp held in Jagti Nagrota

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Relief and Rehabilitation Organisation Jammu, in collaboration with Directorate of Health Services Jammu and Government Medical College Jammu today organised a Happiness camp/Mental health screening camp in the Community Hall of Migrant Township Jagti. Commissioner Relief Organisation Jammu, K.K. Siddha inaugurated the camp. Around 42 patients of different age groups with variable complaints related to mental health were screened. 2 Counsellors from Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar and 2 Psychiatrist from GMC Jammu assessed the patients and advised treatment. The Medical Superintendent, Sub District Hospital Jagti provided logistic support for the camp. People of Jagti highly appreciated the efforts of Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma and Relief Commissioner for providing psychiatric services to people suffering from mental health related issues.

DLSA Samba organises legal awareness program on 'protection of women against Domestic Violence'

J I NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, JUNE 27: A legal awareness program on "Protection of Women against Domestic Violence" was today organised by District Legal Services Authority Samba in collaboration with One Stop Centre Samba at Panchayat Ghar, Chak Nazir, Anandpur, Tehsil Ramgarh District Samba.

The event was held as per the Action Plan issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, (JKLSA) for the month of June, 2023 and also under the directions of Yesh Poul Kotwal, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Samba, (also P. District and Sessions Judge Samba).

Nisha Rani, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel, District Legal Services Authority Samba was the resource person in the program. She talked about different provisions of "The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005".

The objective of organising this legal awareness program was to raise awareness among the participants as to how to ultimately contribute to promoting zero tolerance to violence against women and to increase understanding of different forms of violence against women.

The program was organised under the supervision of Rekha Kapoor Nischal, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Samba.

The program was attended by the Rajinder Kour, Paramedical, One Stop Centre Samba, Inshah, Counsellor, One Stop Centre Samba, Rajkumari, Sarpanch, Panchayat Chak Nazir, women folk of village Anandpur and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Samba.

EPFO holds outreach programme 'Nidhi Apke Nikat-2.0' at Kathua

KATHUA, JUNE 27: To create awareness and to listen to the grievances of the stakeholders, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Jammu today organized an Outreach Programme under its revamped 'Nidhi Apke Nikat 2.0' initiative here in the conference hall at DCO Office Complex.

At the outset, a Powerpoint presentation was screened to acquaint the participants on the functioning of EPFO.

Speaking on the occasion, District Nodal Officer, EPFO Bipin Kumar (Enforcement Officer), said that the idea behind holding of Nidhi Apke Nikat 2.0 outreach camp was to create a mechanism where EPFO can reach out to the stakeholders with its field office in every district where stakeholders can come for grievance redressal thereby increasing accessibility and visibility of the organization.

The Enforcement Officer, while throwing light on the functioning of the EPFO, said the idea was to save the valuable time and money of the people who seek the intervention of the EPFO for their grievances and otherwise have to cover a lot of distance due to non presence of EPFO offices in some districts. During the programme, a help desk was set up where members were provided the access to the online services like filing of online claims etc.

One Day Workshop on U-WIN held at Reasi

J I NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JUNE 27: A one day district level workshop cum Training on scale-up of U-WIN was today held under the chairmanship of Chief Medical Officer Reasi, Dr. Ravinder Singh Manhas here in the Conference Hall of Muzri Secretariat, Medical Superintendent District Hospital, Dr. Rajinder Kumar, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Mohammad Yousef Khan; District Health Officer Reasi/BMO Reasi, Dr. Ashok Kumar, District Immunization Officer, Dr. Usha Kiran, Block Medical Officers Katra and Pouni, Gynaecologist of District Hospital Reasi, District Mass Education and Information Officer Reasi, Zonal Medical Officers of all Blocks, District Programme Manager (DPM, NHM) Reasi, District ASHA Coordinator (DAC) Reasi, DA to Dy. CMO Reasi, Block Monitoring and Evaluation Officers (NHM) of Reasi, Katra, Pouni and Mahore, Extension Educators of Dy. CMO Office Reasi/Block Katra, CHOs, MLHPs from different Health Institutions, Junior Health Inspectors of DyCMO Office Reasi/Block Katra, Vaccine and Cold Chain Manager, VCCM, UNDP, Reasi, Vaccinators (MCH section) of District Hospital Reasi, Data Entry Operator (NHM) from DH Reasi, Block Reasi, Block Katra, Block Pouni and Block Mahore.

The welcome address was given by Dy. CMO Reasi and DIO Reasi to Master Trainers of the workshop Dr. Isha Chahotra, SPO, UNDP and Jayant Kumar, PO, IT, UNDP present in workshop.