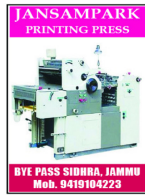




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AMARNATH YATRA

Hustle bustle in Jammu as first batch to leave friday amid tight security

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 29

The 'City of Temples' is witnessing hustle-bustle as the first batch of pilgrims will leave for Shri Amarnath Yatra from Bhagwati Nagar base camp here on Friday amidst tight security arrangements. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is likely to flag-off the first batch from here tomorrow.

The 62-day long pilgrimage is starting from July 1 and ending on August 30.

The pilgrims have started to reach the base camp for the journey tomorrow.

Meanwhile on the spot (Tatkal) registration has also started for the pilgrims at different centres



established in parts of the district.

"We have started on the spot registration of devotees arriving here for the pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine,"

said an official.

Around 2000 pilgrims, including sadhus, have arrived in Jammu city for the yatra.

Moreover, the langar committees have also

started their preparation to cater to the pilgrims.

Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh along with Additional Chief Secretary, Raj Kumar Goyal; Principal Secretary to

the Lieutenant Governor, Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, also took an extensive tour of the twin routes of pilgrimage to Amarnath Yatra.

This year, drone surveillance has also been pressed into to augment the security structure en route the yatra.

Deputy Commissioner Avny Lavasa said that 33 accommodation centres have been established across the district while "Radio Frequency Identification" (RFID) tags will be issued at the registration centres.

"All arrangements are in place and the district administration is on its toes to welcome the pilgrims of Shri

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Amarnath Yatra

Indian Railways to run two special trains run for pilgrims

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 29

To facilitate hassle free travel to the Amarnath Pilgrims, the Indian Railways has announced to run two more special trains, a railway official said here on Thursday.

Earlier, the Railways had started five additional special trains.

He said that in view of the extra rush of passengers in Jammu and Kashmir during the Amarnath Yatra starting from July 1, it has been decided to run two summer special trains between New Delhi and Shri Mata



Vaishno Devi Katra.

The trains, he said, will operate from New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and New Delhi Gati Shakti Summer Special Express.

The Gati Shakti Summer Special train

will depart from New Delhi at 11:15 PM on July 2 and reach Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 11:25 AM the next day.

He added that the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra

-New Delhi Gati Summer Special train

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

PM Modi to chair meeting of council of ministers on July 3

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUN 29

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting of the Union Council of Ministers on July 3, officials said on Thursday.

This comes a day after Modi held hectic deliberations with top BJP leaders, triggering speculation about a possible reshuffle of his Council of Ministers.

The July 3 meeting is likely to be held at the newly built convention centre at Pragati Maidan here, which will host the



G20 summit in September.

On Wednesday, Modi held marathon meetings with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadra,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Jammu sees joyous celebrations of Eid; Indo-Pak troops exchange sweets on LoC

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 29

Jammu delved in joyous celebrations of Eid-Adha on Thursday with a large number of people gathering at mosques to offer prayers for the peace and prosperity of the country.

In Poonch, Indian and Pakistani troops came together at Rahe Milan to celebrate the Eid by exchanging sweets and gifts.

Eid-al-Adha, also known as the festival of sacrifice, holds significant religious and cultural importance among Muslims worldwide.

The main congregation took place at the Eidgah and Mecca Masjid in Jammu, where hundreds of people performed



Namaz-e-Eid.

"In Jammu, the biggest congregation takes place at here at Eidgah. The spirit of brotherhood sets a remarkable example. Apart from commemorating the Prophet's sacrifice, we prayed for the peace and prosperity of our nation," Gulam Mohamad, a local resident, said.

Sonaulah Malik, who also offered prayers at

Mecca Masjid in Bhatindi area, said that on the day, people of different faiths come together to support and celebrate with Muslims, playing each other with sweets and warm greetings.

Congress working president Raman Bhall, who along with his workers greeted the muslims at Mecca Masjid, sent

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SC comes out with fresh procedure for mentioning of cases for urgent listing before benches

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUN 29

The Supreme Court has come out with a fresh notification on the procedure to be adopted by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D. Y. Chandrachud for mentioning of cases for their urgent listing and hearing from July 3.

The top court is set to reopen on July 3 after the summer vacation.

"Miscellaneous fresh matters which are verified



on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday shall be automatically listed on the following Monday," the top court said in its circular

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Amarnath Yatra on-the-spot registration of pilgrims starts in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 29

The city administration on Thursday began the process for on-the-spot registration of devotees arriving here for the pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas.

Over 1,500 pilgrims, including sadhus, have

arrived in Jammu city for the yatra to the 3,880-metre shrine starting on July 2.

While an on-the-spot registration centre has been set up for unregistered pilgrims in Shalimar area of the city, a special camp for registration of sadhus has been set up at Purani Mandi-based Ram temple complex.



Amid tight security arrangements, over 1000 pilgrims have arrived at the Bhagwati-Nagar base camp here for their onward journey to Kashmir, officials said.

The 62-day-long pilgrimage will commence on July 1 from the twin tracks - the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district

and the 14-km shorter but steep Baital route in Ganderbal district.

The registration of unregistered pilgrims arriving here from all parts of the country have begun on-the-spot at the counter here, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Nargesh Singh said. He said all facilities for smooth

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Prices of Tomato, Ginger Soar in Jammu amid heavy rainfall, landslides

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 29

Poor crop yield due to heavy rainfall and landslides over the past few days here has hiked the prices of vegetables such as ginger and tomato, with consumers demanding government intervention to address the issue. The recent price surge due to a demand-supply



gap has posed significant challenges for low-income individuals who struggle to afford essential commodities.

With tomatoes priced at around Rs 120 per kg and ginger at Rs 400 per kg, people are being compelled to forgo these items, Bharat Bhushan, a customer, said.

Bhushan emphasised the urgent need for government intervention to alleviate the burden of price hikes on poor families.

Local vegetable ven-

dors have attributed the low crop yield of ginger and tomatoes to the heavy rainfall owing to the ongoing monsoon.

"We have witnessed a price hike in ginger and tomatoes as the heavy rainfall has adversely affected crop production. Every monsoon, there is a price hike in vegetables, especially

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Fire breaks out at a house in Udhampur

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JUN 29

A fire broke out at a house in Udhampur district, officials said on Thursday.

According to officials, the house caught fire under mysterious circumstances in the Kotli Bala panchayat of Udhampur district.

After receiving word of the fire, the Jammu and Kashmir Police rushed

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

No Need For Rahul Gandhi's 'Mohabbat Ki Dukan': Rajnath

JNEWS SERVICE
YAMUNANAGAR, JUN 29

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his "market of hate" remarks, saying his so-called "shop of love" was not needed.

Addressing a "Gauravshali Bharat" rally on the completion of nine years of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, he said the country's stature



rose under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

The defence minister said several schemes which could never be

imagined earlier were introduced by the PM.

"But what is happening with our Congress people? Their one leader and that नेता ji - wherever he goes he says there is a 'nafrat ka bazaar' (market of hate) there and he has come there to open a 'mohabbat ki dukan' (shop of love)."

Singh did not name Gandhi but was taking a dig at him over the phrase used by the opposition

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

UNSG removes India from its report on impact of armed conflict on children

Country achieved another feat under PM Modi's realms: Kavinder



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Thursday said that India has achieved another feat under PM Narendra Modi's realms as country's name has been dropped from list of countries with children in armed conflict.

In a statement issued to media persons, the BJP stalwart said that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has removed India from its annual report on the impact of armed conflict on children,

Meanwhile, castigating PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, over her statement seeking peace in J&K, Kavinder said that the day the Article 370 was declared null and void, complete peace was ensured in the UT.

He said that Mehbooba should open her eyes to see peace in J&K as record numbers of tourists have been visiting the UT and culture of stone pelting has been the thing of the past. Criticizing the so-called Kashmir centric political parties like NC and PDP, Kavinder said that Modi Government has closed their shops, which is the reason behind unnecessary criticism of his regime.

Kavinder said that this is a big achievement of the Modi Government as the image of the country has improved manifold times. He said approximately there are 70 Islamic countries which is being governed by

their own rules and regulations, and not Shariat therefore there is no logic in NC leader's statements that sky will come down if UCC will be implemented in the country.

He said that Mehbooba should open her eyes to see peace in J&K as record numbers of tourists have been visiting the UT and culture of stone pelting has been the thing of the past. Criticizing the so-called Kashmir centric political parties like NC and PDP, Kavinder said that Modi Government has closed their shops, which is the reason behind unnecessary criticism of his regime.

He said that people of Kashmir have started showing undaunted faith in Modi regime and are supporting it to the hilt therefore the unfounded criticism by Farooq and Mehbooba makes no sense as people have started considering their tantrums as useless.

Dogri Nukkad Natak "Nasha Mukti" staged by Sangam Theatre Group Reasi

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: Sangam Theatre Group Reasi staged Dogri Nukkad Natak "Nasha Mukti" On the celebration of International Anti Drug Day 2023 and was organised by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.

Sangam Theatre Group staged two locations Bus Stand Reasi and Zanana Parak Reasi

The play based on the dangers involved in drugs consumption and also in its trade. In the play very clear tone, warned about the outcomes of consuming drugs and the pain it afflicts on its consumers, which is thousand times greater than the vicarious pleasure it offers. Locals & Youngsters present and witnessed the show in large numbers.

The artist who performed in the nukkad natak included Varun Khajuria, M. Akram Khan, Rajesh Kumar Ajnabi,



Shipali Deol, Raja Amir Khan, Satyam Sharma, Simran Devi, Abhishek Singh and Ajay Thakur and Abhi Bani

Shipali Deol, Raja Amir Khan, Satyam Sharma, Simran Devi, Abhishek Singh and Ajay Thakur and Abhi Bani. The play was staged under the direction by M. Akram Khan.

The actors presented different situations where the menace of drugs has con-

sumed the lives of its takers and its traders also. It is like a live bomb which will certainly explode, sooner or later that is a different issue. The only way to escape from it is to stay away from it and also prevent your dear ones to go near it, conveys the play.

Audience appreciated the content of the nukad play and performers of the actors who grabbed the attention of the audience with his energetic performance of the artist and also thanks the J&K Academy for organising such type of nukad in this areas for the awareness of the youth & General public.

Special coaching camp starts at Aim 10x Shooting Academy



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: A special coaching camp started at Aim 10x Shooting Academy Vikas Lane Talab Tillo, Jammu under the aegis of J&K Rifle Association. The shooters of J&K, UT have opportunity to gain huge knowledge in Rifle and Pistol Shooting and displaying their talent.

Today, the Shooters

expanded the skills of Pistol Shooting from S.Surjeet Singh (Rtd. Army coach and Army Marksman Unit Shooter) Dilbag Singh, IPS Director General of Police J&K and Patron J&K Rifle Association appointed the step taken by Aim 10x Shooting Academy to organizing this camp which is free of cost for the shooters of J&K,UT.

Sh Kuldeep Singh Jamwal, Chairman JKRA and Sh. Sharat Chander Singh CEO, JKRA stated that J&K Rifle Association had organized such camps at grass root level from time to time for the promotion of the Shooting Sports across the J&K UT and with the dedication of Coaches and hard work of Shooters outstanding results are coming from the marksmen of JKRA.

President JKRA S.S. Sodhi assured that JKRA is committed to organize shooting coaching camps continuously for the shooters of J&K UT for better results in upcoming Shooting competitions across the Union Territory.

Dharmvir Singh General Secretary Jammu District Rifle Association also appreciated exceptional efforts of S.Amarji Singh, President Aim 10x Shooting Academy and coaches designated for this camp and assured that shooters from Jammu District will definitely excel in upcoming shooting events at National and Inter-National level.

The camp is well specified and will impart all the Shooting knowledge among the Shooters of J&K,UT. The camp will be continued for a week and will end on 5th of July,2023 added Sh. Rajesh Virdiyah Chairman Technical Committee JKRA.

JKAACL Kathua organises Bhajan Sandhya at Baba Sidh Gorla Temple

J I NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, JUN 29: Sub Office of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Kathua organised 'Bhajan Sandhya here today at Baba Sidh Gorla Temple, Vijaypur where a large number of folks and pilgrims thronged to witness the soulful night. Keshav Dutt, Chairman District Development Council Samba was the chief guest whereas Mahant Bholu Nath Baha was the guest of honour. The programme was organized under the overall guidance of Secretary JKAACL. Sh. Bharat Singh who has directed SOCA JKAACL, Kathua to organise this kind of events at historical places.

Speaking on the occasion, Keshav Dutt, Chairman District Development Council Samba appreciated the efforts made by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages for bringing Bhajan



Sandhya at Baba Sidh Gorla pilgrimage. He said that this event will be remembered in years to come with the request to come up with such events in near future. As per the handout, Sanjeev Gupta SOCA, JKAACL Sub-Office, Kathua shared that it's our moral responsibility to take our culture to the shrines. These kinds of soulful presentations always keep the

started with the vibrant singing of Ram Dayal and Party followed by the presentations of Akshay Kumar and Party, Bodhraj and Party & Rampal and Party. The programme was concluded with a soulful presentation by Ajit Pal and Party who mesmerised audiences with their singing skills. The programme was ably conducted by Anita Choudhary.

A localite namely Krishan Kumar appreciated and lauded the efforts made by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages for bringing cultural events to a religious place.

While appreciating the mesmerizing programme by the artists, he said that every artist has made him spell bound with their soulful and magical performance.

He further requested the authorities for organizing such events on all such occasions in future also at Baba Sidh Gorla Temple.

folks of the region well known with their roots. He further assured the audience that he would request the authorities of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages to hold such programs to other major shrines of District Kathua and Samba in coming days. He also thanked the working committee of Baba Sidh Gorla Temple for their unconditional support. The programme was

BJP OBC Morcha initiates Sampark Se Samarthan Campaign in Akhnoor and Jammu North

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: To mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nine-year tenure BJP OBC Morcha initiated the 'Sampark Se Samarthan' campaign in Akhnoor and Jammu North today highlighting the developmental works of PM Modi.

Gajinder Yadav (National Treasurer and Convenor North India BJP OBC Morcha) and Sunil Prajapati (State President BJP OBC Morcha) were Present main in the Program.

This initiative aims to showcase the remarkable developmental work accomplished by PM Modi for the welfare of the people over the past nine years.

The Program was Organized by Neetu Verma (District President Jammu North BJP OBC Morcha) and Janak Raj Verma (District President Akhnoor BJP OBC Morcha).

Accompanied by Shansher Prajapati (State Secretary BJP OBC Morcha), Raju Bazigar (State Secretary BJP OBC Morcha), Anil Balgotra (State Secretary BJP OBC Morcha), Ashok Verma (State Secretary BJP OBC Morcha), Vandana Kumari (Sarpanch Flora Nagbani), Bharat Bhushan (Mandal President Marh), Sanjay Saab (State Executive Member BJP OBC Morcha),



Devinder Pal (General Secretary BJP OBC Morcha Jammu North), Jagdish Verma (General Secretary BJP OBC Morcha Jammu North), Sunil Prajapati (Mandal President Marh BJP OBC Morcha) and other prominent BJP leaders, the Gajender Yadav visited numerous households in Akhnoor and Jammu North area. They distributed informative leaflets and posters highlighting the extensive developmental achievements of PM Modi during his tenure. During these interactions, Sunil Prajapati fervently requested residents to acquaint themselves with the remarkable development work undertaken by PM Modi.

Devinder Pal (General Secretary BJP OBC Morcha Jammu North), Jagdish Verma (General Secretary BJP OBC Morcha Jammu North), Sunil Prajapati (Mandal President Marh BJP OBC Morcha) and other prominent BJP leaders, the Gajender Yadav visited numerous households in Akhnoor and Jammu North area. They distributed informative leaflets and posters highlighting the extensive developmental achievements of PM Modi during his tenure. During these interactions, Sunil Prajapati fervently requested residents to acquaint themselves with the remarkable development work undertaken by PM Modi.

While BJP State President OBC Morcha Sunil Prajapati has emphasized the importance of a strong bond between the party and the common people. Additionally, he urged them to show their support by giving a missal to endorse the BJP and the PM Modi government.

"As the BJP, the ruling party in the state, celebrates PM Modi's nine-year anniversary, they are undertaking a door-to-door campaign to reinforce the party's relationship with the citizens.

PHDCCI Jammu call on Addl Comm, State Taxes, Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: Rahul Sahai, Chair PHDCCI Jammu Chapter along with Mr Samar Dev Charak, Co Chair, PHDCCI Jammu Chapter and Mr Amarpreet Singh, R O Jammu met Ms Namrita Dogra, Additional Commissioner, State Taxes, Jammu in her office.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss about the forthcoming programme on GST Week-State Taxes Department of Government of J & K is celebrating GST Week from 1st July to 7th July. State Tax Department had invited PHDCCI Jammu Chapter to be part of the GST Week. Ms Namrita shared the details about the events that have planned for the whole week. On day one 1st July 2023, a panel discussion is planned, for which Mr Rahul Sahai is invited as an esteemed panelist. During the meeting Mr Rahul Sahai shared several points relat-



ed to GST which could be taken up during the panel discussion. He also suggested that trader community is not aware about the GST rules and there is need to create awareness among them. Samar Dev Charak said that there is need to train the users of the online system of the department.

Rahul Sahai said that we should create flyers related to the points that need to be shared with the trading & Industrial community, like all dealers should submit their own mobile number in the online GST portal, details of how to change and update the mobile number in the system and other important points.

Namrita appreciated the suggestions given by Mr Rahul Sahai Chair & Co Chair and said that all steps will be taken to create awareness and request the support and cooperation of PHDCCI Jammu to make GST Week successful.

Eid-ul-Azha celebrated across Kishtwar with religious fervor, enthusiasm

J I NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JUNE 29: Eid-ul-Azha was celebrated with religious fervor and gaiety in district Kishtwar, here today.

Muslim brethren thronged local mosques and performed Nimaz-e-Eid and prayed for peace, development and prosperity of the district Kishtwar as well as the UT.

Elaborate arrangements were made by the district and police administration for smooth celebrations of Eid festival.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav, SSP Kishtwar Khalil Ahmed Poswal, ADDC Kishtwar Sham Lal, Chairman Waaf Board J&K, Kishtwar Zakir Hussain Wani, ACD Kishtwar Sunil Bhutyal, Tehsiladar Kishtwar Muneeb Umar and officers from Army, CRPF, Police and civil administration were also present on the occasion.

Two-month Amarnath Yatra reflects positive transformation in J&K: Vibodh



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: BJP J&K General Secretary Vibodh Gupta conducted a public outreach programme as part of the Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan, celebrating nine years of good governance by the Modi government. During the programme, he asserted that the Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan by BJP aims to connect with the people, spread awareness about the achievements of the Modi government, and gather feedback to ensure continued good governance in the region.

Vibodh highlighted the government's commitment to ensuring the safety of the Amarnathji Yatra pil-

grimage and expressed gratitude for the recent sanctioning of a 110-kilometre long four-lane Amarnath Marg (road) leading to the holy cave shrine in Pahalgam. He also acknowledged the efforts of Hon'ble LG Manoj Singh Ji in establishing a peaceful atmosphere for the Amarnath Yatra.

"Due to the overall peaceful atmosphere in Jammu & Kashmir and the confidence instilled by the government, this year's Amarnath Yatra, commencing on July 1st, will be an unprecedented two-month long pilgrimage. This duration is a significant milestone, as previous yatras were often restricted to only 15-20 days due to security and other considerations,"

Vibodh said

In his address, Gupta ridiculed the National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) for their sudden interest in the holy Amarnath Ji Yatra. He questioned their silence when the Yatris faced threats from Pakistan and separatist elements in the past, as well as their lack of action when five lakh minorities were forced to leave Kashmir. He highlighted the historical significance of the Amarnath Ji Yatra and its association with the livelihoods of the common people of Kashmir.

Prabhari Gandhinagar Mandal Narendra Kumar said that the common people are recognizing the genuine efforts of the Modi government in promoting good governance, development and peace in Jammu and Kashmir. He asserted that BJP's comprehensive development plan encompasses various sectors, including infrastructure, education, healthcare, employment generation, and tourism.

Mandal Pradhan, Gandhinagar Bharat Bhushan told that under the visionary leadership of the Modi government, the BJP remains dedicated to addressing the unique challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring its holistic development. BJP has unwavering commitment to transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a thriving hub of opportunities for its residents, he added.

BJP's vision to lead development to grass root level: Jugal Kishore Sharma



JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATRA, JUN 29: Member of Parliament Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma along with Former Mla Baldev Raj Sharma, Chairman MC Katra, Shashi Gupta, Prabhari Arvind Singh, District President BJP Rohit Dubey today visited far flung village Sarangdhar Bhogam of Panchayat Lamsora in Shri Mata Vaishno Devi

Assembly and Constituency held Labharthi Sammelan & Sampark Se Smarthan under party's nationwide programme Mahajan sampark Abhiyan. Jugal Kishore Sharma while addressing the gathering said that many welfare schemes have been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji for the welfare of the poor class of the society. He said that very man

leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji the fame of India is spread worldwide. He said that Bharatiya Janata Party's vision is to lead development to the grass root level.

He said that after 70 years 3-tier system of panchayati raj has been established and DDC, BDC elections are held and panchayats are empowered.

He said that before 2014 only 3 to 5 IAY cases per panchayat were sanctioned but now many cases are sanctioned and left outs are also covered on PMAY plus. He said that his Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji who launched PM-Ujjwala & Ayushman Bharat like Schemes for development of people of every caste & creed.

Mandal President Pawan Singh, Tej Singh, Sarpanch Rekha Devi, Sarpanch Kaya Devi, NS Dyan Singh, Senior Leaders Buri Singh, Panches & others also present at the occasions.

NSSO (FOD) organizes Statistics Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: In order to create awareness amongst the people, especially the younger generation, for drawing inspiration from (late) Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis about the role of Statistics in socio economic planning and policy formulation, "Statistics Day" is celebrated every year on 29th June on his birthday by organizing events such as essay/debate competitions, seminars and lectures on Statistics by Regional Offices of the FOD. In this regard National Sample Survey Office (Field Operations Division), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, Regional office, Jammu organized Statistics Day on 29th June 2023. The celebrations of this day was attended by the officers and the field staff of NSSO (FOD) Regional office Jammu, Sub-Regional Office, Udhampur, and officers from Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J &



K Government. Apart from this, the function is also attended by the HOD, Faculty members & some Scholars from Department of Statistics, University of Jammu.

Every year a theme is decided for Statistics Day for focused attention. The theme for the 17th Statistics Day, 2023 is "Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals".

After the welcome address by Shri R. K. Sharma, Assistant Director, NSSO (FOD), the function was inaugurated by Shri Kishore Kumar, Deputy

Director General; NSSO (FOD) UT of J&K. In his inaugural speech, DDG emphasized the role of Statistics Day for creating awareness amongst the people, especially the younger generation & the role of Statistics in socio economic planning and policy formulation. The function started with the lighting of Lamp & "National Song". In the celebrations Professor Parmil Kumar, from Department of Statistics, University of Jammu also addressed the participants and stressed on the role of Statistics in our day to day life. Some Officers from DES, J&K State also gave some valuable addresses. In the event

Shri Rajesh Kumar, Regional Passport Officer, Ministry of External Affairs was also present. He also briefed the participants & officers about the Statistical activities & their role for Nation building. Some research Scholars & Officers from NSSO (FOD), RO Jammu spoke about the theme of the 17th Statistics Day.

The overall Coordination & Comparing was done by Shri Sunil K. Khar, Senior Statistical Officer from NSSO (FOD), RO Jammu. Function ended with a vote of thanks presented by Shri Rajesh Sharma, Sr. Statistical Officer, NSSO (FOD), RO Jammu.

Koul and Ganga led door to door campaign in Bari Brahmana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organisation) Jammu and Kashmir BJP, while continuing with his public outreach programme, took up a door to door campaign in Kartholi Upper Panchayat in Bari Brahmana Mandal, falling under the Vijaypur assembly segment. He was accompanied by former Minister Chander Prakash Ganga, State Executive Member Irajam Sharma and Sarpanch Tarseen Singh Charak.

Ashok Koul and other leaders went around many localities and fixed stickers outside the houses of the people. They also distributed pamphlets containing details related to the nine years of achievements of the Narendra Modi government.

Ashok Koul, while interacting with the local people during the door to door campaign, told them that during the last nine years, the country has moved ahead in all fields. For the first time, the country has a



Prime Minister whose focus has been on the overall development of all the regions and the welfare of every section of society.

Whatever has been done in nine years has written a new chapter in the history of India, he said. Chander Prakash Ganga, while speaking to the people, said that the nine years rule of Narendra Modi has achieved many milestones and various projects that have put the country

on the path of progress and prosperity.

He also spoke on the welfare schemes of the Modi government. District General Secretary Amit Dubey, Mandal President Atresh Dutt, Bari Brahmana Municipality Chairman Captain Bachan Lal, Pawan Bakshi, Ramjio Sharma, Tarseen Thapa, and Vistarak Ravi Kumar also took part in the door to door campaign.

MISPLACED REVENUE RECORD: Tony seeks fixing responsibility, time-bound probe initiated by CS Mehta

"TIME TO NAIL BIG FISH, DON'T MAKE PATWARIS SCAPEGOAT"

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 29: Taranjit Singh Tony DDC Member Suchetgarh welcomed the stand taken by Chief Secretary A K Mehta and Settlement Commissioner Rajiv Rajan for fixing the responsibility in the matter of missing Revenue Record terming the issue grave and also sought thorough probe in a time bound manner. In a statement issued here today, Tony said that the Chief Secretary and the Settlement Commissioner has taken prudent decision to fix responsibility as the land record has gone missing from Revenue offices, which is a grave issue.

While praising the CS and Settlement Commissioner over this decision, Tony asked for a thorough probe in the matter and nabbing the big fish involved in the crime. He categorically asked the CS to make sure that like many other cases in the past, the Patwaris should not be made scapegoats in the matter as such a big crime cannot be carried out without the involvement of higher



ups in the department. He sought justice for the Patwaris and other officials in the matter and asked for stringent possible action against the officers involved within one month and the time should not be exceeded at any costs. He battled for shielding the Patwaris because the way the revenue record has been misplaced, prima facie the higher officials' involvement cannot be ruled out. Tony said that no doubt Patwaris have a big role in making of the revenue record but the responsibility of the safety and security of the same lies with higher officials including Director Land Records and Settlement Commissioner.

Explaining the whole process of creation of revenue record (Bandobast) and its placement in the record room, Tony said that during the time of making the record, the field staff visits the site and marks down the findings in the Field Book with a rough map of the land record. This record is then taken to the office for creation of Lathes and thereafter Musabis are made which are kept in the Record Room under lock and key, and the Director Land Records and Settlement Commissioner are the caretakers of this record.

"Patwaris are not supposed to have possession of Musabis though in case record goes missing, the Patwaris can recreate it by using the Lathes. In case Lathes is missing, the Musabis can be used for getting authentic record but if all this is misplaced then the only source is Field Book."

The Musabis and Field Books are kept in the record room for hundreds of years, he said, adding that if the Musabis and Field Books have been misplaced then the entire responsibility lies

on the aforesaid officers having custody of record therefore the government should take all this into consideration while probing the aforesaid matter because conventionally the higher ups in the Revenue Department target Patwaris in such matters to save their skin.

"The matter is complicated and therefore the investigation should be monitored at all levels to ensure that no one tries to fail the exercise by swaying things in the wrong direction. This is the right opportunity to teach a lesson to the corrupt and deter others from doing the same crimes in the future", he maintained.

Tony said who has taken/misplaced the record from the Record Room that is a big question, adding that the integrity of former Directors Land Records and Settlement Commissioners are in question. He said nobody even the Patwaris are not allowed to take out Musabis and Field Books from the Record Room then who misplaced the revenue record.

Col Mahan initiates black topping work of Ghagore to Samoond Morh Road

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JUN 29: DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh commenced the black topping work of the highly anticipated TDKM64 (Ghagore) to KM 16 Samoond Morh road project today. The project, with a total length of 16 kilometers, is estimated to cost Rs. 21 Crore, including the completion of 5 kilometers of roadwork already accomplished.

In his address, Col Mahan Singh emphasized the significance of the road project, which was initially commenced in 2016. He said that due to the poor quality of the work after completing nearly 5 kilometers, the contract was terminated and now a new contract has been initiated, and the project has recommenced with renewed dedication.

Col Mahan Singh highlighted the vital role this road will play in serving the needs of the local population, estimated to be over 50,000 people. "Not only does the road possess scenic beauty, making it an important asset for tourism in the region, but it will also spur development and progress in the area", he said.

Furthermore, Col Mahan Singh announced upcoming road projects, including Simimti to Dhar Mahanpur, Nagali to Godhal, Jankar to Bhujaan,



and Dhamlad to Neyali. "These future endeavours will further enhance connectivity and accessibility for the local communities", he said.

Col Mahan Singh also acknowledged the improvement in water supply under the Jal Jeevan Mission and the substantial infrastructure developments in Dhar Mahanpur and Sanan Ghat. "Additionally, a significant allocation of Rs 2 crore has been dedicated to the enhancement of sports infrastructure in the region", he added.

He said that this road project signifies a significant step forward in the region's development and serves as a

testament to the commitment of the local administration to provide enhanced infrastructure and connectivity for the betterment of its residents.

The DDC Chairman expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his continuous support. Tejinder Goly, DDC Mahanpur Member; Deepak Kohli, AEE PMGSY with Staff; Pardeep Loharia, Contractor M/s Puran Chand & Sons Construction Co.; Ex BDO Ram Chand; Gian Baatadia; Tej Ram Shah; Ashok Kumar; Sudesh Kumar; and others were present during the inauguration ceremony.

Eid-ul-Azha celebrated with religious fervor across Ramban

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, June 29: Eid-ul-Azha celebrated with religious fervor and gaiety across Ramban district, here today.

The biggest congregation took place at Jamia Masjid Sharif Ramban and Eidgah, Banihal, Gool and Batote, where hundreds of devotees per-

formed Namaz-e-Eid and prayed for peace, development and prosperity of the UT as well as the country.

Elaborate arrangements including security and other were made by the District and Police Administration for smooth celebrations of Eid-ul-Azha festival.

Eid Namaz was also offered at other

mosques of the town and its outskirts including, mosques of Chandro, Maitra and Upper Ramban.

On the occasion, officers of District Administration and police extended greetings to the Muslim brethren.

The festival was also celebrated in Banihal, Sangaldan, Ramsoso, Ukhral, Batote, Gool and Rajgarh.

Goyal chairs a meeting of bankers on export credit to MSME exporters

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

Piyush Goyal has asked the Indian banks to ensure enhanced and affordable credit to MSMEs to achieve the target of 1 trillion dollar merchandise exports. This was stated in a meeting called to discuss the issue of increasing the availability of export credit to the MSME exporters. The meeting was convened by the Department of Commerce in coordination with Export Credit Guarantee Corporation Limited, (ECGC), in New Delhi yesterday. It was attended by the top officials of 21 banks

which included State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of India and Central Bank of India. A presentation on 'Export Credit and Export Credit Insurance for Banks (ECIB)' was made by CMD ECGG, Shri M. Senthilathan. Based on ECGG's experience under the scheme of enhanced cover, ECGG has now proposed further modifications to make available adequate and affordable credit to a larger section of MSME exporters. The product facilitates the borrower accounts to be treated equivalent to

'AA' rated account with reduced cost of export credit to the exporters. In the meeting, Shri Piyush Goyal said that the ECGG can examine the extension of the scheme proposed for nine banks, to all the banks, so that the export credit outflow for the MSME Exporters can be increased. Bankers suggested that ECGG should adopt claim processing method similar to Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) for which Commerce and Industry Minister advised ECGG to follow a pattern on similar lines to compensate their loss.

The Minister advised the banks to take advantage of the proposed scheme and extend adequate and affordable export credit to MSME exporters. This would enable the country to achieve its target of USD 1 trillion merchandise exports by 2030. The Minister also advised ECGG to examine 75% claim payment to banks under the ECIB scheme, within 45 days of receiving the claim. It was further informed by the Minister that in the next four months, all the ECGG services would be digitized, so that physical interaction can be minimized.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya delivers keynote address at the 42nd Foundation Day of National Board of Examinations in Medical Science

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

The Union Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya presided over the 42nd Foundation Day of the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) and delivered keynote address in the presence of Prof. S.P Singh Bhagel, Minister of State, Dr. V.K Paul, Member, Health, Niti Aayog yesterday.

Congratulating the institute and the governing members on the initiatives and courses launched, the Union Health Minister stated that within the last two years, 25 courses have been introduced. He reflected that "this growth serves to provide greater opportunities for medical students and India is able to garner best health services and expert doctors, serving to fulfill nation's requirements leading to a healthier society and healthier nation." He reiterated that the medical sector plays a paramount role in the country's development and urged the students to commit to contributing and shaping India into a developed nation in the years to come.

Lauding the healthcare workers for their bravery



sector, he said "this is a transformative time for medical education due to initiatives introduced in the system." He further added the post graduate seats have grown over three times in the National Board of Examinations from 4000 seats to over 13000 seats. Emphasizing on the change in the conduct, he cited the addition of National Medical Commission as a new regulator, the introduction of NEET which encompasses competency-based curriculum as well as the District Registry Program that mandates all second-year medical education due to initiatives introduced in the system. He further added the post graduate seats have grown over three times in the National Board of Examinations from 4000 seats to over 13000 seats. Emphasizing on the change in the conduct, he cited the addition of National Medical Commission as a new regulator, the introduction of NEET which encompasses competency-based curriculum as well as the District Registry Program that mandates all second-year

one of the greatest developments India has seen since its independence that enables healthcare services to reach the most remote areas and benefit the marginalized community. Highlighting that medical education is in its golden era, he urged the toppers in the audience to share their experiences and motivations with colleges and schools of smaller cities and villages to inspire them to reach the pinnacle they are at today. Addressing the gathering, Dr. V.K Paul praised the further and development of medical education and respective institutions, highlighting the transformation of the last eight years. Enumerating the success of this

Aadhaar based face authentication transactions cross all time high of 10.6 million in May

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

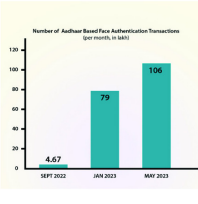
Aadhaar based face authentication transactions for service delivery are gaining robust momentum with monthly transactions in May touching an all time high of 10.6 million, since its launch in October 2021. This is the second consecutive month to register more than 10 million face authentication transactions. The number of face authentication transactions is on an upward trajectory and the monthly numbers clocked in May is an increase of 38 per cent, compared with such transactions reported in January 2023, indicative of its growing usage.

The AI/ML based face authentication solution developed in-house by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), is now being used by 47 entities, including state government departments, ministries in the central government and some banks.

Among many usages,

it's being used for registering beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana; for authentication of beneficiaries in the PM Kisan scheme and for generating digital life certificates at home by pensioners. It's being used for marking staff attendance at several government departments and for opening bank accounts at a few leading banks via their business correspondents. Among several states, the government of Andhra Pradesh is using Aadhaar based face authentication for the Deevana Scheme for reimbursement to eligible higher education students and under EBC Nestham scheme for welfare delivery to women from economically backward segments.

Face authentication features like ease of usage, faster authentication and it is preferred as an additional modality to strengthen the authentication success rate along



in the banking and financial services sectors by improved customer experience and helping in ease of doing business. More than 254 million e-KYC transactions were carried out in May alone.

By the end May 2023, the cumulative number of Aadhaar e-KYC transactions has gone past 15.2 billion. Continued adoption of e-KYC is significantly reducing customer acquisition cost of entities like financial institutions, telecom service providers among others. Whether it is AepS for last mile banking, e-KYC for identity verification, Aadhaar enabled DBT for direct fund transfer or authentications, Aadhaar, the foundation of India's digital public infrastructure and a tool of good governance, is playing a stellar role in improving Ease of Living for residents.

with fingerprint and OTP authentications. It captures live images for authentication. It is safe against any video replay attacks and static photo authentication attempts by anti-social elements. Face authentication is also working as a robust alternative and helping senior citizens and all those who have issues with the quality of their fingerprints due to several reasons including manual work or health issues. The month of May also saw the UIDAI executing 14.86 million Aadhaar updates following request from residents. Aadhaar e-KYC service continues to play a key role

2nd meeting of India-Tanzania Joint Defence Cooperation Committee held in Arusha

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

The second edition of Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDC) meeting between India and Tanzania was held in Arusha on June 28 & 29, 2023. The Indian delegation, led by Joint Secretary Shri Amitabh Prasad, included senior officials from Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. The High

Commissioner of India to Tanzania Shri Binay S Pradhan also attended the meeting. During the meeting, the two sides discussed a wide range of opportunities for collaboration with a view to enhancing security in the Indian Ocean Region. The Indian delegation highlighted the growing progress of the Indian Defence manufacturing to export to friendly countries. A five-

year roadmap for defence cooperation was also agreed to between the two sides, which covers initiatives ranging from customised training & capacity building to maritime cooperation, infrastructure building and collaboration in defence equipment and technology. Representatives from Defence PSUs also accompanied the Indian delegation. They held extensive

meetings with the stakeholders from the Tanzanian Forces on the sidelines of the JDC meeting. India shares close, warm and friendly relations with Tanzania which is bolstered by robust capacity building and avenues for development partnership. The visit of the Indian delegation for the JDC meeting is expected to further strengthen defence relations with Tanzania.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Hustle bustle in Jammu...

Amarnath Yatra, Amy Lavasa said. She said that across the Jammu district, 33 accommodation centres have been established that included Sabhas, Sarais and Lodges," adding, "at Bhagwati Nagar based Yatri Niwas, only registered pilgrims will be allowed to enter."

On "Tatkal registration" the Deputy Commissioner said that pilgrims will get their token number from Saraswati Dham, near Jammu Railway Station and the place and date for registration will be mentioned in the token for which Aadhar card of the pilgrims is mandatory.

"In all five counters have been established for Tatkal registration of the pilgrims at Vaishnavi Dham, Mahajan Sabha, Panchayat Ghar and two at Geeta Bhawan and Ram Mandir for the registration of Sadhus," she added. "Pilgrims shall be provided RFID Tag at the registration centre itself which is mandatory with the pilgrims permit," she said.

The Deputy Commissioner also said that pre-registration (online) pilgrims can get their RFID tags at Yatri Niwas and Railway Station, Jammu.

So far, more than 3 lakh pilgrims have registered themselves online for the yatra. (AGENCIES)

Indian Railways to...

Shakti Summer Special will depart Katra Railway Station at 06.30 pm on July 3 and reach New Delhi at 06.50 am the next day.

The trains will have Air-conditioned coaches and will halt at Sonipat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi and Udhampur stations.

Whereas, another train will run twice between Delhi Junction to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra. The train will leave Delhi Junction at 11:15 pm on July 3 and reach Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 11:25 am the next day, he added.

"The train will have air condition coaches along with sleeper and general class coaches and will halt at Sonipat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi and Udhampur stations," he added.(Agencies)

PM Modi to chair meeting...

among others. Nadda's participation in the meeting led to speculation about changes in the government and BJP organisation, including at the state-level, as the party gears up

for key assembly elections due later this year and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

For the past few days, Shah, Nadda and BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santosh have held several rounds of deliberations on organisational and political issues.

Elections are due in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Mizoram later this year. The Council of Ministers' meeting will be held days before the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which is likely to begin in the third week of July. (Agencies)

SC comes out with...

issued on June 28 by the Registrars of judicial administration. The circular also said that the lawyers seeking listing of verified fresh matters prior to such allotted dates will now be needed to submit their mentioning pro formas by 3 PM, to get their cases heard the next day.

For those seeking listing on the same day, the pro formas have to be submitted by 10:30 AM to the mentioning officer along with a letter of urgency, it said. The CJJ will then take a call on the same during lunch hours or 'as the exigency may warrant,' it said.

For after-notice and regular hearing matters that are sought to be urgently listed, the lawyers have to first go before the mentioning officer with the pro forma and urgency letter.

"No mentionings other than those in the mentioning lists uploaded a day prior shall be permitted for such matters," it said.

As per the procedures, the lawyers and litigants are allowed to mention their cases for out-of-turn listing and hearing by putting forth the ground of urgency before the CJJ's court.

The court has also notified a fresh roster for allocation of new cases to 15 benches from July 3 and the first three courts presided over by the CJJ and the top senior-most judges respectively will hear PILs. (Agencies)

Jammu sees joyous...

the message of brotherhood and community harmony. "I have come here to greet them and participate in Eid with them," he said.

Eid prayers were conducted across mosques in Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, and Kathua of Jammu region.

The district administrations made elaborate arrangements, including stepping up security measures, to

ensure a safe and smooth celebration of the festival. The district deputy commissioners also conveyed their greetings on the day, calling for acts of charity.

In a gesture of goodwill, the Sarla Battalion of the Indian Army presented a packet of sweets to the Pakistan Army (20 POJK) on the eve of Eid-ul-Adha.

The Pakistani Army reciprocated by extending its warm wishes of Eid Mubarak to their Indian counterparts and presenting them with a packet of sweets at Rahe Milan. (Agencies)

Amarnath Yatra on-the-spot...

registration have been put in place. "The registration of sadhus has begun in Jammu from today. All arrangements have been put in place for best possible facilities to sadhus", Tehsilidar Jai Singh said. The enthusiasm among pilgrims arriving here for the pilgrimage was palpable. Sanjeev Kumar of Uttar Pradesh said it is the fourth time that he is visiting the cave shrine.

"The registration process has improved from manual to online. This has done away with the process of sitting in long queues in hot weather conditions", he said.

Another pilgrim, 69-year-old Jagdish Raj from Delhi said, "For my entire life, I have been facilitating people planning to go on the pilgrimage, but could not go myself. However, I am very happy that I am now going to pay obeisance at Amarnath."

The sadhus have arrived here after completing the Char Dham Yatra to Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath shrines in Uttarakhand.

"We are here for the registration, which began today...It is for the sixth time, I am going to Amarnath", another pilgrim Ramesh Chander Giri said. (Agencies)

Prices of Tomato...

mountain-grown vegetables because of landslides and increased transportation time", Chamail Singh, a vegetable vendor said.

Singh said it is anticipated that vegetable prices may rise more if there is no improvement in the inclement weather.

Balbir Bakshi, a vegetable vendor, said that over the past 3-4 days, tomatoes have been priced exorbitantly high, ranging from Rs 80 to Rs 120 per kg.

The limited supply caused by the rainfall has increased the prices right at the source - the farms, Bakshi added.

The vendors said although the current weather conditions indicate that prices will remain high for a few

more days, the rates might lower once the monsoon recedes.

Official data points towards an average price trend of Rs 30 to 35 per kg of tomato and Rs 120 to 150 for per kg ginger.

As retail prices of the kitchen staple shot up to Rs 100 per kg in major cities of the country on Tuesday, a top government official said the spurt in prices of tomatoes is a temporary seasonal phenomenon, and rates will cool down soon.

Most parts of Jammu and Kashmir received heavy rains on Monday, triggering landslides at multiple locations that blocked the key Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and other roads, officials said. (Agencies)

Fire breaks out...

personnel and fire tenders to the spot, officials said. "We rushed our personnel and fire tenders to the spot after being informed of the fire," an officer said.

No Need For Rahul...

leader. Particularly during his "Bharat Jodo Yatra", Gandhi had accused the ruling BJP of spreading hatred. He said he wanted to open a "shop of love" in the "market of hatred".

"I want to ask you if there is any 'nafrat ka bazaar' in Haryana," he said, adding there no scope for the Congress leader's 'mohabbat ki dukan' (shop of love).

"Where is the hate," Singh asked.

The minister said when India addressed international forums earlier people didn't take it seriously as they considered it a "weak" country and the land of the poor. "Today when India speaks anything on international platforms, people listen."

Whatever the BJP promised in its election manifesto, it delivered, he said, referring to the Ram temple in Ayodhya and the abrogation of Article 370 on special status for Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh asked whether the prime minister thought about the caste or religion of the beneficiaries when toilets are built for them.

"Has there been any discrimination against anyone?" he said.

He made a similar point about the distribution of money to farmers under the Kisan Samman Nidhi.

"They are uttering nonsense out of frustration, to unnecessarily mislead people," he said, attacking the Congress. (Agencies)

NC's radicalization & separatism fuels injustice towards youth in J&K; over 42,000 lives lost since 1947 days, says Bali Bhagat

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: Bali Bhagat, senior BJP leader and former minister, shed light on the National Conference's role in propagating radicalism among Kashmiri youth under the guise of religion. He accused the National Conference of sowing the seed of separatism, which had long plagued the region, ultimately leading to the unrest in Valley for more than 50 years.

In a statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader pointed out that the nefarious beginnings of sectarianism in Kashmir can be traced back to Sheikh Abdullah's agitations against the rule of Maharaja Hari Singh. Abdullah's fervent push for self-rule in Kashmir acted as the breeding ground for separatist ideologies, gradually poisoning the minds of the Kashmiri population, he added.

Bali Bhagat said that the National Conference's long-standing radicalization and separatist ideologies have perpetuated grave injustice towards daily wage workers in Jammu and Kashmir. The Daily wagers, who



form a significant portion of J&K's workforce, have been gravely affected by the politically-motivated actions of the National Conference.

"These daily wagers, who are already vulnerable due to socio-economic factors, endure further hardships due to the repercussions of the National Conference's divisive ideologies. NC promised these daily wagers in every election for their regularisation but whenever they came in power betrayed them. Many of them were pushed to join militancy in the name of Islamic Jihad."

"This pressing issue demands immediate attention to alleviate the suffering faced by these marginalized individuals and their families," he said.

The former minister said since the year of independ-

ence in 1947 until 2019, more than 42,000 lives have been tragically lost as a direct result of the National Conference's radicalization and separatist agenda. This alarming statistic serves as a sobering reminder of the devastating consequences that arise from political ideologies focused on division and hatred.

Bali Bhagat strongly believed that the National Conference's destructive policies have deprived Kashmiri youth of the opportunities they deserve. Through their governance, the National Conference has ignored the crucial aspects of education, employment, and skill development, thereby hindering the overall progress of the youth in the region, he added. "The National Conference has consistently disregarded the potential of Kashmiri youth and failed to provide them with adequate support and resources. This negligence has hindered the growth of a generation that could have been the driving force behind the development of Jammu and Kashmir," he added. Fearing the potential consequences of such divisive rhetoric and strategies, Bali Bhagat called on the

people of Jammu and Kashmir to remain vigilant and steer clear of the National Conference's divisive policies. He emphasized the importance of unity and harmony among all communities, highlighting that progress and prosperity can only be achieved when all individuals work together, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Bhagat also took the opportunity to remind the public that it was the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that has effectively countered Pakistan's aggressive tactics and successfully restored normalcy in Kashmir. Through a strong stance against terrorism, the Modi government has made significant strides in ensuring the safety and security of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

The former minister asked people of Jammu and Kashmir to support the BJP and its vision for a united, peaceful, and prosperous India. He stated, "Only by rejecting the politics of division and embracing the principles of unity and progress can we secure a brighter future for Jammu and Kashmir."

DGPC Jammu Condemns the unwarranted interference into Sikh Religious affairs by Maan Govt

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: DGPC Jammu in a specially convened meeting, under the president ship of S Ranjeet Singh Tohra along with S Balvinder Singh Vice President, S Surjit Singh Gen Secretary, S Jagpal Singh Cashier, S Ranvir Singh Jt Secretary, S Gurmeet Singh & S Harjit Singh incharge Dharam Parchar, expressed deep anguish and concern on the unwarranted interference

of Bhagwant Maan Govt of Punjab, the stooges of APP who have infringed into the authority and sanctity of SGPC, the highest temporal body of Sikh Community by introducing an amendment in the Gurudwara Act 1925 which has been the fundamental right of Sikh Community and it can only amended by the Parliament with the consent of SGPC only.

In a deep rooted conspiracy there have been concerted efforts of every state

agencies to infringe the working and importance of SGPC Amritsar. APP govt in Punjab is trying to make SGPC weak on the same pattern so that it cannot protect the rights of Sikh Community worldwide, as guaranteed under the Gurudwara Act 1925.

While commenting on the issue DGPC members stated that Bhagwant Maan under a deep rooted Conspiracy is hurting the sentiments of Sikh Community by weakening

the authority of SGPC, and if this is allowed to continue in this manner it will not be tolerated by the Sikh Community throughout the world. All members of DGPC Jammu jointly urged upon all Sikh organizations, Sikh Diaspora to stand united on the issue, irrespective of their political affiliation to condemn and oppose such move of Bhagwant Maan Govt to preserve and protect the values and sanctity of SGPC, the highest temporal Sikh body.

APP delegation visits village Kattal Bataal



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: The public of village Kattal Bataal of Constituency Nagrota district Jammu organized a public meeting at their village. The workers of Aam Admi Party under the leader-

ship of Provincial Vice President Jammu Rajesh Pargotra attended the meeting. The public of the village gave a rousing welcome and facilitated the workers by beating the drums and Dholaks. Speaking in the month meeting the locals of the village high-

lighted their problems of non availability of drinking water, unsheduled curtailment in the supply of electric power and dilapidated condition of the road.

One particular problem of entry of the rain water into their houses was also highlighted by the women folk, of this village, who were very much worried for this problem.

Rajesh Pargotra assured them to redress and mitigate this problem of their's by raising the issue with the administration.

Others who attended the meeting are Harpreet Singh Sangathan Mantri Province Jammu, Gurmeet Singh Bhaagi, Karan Attri Jt. Secretary Samba and Khajur Singh Ex-Sarpanch Bagla Rahya and Retd. Principal.

Zonal Level English Medium Samagam held by Sant Nirankari Mission Branch Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: With the divine blessings of HH Satguru Mata Sudiksha ji Maharaj Sant Nirankari Mandal Branch Jammu Organized a Zonal Level English Medium Samagam at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Shastri Nagar Jammu. Devotees from all age group and from Jammu, Kathua & Samba Districts Participated in huge numbers to spread the message of Sant Nirankari Mission.

The Samagam was presided over by Saint PP Singh ji from Ambala, Haryana. while blessings the saints he said that the beginning of



English medium Samagams owe their importance on the vision of baba Hardev Singh ji that any language should not become a barrier in spreading the message of truth, love, peace, harmony and universal brotherhood. English being the most widely spoken language all

while living a blissful, cherished worldly life. He added that true master Satguru is a living embodiment of God almighty and his sole purpose is to remove the darkness of ignorance of the truth which is the root cause of all sufferings and sorrows of humans. The true master Satguru fulfils the mission of human life which is to know one, believe one and become one thus establishing the ages old concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbam". I.e. the entire world is one family.

Ajit Singh zonal in charge SNM Jammu welcomed all and presented the devote of thanks.

Convert Manipur State into UTs: Harsh Dev

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: Expressing concern over the raging fires in Manipur seized by repeated cycles of violence, bloodshed, arson, and mayhem for the last over a month and a half, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh former minister and president of JKNPP has accused the centre and state government of complete failure in handling the situation resulting in unprecedented death, destruction and devastation in the troubled state.

A combustible mix of faith, identity and politics has kept the pot of conflict boiling in the state with the present regime having miserably floundered in tiding over the crisis, Singh said.

As per certain reports in the media nearly 120 have been killed, 30,000 displaced, around 50,000 relocated due to raging violence and several thousand injured, divulged Singh. He said that it was shocking to note the statement of Archbishop of Manipur who had revealed that 249 churches had been burnt merely in 36 hours. And still the centre seems to have abdicated its responsibility under the constitution for reasons best known.

Should the present government be allowed to continue in the state merely for the reason that it is the BJP

which rules it. And should the state of Manipur not be divested of its state status, as was done in case of J&K, and it also be divided into Union Territories? Questioned Singh.

Mr. Harsh Dev Singh pointed out that J&K state was demoted and bifurcated into two Union Territories with the BJP government justifying the action on the pretext of violence and insurgency. Applying the same yardstick, Manipur has definitely qualified to be bifurcated into Union Territories in conformity with the policies of the BJP led NDA government.

Mr. Singh added that the BJP government has most vociferously taken the stand that there can't be two sets of laws in the same country. It is further insisting on uniform civil code (UCC) in the country even if it has to downplay the aspirations of a particular community or inspirational group.

Having said so, it needs to prove that action taken against J&K was not out of hostility, malice or ill will but genuine decision based on a well conceptualised policy that would be applicable to any other state of the country facing insurgency and bloodshed including BJP ruled states like Manipur.

Balvinder Demands CBI Probe into the allotment of IT Based Parking Slots

Take stern action against erring officers of JSCPL

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: S Balvinder Singh, renowned RTI Activist who has been instrumental in raising issues from time to time pertaining to corruption and social awareness concerning the working of various departments of JKUT Govt. who have been responsible for causing loss to State exchequer.

One of the important issues raised by S Balvinder Singh during his press conference held on 10th March 2023 exposing the important scam, based on the information received under RTI with regard to the allotment of 32 IT based parking slots in Jammu City under Jammu Smart City Projects costing to Rs

9 crores. It is worthwhile to mention that 32 Parking slots were allotted to Contractor Babu Infra tech with deep rooted conspiracy to deceive the State exchequer under a well designed Contract agreement signed in between Contractor and officers of JMC for the revenue sharing whereby it was agreed upon that the contractor shall get 96% and JMC only 4% during the first year, 94%/6% in then 2nd year and 90%/10% in the third year and so on. It is pertinent to mention that before this agreement JMC was getting about 11 lacs from one site only i.e. Residency Road Jammu whereas now after allotting 10 working parking slots JMC got only 108700 in eleven months and thus caused huge

loss to State exchequer. Balvinder stated that though the JMC acted swiftly on his exposure & terminated the Contract within next two days, but no action was initiated, till date, against the erring officials those who drafted such contracts.

So Mr Singh urged upon the Hon'ble LG JKUT SH Manoj Sinha, keeping in view the seriousness of the corrupt practices adopted in the allotment of various contracts by Jammu Smart City Projects Limited, hand over the case to CBI for thorough probe and take stern action against the erring officers as mere termination of contract is no solution to end the corrupt practices prevalent in the working Jammu Smart City Projects Limited.

Shri Ram Sena President urges Amarnath pilgrims to visit Shudhmahadev temple also

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: President, Shri Ram Sena (SRS), J&K, Rajiv Mahajan urged Shri Amarnath pilgrims, who are visiting Shri Amarnath Shrine Cave, also visit Shudhmahadev temple on Chenani of district Udhampur.

"Sudhmahadev has remained focal point for devotees of Lord Shiva for spiritual attainment from very early periods of history.

This beautiful valley is situated in the foot hills of Dhar Shiv Garh at a distance of 116 kilometres from Jammu. It is in this area that Holy

Devika rivulet appeared to purify human body and soul," Rajiv Mahajan said adding that the Holy vibrations and characteristics are same in reputed temples and Shrines of Lord Shiva spread over in this area like Gouri-Kund, Gaur Karan, Budhi-Shudi, Shool Panshawar Temple, Haridwar, Banisingh, Mandir Dushala and Mantalai etc.

He added that pilgrims should take bath in holy water of Gouri-Kund and offer prayers in the nearby temple of Goddess Parvati.

Legends say that Goddess Parvati worshipped at this place for thou-

sands of years inside a cave to get married with Lord Shiva, he said adding that the pilgrims will also enjoy the scenic beauty of this place and feel the enchanting cool breeze coming across sacred rivulet flowing nearby.

He also said that it is known as the first Darshan of Baba Amarnath Ji. At the same time, Rajiv Mahajan urged the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to personally visit Shudhmahadev Shrine and promote the holy place so that Shri Amarnath pilgrims first visit this shrine to go forward to Amarnath pilgrimage.

Deforestation of Raika forests shall cause irrevocable damage to the health of Jammuits: Adv. Suresh

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: On the Inaugural function of Construction of new High Court building in Raika, which is set to begin soon for High Court premises on Raika forest land which are in other words are called lungs of Jammu, Adv. Suresh Dogra A Senior Congress Leader & also a Social worker said that inauguration means a moment of happiness but an inauguration by staking the lives of Jammu people by cutting trees which are hearsay about more than 38000 trees (not official fig-



ure) shall cause a worst climatic effect on the lives of Jammu people. There will be major changes in the climate in the subsequent years but

the Government after cutting trees will do nothing but mere give a statement & console the people that Good days are coming nothing else, Adv. Suresh Dogra further stated that this is not mere a disaster for the health of Jammu people but also shall affect the lives of forest dwellers of Raika as well as the speechless beings like wild animals & birds due to deprive of their natural habitats & natural feed.

Adv. Suresh Dogra further added that the laying of foundation stone for this High Court of Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh by

Hon'able Chief Justice of India Sh. Dhananjay V Chandrachud would have a welcome step if the people of Jammu would lack of land for High Court & Subordinate but there is already a newly constructed building & highly vegetated area we have and but that was ignored and despite of giving addition to already existed Infrastructure & it is a over burden on government exchequer, apart from that Adv. Dogra also alleged government for taking an impulsive decision for this & no body is happy with this step.

Ashok Koul inaugurates Ultra Hygienic Laundry Service unit

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 29: Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul, along with BJP Vice President Chander Mohan Gupta inaugurated Tumble Dry- an ultra hygienic laundry service unit in the Trikuta Nagar area of Jammu.

Ashok Koul, while congratulating the franchise partner of the unit, said that India's largest dry cleaning chain has reached Jammu and the people can avail facilities through home pickup service and walking in.

He said that the new concept will provide multiple facilities under one roof. He said that laundry, dry clean-



ing, shoe cleaning, washing and linting removal of blankets, besides dry cleaning of delicate fibre clothes will prove to be of great service in the area. He said that the most significant aspect has been that it is to be run by highly edu-

social service, Koul said. He expressed hope that the management and staff of Tumble Dry would meet the expectations of the customers.

Vikas Thapa, while sharing the details of the unit, said that totally organic detergent will be used with facilities for steam ironing and shoe cleaning under one roof. He said that the faint colour of clothes can be revived in the unit. Here, cleaning of any kind of spot of oil, blood, grease etc can be removed.

A large number of prominent people, including Deep Raj Thapa, LD Gorka, Kulbhushan Mohtra, Rakesh Pant, Surinder Bhagat, Hans Raj, Rashpal Digma, were present on the occasion.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

UCC implementation not a cakewalk for BJP

The recent debate over Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has got fresh impetus after the Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong pitch for the implementation of the UCC in the country. The Prime Minister's statement holds great significance against the backdrop of the ongoing preparations of the political parties for the next year's Lok Sabha elections. The Prime Minister has accused Opposition parties of inciting minority communities against it. The opposition parties, particularly the Congress has said that a 'divisive' code cannot be forced on people by an 'agenda-driven majoritarian government'. The implementation of UCC continues to be a key poll plank of the ruling BJP, which kept its core-agenda promises of abrogating Article 370 months after it won the 2019 General Election and is on course to get the Ram Mandir ready by early next year. The UCC envisages a common set of personal laws dealing with matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption, applicable to all citizens of India irrespective of their religion. On June 14, the Law Commission had initiated the process of inviting views from stakeholders, including the public and recognised religious organisations, on the contentious issue which triggered a fresh debate on the subject with opposition describing the exercise as politically-motivated. The BJP-ruled Uttarakhand is spearheading the UCC campaign, even as the Supreme Court had observed in January this year that state governments had the power to examine the feasibility of implementing the common code. It is being alleged that the BJP will ensure its fulfilment of its political interests with the implementation of the UCC in the country. If one reads the Constitution's Article 44, which is one of the directive principles of state policy, it states that 'the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India'. There is no doubt that the BJP-led Central government faces an uphill task of building consensus on the UCC, even as AAP has extended 'in principle' support to the code. The perception that it would be Hindu-centric has created a lot of doubts and apprehensions among the minorities. The UCC can gain credibility and acceptability only if it encapsulates the spirit of Article 25, which guarantees freedom of religion, and is aimed at doing away with regressive practices in various religions. The entire exercise needs to be reformatory for a better system to be placed in the country. It is expected that the BJP government at the Centre would take into consideration the views of all stakeholders while drafting the UCC and it would address the concerns and allay the apprehensions of all opposition parties. It would be interesting to see how the BJP would tread on this sensitive issue especially when it is preparing for next year's General Elections in the country.

SRSB makes push to achieve SDGs

SANJEEV SINGHAL AND NIDHI GARG

Organizations that adopt sustainability reporting get a competitive edge in a market where consumer awareness is rising, in addition to helping the world's efforts to address urgent environmental and social concerns. Investors give due importance to ESG aspects in their decision-making processes, and consumers are expecting more goods and services from businesses that exhibit ethical and sustainable business practices. Governments and regulatory organizations are also stressing the need of achieving sustainable development and enforcing higher reporting standards.

As a statutory body, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) regulates the profession of Chartered Accountants in India. A strong tradition of public service and economic development has distinguished the ICAI as the world's leading body of knowledge for accountancy. With the mission to formulate comprehensive and globally comparable standards for measuring and disclosing non-financial information about an entity's progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, the ICAI constituted the Sustainability Reporting Standards Board (SRSB) in February 2020. Several initiatives have been launched by the Board over the years to revolutionize the ideology behind sustainable reporting such as the introduction of Sustainability Assurance Engagement Standards, certificate courses on BRSR reporting, social audit standards, etc.

In May 2021, SEBI made a notable shift towards the adoption of the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework in recognition of the need for a more comprehensive and integrated approach towards sustainability reporting. The BRSR framework acknowledges that sustainability issues should not be ignored or considered as a side issue, instead, they ought to be thoroughly incorporated into a company's overall operations and strategies by acknowledging the connection between sustainability and commercial performance. BRSR framework focuses on transparency and comparability. Organizations can give stakeholders reliable information about their sustainability practices by adopting a standardized approach to reporting and can also better streamline decision-making, increase transparency, and align sustainability with their core business strategy. This makes it possible for stakeholders to assess the sustainability performance of various businesses and make educated decisions.

The sustainability board of ICAI has come out with an innovative approach towards measuring an organ's ISAR on maturity towards BRSR. On 18th March 2021, SRSB launched its Sustainability Reporting Maturity Model (SRMM Version 1.0) as a grading/scoring methodology for Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) released by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) as part of its initiatives to build the sustainability ecosystem in the nation. This maturity model records an organization's progress towards sustainability reporting through four distinct degrees of sustainability maturity. The model integrates the most recent international trends and advancements in sustainability reporting. To increase the effectiveness of the model, the SRSB collaborates extensively with a variety of stakeholders including academics, civil society organizations, and other professionals from around the nation. Based on the changes brought in by the SEBI BRSR circular, SRMM Version 1.0, was further updated to



Version 2.0 by the board. To assist organizations in implementing the SRMM, the SRSB has also set up a network of training and support facilities. It is also creating several tools and resources to assist organizations with their sustainability reporting.

The SRMM offers organizations looking to improve their sustainability reporting practices several advantages. SRMM is a self-assessment tool that gives organizations a clear structure and path so they can evaluate where they are now and where they need to improve. Organizations can efficiently prioritize their tasks and allocate resources by assessing their maturity level, which provides them with insights into their strengths and limitations. Secondly, the model also encourages organizations to go up through the levels, promoting the maturity of sustainability reporting. The approach helps organizations gradually improve their reporting procedures and incorporate sustainability into their primary business strategy by outlining a clear path. The model has four unique stages, each of which corresponds to a different level of sustainability reporting maturity. All 4 levels are defined based on the overall range of scores that a corporate entity has scored within a fiscal year using the BRSR scoring system. The SRMM has a total score of 300 points divided across all the sections of 300 to leading indicators, firms are encouraged to set goals for achieving them. Each maturity level depicts the current state of sustainability reporting, and motivates the company to achieve a higher stage as the new reporting cycle begins. A company may use the SRMM scoring mechanism to self-assess its BRSR reports and assign a score for each parameter reported as per the format given in SRMM which will further decide the maturity stage of reporting achieved by the company. The SRMM document released by SRSB clearly defines the methodology for calculating a company's score. As the current BRSR format is general and is applicable to all sectors, therefore, it might be a possibility that certain indicators are not applicable for a particular type of industry, e.g. if the concept of 'Extended Producer Responsibility' is not applicable to a particular industry, then the grand total score would be reduced by 3 and will become 297 and further the maturity level will be calculated as a percentage of the score achieved out of score applicable. This feature of SRMM makes it even more useful.

A company scoring up to 25% falls in the first stage or the 'Emerging' stage of SRMM. This stage implies that the company is in the nascent stage of reporting and is still outlining the fundamental facts and identifying the need and responsibility of BRSR. These companies are actively try-

ing to collect data and establish policies related to sustainability. A company scoring more than 25% and up to 50% falls under the Emerging stage which is the 2nd stage in the SRMM. Level 2 organizations tend to be more aware of the importance of BRSR and have a strong mechanism for reporting the same, but these businesses are constantly working towards enhancing and establishing the current internal control system and collecting data for disclosures. Level 3 or the Established Stage is achieved when a company has a BRSR score of more than 50% and up to 75%. These organizations have established business strategies and functional systems for reporting BRSR parameters efficiently. Such organizations are actively involved in compliance functions and are more focused on improving and accelerating the qualitative aspects of their business.

A company with a score of more than 75% qualifies for the highest level of sustainability reporting maturity - Level 4 and is in the stage of leading by example. At this level, sustainability is deeply ingrained in the culture and ethos of the company. Organizations actively work to have a beneficial social, environmental, and economic impact. They demonstrate creativity and adopt cutting-edge sustainability trends and best practices. Companies that are a part of Level 4 are constantly involved in innovative methods so as to enhance their disclosures and work towards becoming a market leaders. As they advance through the levels, organizations become industry leaders in sustainability reporting, link sustainability with their core business strategy, enhance transparency, and accountability, and create value. The SRMM is a useful tool in the effort to create a company environment that is more ethical and sustainable. Offering a road map for improving their sustainability reporting practices, it aids organizations in prioritizing their efforts. It encourages organizations to develop from fundamental compliance to more sophisticated and integrated reporting practices as it leads them through the four degrees of maturity. Organizations can improve their knowledge of where they stand right now and the steps necessary to advance to higher levels of sustainability reporting maturity by using the SRMM. By measuring sustainability performance, setting targets, and monitoring progress, organizations can improve their environmental, social, and economic impact. Considering this, it is a call to action for businesses to adopt the SRMM and work towards a more responsible and sustainable future. Organizations may increase their credibility, fulfil stakeholder expectations, and help the world's sustainability goals by putting SRMM into practice.

Fertiliser subsidies are not the solution

UTIAM GUPTA

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandavaya has stated that during 2023-24, around Rs 46,000 crore would be needed for fertilizer subsidy payments over and above Rs 175,000 crore being the budget estimate (BE) given by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the budget presented on February 1, 2023. On the other hand, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) feels, payments could be even less than BE.

Fertilizer subsidy is payments made to manufacturers or importers to cover the excess of the cost of production/import and distribution (or cost of supply) over a low maximum retail price (MRP) they are directed by the Union government to charge from the farmers. The subsidy on each ton of fertilizer produced (or imported) and sold is the difference between the cost of supply and MRP. Multiplied by the total quantity of fertilizer sold, it gives aggregate subsidy payments.

In the case of urea, MRP is under 'statutory' control. The excess cost of supply over MRP is reimbursed to the manufacturer as a subsidy which varies from unit to unit depending on the cost. These reimbursements are made under the so-called New Pricing Scheme (NPS). For non-urea fertilizers which are de jure decontrolled, the MRP is 'indirectly' controlled. The



government gives a 'uniform' subsidy on a per-nutrient basis to all manufacturers and importers under the Nutrient Based Scheme (NBS). The latter must deduct this from the cost to arrive at the MRP. All these exercises/determinations are made by the fertilizer ministry and arrive at the tentative estimates of subsidy requirements under each category viz. urea and non-urea fertilizers. The precise number is finalized in consultation with the MoF.

What makes the fertilizer minister feel that the actual requirement will be more than the BE for 2023-24? For a better understanding, we need

to look at both the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. For 2022-23, against BE of Rs 105,000 crore, Sitharaman put the revised estimate (RE) at Rs 225,000 crore. This was based on actual payments during the first 10 months of the FY and likely output during the remaining two months i.e. February and March 2023. The actual was even higher at Rs 253,000 crore. Under a business-as-usual scenario, if the allocation for 2022-23 had remained frozen at the level of RE i.e. Rs 225,000 crore, the shortfall of Rs 28,000 crore would have to be carried forward to 2023-24 and paid for from the current year's budget. Now, that full amount

has been provided in 2022-23 itself, hence no spillover, Rs 28,000 crore need not be paid in 2023-24 budget. Subsidy payments during 2022-23 leaptfrogged to a peak of over Rs 250,000 crore because global fertilizer prices increased sharply. For instance, in April 2022, the price of urea touched US\$980 per ton while that of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) - a widely used fertilizer in the non-urea category - was US\$925 per ton. The prices of phosphoric acid and ammonia - raw materials (RMs) used in the production of non-urea fertilizers - were US\$1,530 per ton and US\$1,050 per ton respectively. The price of muriate of potash (MOP) was US\$590 per ton.

The price of imported LNG - it meets over one-third of natural gas requirements for domestic production of urea - was at a high of around US\$24 per million Btu (British thermal unit) in April 2022. The price of domestic gas (it supplies the remaining two-thirds) for old and regulated fields was US\$ 6.1 per mmbtu whereas for supplies from difficult deep water and ultra-deepwater (D/UD) fields, it was US\$ 9.92 per mmbtu. From October 2022, these prices increased to US\$8.57 per mmbtu and US\$12.6 per mmbtu respectively.

Since last year, there has been a substantial drop in the prices of all fertilizers and RMs. Currently, the prices are urea US\$333 per ton; DAP: US\$540/ton; phosphoric acid: US\$ 990 per ton; ammonia: US\$ 248 per ton and

MOP: US\$ 422 per ton. The price of imported LNG is down to around US\$12 per mmbtu. As for the price of domestic gas, on supplies from old and regulated fields, currently, it is US\$6.50 per mmbtu. For supplies from D/UD, it remains high at US\$12.1 per mmbtu; but their share in domestic gas is only 30 per cent.

In short, during the current year, prices of all fertilizers and RMs are substantially lower than during 2022-23 and these are maintaining their downward trajectory. For instance, the cost of DAP is expected to fall further to around US\$ 300-350 per ton. With no change in the price paid by farmers (read: MRP), the lower cost should lead to a corresponding reduction in subsidy output.

Accordingly, on May 19, 2023, the Union Cabinet approved a significant cut in the per kilogram subsidy rate for nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potash (K) for the Kharif 2023 season (April-September) under NBS for P&K fertilizers. The subsidy output during this period will be Rs 38,000 crore down from Rs 61,000 crore spent during the last Kharif 2022 season. Given the continuing reduction in prices, there may be a further sizeable reduction in subsidies under NBS during the second half of the current FY. Meanwhile, the government has also reduced the subsidy rates for January - March 2023 'retrospectively' to reflect the reduction in global prices for those three months. This will be adjusted against payments to manu-

facturers/importers during the current FY.

Significant savings in subsidy should be possible by promoting the use of nano-fertilizers. These are fertilizers in the form of nanoparticles and are applied in liquid form. Their efficiency is many times more than conventional fertilizers. For instance, a 500-ml bottle of nano-DAP is equivalent to a 50-kg bag of conventional DAP. The former is available to farmers for Rs 600 without any subsidy support, against the latter being available at more than double this price or Rs 1,350 and that too with substantial subsidy support.

During 2023-24, the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) which has developed the technology, plans to produce 50 million bottles of nano-DAP. This will replace 2.5 million tons of conventional DAP resulting in significant savings. Following the commissioning of three plants in the public sector (April 2023), domestic production of urea is expected to increase by 2-3 million tons. This will result in an equivalent reduction in import and turn, subsidy payments. All the above factors point towards containing subsidy output within the BE of Rs 175,000 crore. Then, why does the fertilizer minister say 'more will be needed'?

He argues that at the beginning of the current FY, manufacturers were holding inventories - stuff that was purchased during 2022-23 at high prices - which should be eligible for subsidy at higher rates.



Is Aamir Khan Making His Return To Singing After 'Aati Kya Khandala'? Sona Mohapatra Gives A Hint

Aamir Khan is reportedly making his return as a singer and a recent video shared by singer Sona Mohapatra seemingly hinted at that screen when he is "emotionally prepared."

Recently, singer Sona Mohapatra shared a video where Aamir Khan is spotted inside a recording studio. The video also shows music composer Ram Sampath giving directions to the actor. Even though the 19 seconds video does not reveal much, fans are speculating that Aamir is going to make his comeback after his hiatus. The video has gone viral on social media. However, no confirmation has been revealed on whether Aamir

Khan is recording a song. In 1998, Aamir Khan showcased his singing talent by lending his voice to the popular song Aati Kya Khandala in the movie Ghulam. He recorded the song with singer Alka Yagnik. The melody remains everyone's favorite to date. Since then, he has not sung any song. Meanwhile, at the trailer launch of the Punjabi movie Carry On Jatta 3 in Mumbai, Aamir Khan was asked about his future plan. Replying to the same, the 58-year-old actor said, "I haven't signed any film yet. I just want to spend time with my family and I am doing just that. When I am emotionally ready to do a film, I will definitely do it." Work-wise, the



actor was last seen in one of the controversial films, Laal Singh Chadha in 2022. The film faced huge criticism and was a failure at the box office.

It was an adaptation of the Hollywood film Forrest Gump. The film also stars

Kareena Kapoor Khan in a key role. Apart from Aamir Khan and Kareena, the cast included Shah Rukh Khan, Naga Chaitanya, Mona Singh, Manav Vij, Sanjay Dutt, and Vijay Sethupathi in significant roles.

Ram Charan, Jr NTR, Karan Johar invited by Oscars to join the Academy

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recently made its membership invitations. And guess what? Indian film celebrities Ram Charan, Mani Ratnam, Karan Johar, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Chandrabose and MM Keeravani have been invited by the organisation to be members.

"RRR" art director Sabu Cyril and cinematographer K.K. Senthil Kumar have also been invited. "The Academy is proud to welcome these artists and professionals into our membership," Academy CEO Bill Kramer and Academy President Janet Yang said in a statement. Variety reported.

"They represent extraordinary global talent across cinematic disciplines and have made a vital impact on the arts and sciences of motion pictures and on movie fans worldwide."

Austin Butler, Ke Huy Quan, Keke Palmer, NT Rama Rao Jr and music super-



star Taylor Swift are also among the 398 artists and executives invited to join the membership of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

If all of this year's invitees accept membership, it will bring the total number of overall Academy members to 10,817 (up from 10,665 last year), with 9,375 eligible

to vote (a decrease from 9,665 due to deaths, retirements and moving to emeritus status) for the 96th Oscars, set to take place on March 10, 2024.

The 2023 class is 40 per cent women. 34 per cent belong to underrepresented ethnic/racial communities and 52 per cent hail from 51 countries and territories out-

side the United States.

Other interesting statistics about this invitee class are four branches invited more women than men to join — casting directors, costume designers, makeup artists and hairstylists and marketing and public relations.

The Actors and Directors branches had most of their candidates hail from under-represented ethnic and racial communities.

Eight filmmakers have been invited to multiple branches — Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert ("Everything Everywhere All at Once"), Colm Bairied ("The Quiet Girl"), Edward Berger ("All Quiet on the Western Front"), Antonio Campos ("The Devil All the Time"), Lukas Dhont ("Close"), Ana Katz ("The Dog Who Wouldn't Be Quiet") and Santiago Mitre ("Argentina, 1985"); however, they can only select one upon accepting membership.

Pakistani Singer Shae Gill Reacts To Pasoori Remake: If You Don't Like It, Don't Listen

The new Pasoori song from Sameer Vidwans's Satyaprem Ki Katha featuring Kartik Aaryan and Kiara Advani has created a mixed reaction from the internet. The song has been sung by Arijit Singh and Tulsi Kumar and is a remake of the Pakistani hit, crooned by Ali Sethi and Shae Gill, released last year.

Now, Gill, who sang the original hit, released a video on Instagram Story urging people not to "send hate" to the makers.

"I've been getting a lot of questions about whether this was my decision. Guys, I do not own the song. I do not have the rights, so I didn't sell it. I actually found out through you about the remake of the song," Shae said in the clip.

Talking about the hate towards the new Pasoori track, Shae said, "But also I wanted to talk about all of the hate that people have been sending towards the song. I understand that you love the original Pasoori song so much, can't even begin to express how grateful I am."

"But also, at the same time, I don't want you to be sending hate to someone else. Just look at it as a rendition rather than a remake, that'll help," she added.

She urged people that if they didn't like the rendition, then "just don't listen to it. If it is something that you don't like at all, then you don't listen to it instead of sending hate. Just don't listen to it," she said.

The Sukoon singer concluded her message by saying that one shouldn't humiliate or insult someone publicly. "Not linking something and talking about it at home is fine."

Celina Jaitley Recalls Receiving Threats For Supporting LGBTQIA Community

Celina Jaitley recalls how the death of her gay makeup artist shook her and changed her mind and how she received threats from people for supporting the LGBTQIA movement. The actor, who is quite vocal about the community, also added that even her sexuality was questioned.

Celina rose to fame after winning the title of Femina Miss India in 2001 and also became 4th runner-up at Miss Universe in the same year. Later, she made her acting debut with the 2003 film Janashreen and starred in films like No-Entry, Golmaal Returns, Apna Sapna Money-Money and many more.

Talking to Masala about Pride Month, Celina said, "Probieer Da (Celina's make-up artist) was a mother figure to me in my struggling years as a 15-year-old model. He was my fairy godfather.



His death shook me. His last conversation with me, just a week prior to him passing away, was about his fears of old age as a gay man, of not having children or a life partner and his wanting to see me get married to a nice man. All his life had been spent in pursuit of happiness, which he could never achieve due to the stigma associated with

being gay. While all his fears went away in one tragic incident, it changed something inside me forever."

"I received threats from people around the country. Even LGBTQIA colleagues from the film industry turned their backs on me because they were worried any association with them would make their identities vulnerable to exposure. I supported LGBTQIA organisations, events and film festivals despite the threats. Due to the dangerous threats I'd to hire extra personal security continuing to lakhs on my expense in order to continue my work. Some organizations I supported let me down when 377 was revoked. I was also hurt by the very people I stood up for when no one wanted to associate themselves with the community."

In the same interview, the actor also touched upon the failed relationship with her boyfriend who was a closet gay. She called it the turning point of her life. Celina was last seen in Season's Greetings.

Jad Hadid reveals, "I Ate From Dustbin" in the Big Boss OTT2 show



Big Boss OTT 2 has now become an audience's favourite, the show has kept the audience entertained ever since the first day. All the contestants are giving their best to stand out in the show specially Jad Hadid who is often seen talking about his childhood struggles and hardships.

In the June 28 episode of BB OTT 2, he reminded the viewers of the time when he used to pick food from the garbage as he had no money. He cried when he saw the other team members not being allowed to eat good food like him.

On Wednesday's episode Abhishek Malhan, Jiya Shankar, Akanksha Puri and Jad Hadid recently won a task where they earned food privileges among other benefits. Jad Hadid got emotional when he saw the other team members not able to eat good food items like him.

While eating a chicken sandwich, had broke down while Falag tried to console him.

He said, "I used to sleep without food, on the road, and even rummage into garbage bins to find something to eat. I couldn't bring myself to refuse food to anyone, no matter the circumstances. It's a heart-wrenching feeling that I am eating all the good food in front of the rest of you."

Manisha tried to console Jad saying, "It's okay baabu, Jad. Remember it's just a game, and everyone has to find their inner strength. We're all going through our own struggles. I know you have an emotional side that makes you feel this way."

WHO IS KEVIN SPACEY, HOLLYWOOD ACTOR CHARGED WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT?



Spacey began his journey in the world of theatre, later transitioning to Broadway. In the late 1980s, he started appearing in films, starting with minor roles in movies like Heartburn (1986) and Working Girl (1988). Throughout the 90s, Spacey took on supporting parts in films such as Glengarry Glen Ross (1992) and Iron Will (1994). However, it was his role as Roger "Verbal" Kint in the 1995 film The Usual Suspects that brought him widespread acclaim, earning him an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. That same year, he portrayed a serial killer and villain in the movie Seven — the title stylised as 50/7en alongside Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman.

Some of the notable projects Kevin Spacey has been involved in include the films Superman Returns (2006), Margin Call (2011), Horrible Bosses (2011), and Baby Driver (2017). In addition, Spacey took on the role of director for the film Albino Alligator in 1996.

Throughout his career, Spacey has garnered numerous accolades, including two Academy Awards, a Tony Award, a Golden Globe Award, four Screen Actors Guild Awards, and a British Academy Film Award. He has also been nominated for a Grammy Award and received 12 Primetime Emmy Award nominations. In 1999, Spacey was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and in 2010 and 2015, he was named an honorary Commander and Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire, respectively. Charges against Kevin Spacey

In 1999, The Sunday Times Magazine published an article discussing Spacey's dedication to acting and questioned his personal life, as he did not have a publicly known partner. The article led to speculation about Spacey's sexual orientation, with Esquire magazine suggesting that he might be gay. Spacey responded to these rumors by stating in interviews, including one with Playboy, that he was not gay.

Sonam Kapoor represents India in floral print saree at UK PM Rishi Sunak's reception

Actor Sonam Kapoor attended the UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's reception in the UK-India Week 2023 in a beautiful floral printed saree.

On Wednesday, she posted a couple of pictures of herself in a floral print saree on Instagram. Sonam draped a green saree with a white floral print blazer. She amped up the glamorous quotient with red earrings and a green stone ring. She raised the glam quotient with bold red lipstick with minimal makeup. This saree is from the shelves of the designer Rohit Bal.

Along with the post, she wrote, "Representing in @rohitbalofficial for the reception at 10 Downing Street to celebrate UK-India week. What a beautiful day and so happy I got to wear a sari in the gorgeous London summer."

UK-India Week 2023 is the 5th iteration of IGF's flagship event, a weeklong programme that seeks to honour and strengthen the long-standing partnership between these two countries by providing a platform to spotlight crucial topics, including politics, trade, business, sustainability, inclusion,

and innovation. The reception will be hosted by Rishi at his official residence and office in 10 Downing Street and is a part of India Global Forum's flagship event UK-India Week, which is being held from June 26-30 in London.

It was known that Sonam will be attending the reception on June 28th to represent India and its cultural influence globally. Earlier in May, Sonam also performed at King Charles III's coronation concert.

Sonam took centre stage at the Coronation Concert as she introduced various choir per-

formers of the Commonwealth. Her piece served as a prelude to the inspiring virtual choir performances by the Commonwealth, made up of choirs, solo artists and duos from the 56 Commonwealth countries.

Sonam also introduced Steve Winwood, who performed a modern version of his iconic song 'Higher Love' accompanied by a 70-piece orchestra.

She began her speech with 'Namaste'. She was introduced as one of the biggest actors in Bollywood.

The 'Khoobsurat' actor

emphasized the diversity of the Commonwealth during her spoken word performance. She also elucidated upon the oneness that binds the diversity of the nation. "Our Commonwealth is a union. Together, we are one-third of the world's people, one-third of the world's oceans, and one-third of the world's lands."

Each of our countries is unique, and each of our people is special but we choose to stand as one. Learning from our history, blessed by our diversity, driven by our values and determined to build a more



Rajasthan Royals Set To Offer Jos Buttler Lucrative Multi-Year Contract: Report

MUMBAI: Indian Premier League franchise Rajasthan Royals is all set to offer a lucrative multi-year contract to England's limited over skipper Jos Buttler, British newspaper 'Telegraph' reported on Thursday. (More Cricket News)

With most of the IPL franchises owning part or full stakes in various private T20 leagues, there is an imminent threat to game's current structure with fears that a lot of top international players might forego their central contracts to sign football club-like deal with a singular club (franchise) to appear in various tournaments.

According to 'The Telegraph', RR is trying to tie the Buttler down to longer-term deal but the offer is yet



to be formally tabled and it is also not clear if the cricketer will sign the deal.

"England's white-ball captain Jos Buttler is set to be offered a landmark four-year deal by his Indian Premier League franchise Rajasthan Royals," the report said.

"It is understood that the offer to Buttler is yet to be formally tabled, and its

owned by Rajasthan Royals, in the SA20. RR also own Barbados Royals in Caribbean Premier League.

The proliferation of T20 league has impacted international cricketers with franchises offering long-term contracts to top players.

In the past months, there have been talks of five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians offering a multi-year contract to England star pacer Jofra Archer, who could play just 5 games for them due to injuries since being bought for Rs 8 Crore in 2022 auction.

If a player signs a long-term contract, then the international cricket boards, in future, might need to seek permission from the private franchises to get their services for national duty.

Rishabh Pant Adds 'Second Date Of Birth' On His Social Media Accounts

MUMBAI: Indian team's wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant added a second date of birth to his social media profiles.

Pant, who was born on October 4, 1997, added January 5, 2023, as his second date of birth, which is just a week after his fatal car accident on December 30, 2022.

Initially, the addition led to widespread speculation among social media users, but it was quickly clear that it was a reference to him finding a new lease on life post-accident.

Pant has been providing



updates about his recovery on social media. There was one recently wherein he posted a video of him ditch-

(NCA) rehabilitating, with sources claiming that his road to recovery has been positive.

A couple of days ago, the India batter posted a picture of him at the NCA alongside KL Rahul, who is also recovering after surgery, Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahali, and Yuzvendra Shahi.

Pant's return to active competition is clouded in mystery. It is a certainty that he will not be a part of the Indian squad for the upcoming ICC Men's ODI World Cup, which starts on October 5.

I'm confused why there is huge void in men's and women's chess in India: Harika

NEW DELHI, JUN 29: Grandmaster Harika Dronavalli is confused by the huge "void" in men's and women's chess in India and hopes the situation improves as there are several youngsters with potential in the country.

Harika, the three-time women's World Championship bronze medalist and winner of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix, has been the flag-bearer of women's chess in the country along with veteran Koneru Humpy, the Asian Games gold medalist. Together, they have won the most trophies and accolades for the country and are currently also teammates in the Global Chess League (GCL) side up Grad Mumbai Masters.

While the likes of young Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and D Gukesh have been creating waves among men and defeating several big names including five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen, the women's scene in the country is far from encouraging.

"This (gap between men's and women's chess) even I don't know, I am confused because a lot of young boys are coming up but girls... there is a huge void. But there are a few youngsters who are promising and coming up now, which is good. But I feel there is much more potential for

more (women) players to come up," Harika, the 2010 Asian Games bronze medalist, told PTI in a virtual interaction on Thursday.

"Frankly, I don't know the exact reason... I think things will get better," GM Humpy, the double Asian Games gold medalist, recently created a flutter, saying she is not sure about competing at this year's Asian in Guangzhou, China due to Covid-related reservations, but Harika clarified that her senior counterpart had "no issue" taking part in the quadrennial continental showpiece.

Humpy had told PTI on the sidelines of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix in April that, "Because of China, I'm not sure I'll participate. Probably I'll be deciding in July or July. (It's because of COVID), what else could be the reason (not) to go to China."

However, Harika said Humpy will compete. "I think there is a bit of confusion. She (Humpy) didn't say she is not competing. She said it because of the situation (in China). I think she (has) decided to play, so there is no issue."

Harika says there was a lot of comparison being drawn between the country's two Grandmasters - herself and Humpy - at one time, which she feels was unwarranted.

"There was a lot of comparisons drawn between us since beginning for some reason because we were competing on top. But now we are just two mothers trying to handle both life and career and we can relate to it and we are good friends in tournaments. It's not that we are besties who will speak every day, but we are good friends and we look for each other in tournaments," she said.

Harika hopes the GCL continues to grow big with more teams joining the league in future.

"GCL is definitely very good news for chess players. We needed this big platform and it's working really well and I hope it gets bigger and bigger in the coming years. It will bring more youngsters into the mainstream."

However, she is not in favour of more such leagues coming up in other parts of the world as it will bring down the importance of the unique format, where every team comprises men, women and young players.

"Actually, in chess, we have many other leagues but not of this level. But every country does have leagues. Those are different and this (GCL) is definitely special. It's massive. If you do more (events like GCL), it won't have that importance, right," she added.

Muzumdar, Arothe, and Lewis in shortlist for India women head coach

The CAC is expected to announce the coach for the likely two-year term on July 3

MUMBAI: Amol Muzumdar, Tushar Arothe and Jon Lewis are among at least five candidates understood to be part of BCCI's shortlist for the position of head coach of the Indian women's team. It couldn't be confirmed if Hrishikesh Kanitkar, the current interim head coach, is part of the shortlist.

The BCCI-appointed Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) is expected to interview the candidates on July 1-2 in Mumbai. This committee, chaired by former India batter Ashok Malhotra, also comprises former India players Jatin Paranjape and Sulashana Naik. They are likely to assess presentations made by the candidates before an announcement is expected "on or before July 3".

The new coach is likely to be given a two-year term, to begin with. The BCCI is keen on continuity, given two ICC events - the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh in 2024 and the 50-over World Cup in India in 2025 - are within this period.

The position has been vacant since December 2022, when Ramesh Powar was abruptly removed as part of BCCI's "restructuring module" two months ahead of the T20 World Cup in South Africa. Since then,



Kanitkar has been handed the top job in an interim capacity.

Muzumdar, meanwhile, has also been offered the position of head coach of Baroda's senior men's team for the 2023-24 domestic season. Earlier, he was the head coach of Mumbai until the 2022-23 domestic season. It's understood that Muzumdar hasn't formally accepted Baroda's offer and is awaiting the CAC's decision over the India women's head coach position. Muzumdar has been an active coach since he called time on a 21-year first-class career during which he became one of the highest run-getters in the Ranji Trophy. Following 15 years with Mumbai, Muzumdar moved to Assam in 2009 and later to Andhra.

He amassed 11167 runs from 171 first-class matches, with 30 centuries. He went on to win eight Ranji titles with Mumbai. Since his retirement, he has coached

age-group sides at the NCA, has been at the helm for Mumbai and has been part of the coaching staff at Rajasthan Royals in the IPL and South Africa [for their tour of India in 2019] briefly.

Meanwhile, Arothe, a Ranji Trophy winner with Baroda, has had two stints with India women, most recently between April 2017 and July 2018. In this period, the team finished runners-up at the 50-over World Cup in England. Soon after, he resigned citing "personal reasons" after strained relations with a few senior players who he felt "needed to step out of their comfort zone."

Among the overseas names is Lewis, 47, who is set to make his presentation via video conferencing from the UK as he's currently involved in the Women's Ashes as England's head coach. Lewis was the batting coach of UP Warriorz in the inaugural Women's Premier League earlier this year.

While the BCCI is keen to have the new coach link up with the squad ahead of India's upcoming tour of Bangladesh in July, it's likely Kanitkar could be in charge of the squad in a stop-gap arrangement if he isn't handed the reins full-time. Kanitkar, the former India allrounder, is an NCA-certified coach and is currently in charge of the Under-19 probables camp in Bengaluru.

India women haven't played international cricket since the T20 World Cup in South Africa in February-March where they were the losing semi-finalists. In May, the BCCI had shortlisted a targeted group of 30 players and put them through a rigorous conditioning camp in Bengaluru.

Their next assignment is a limited-overs tour to Bangladesh beginning July 9. The BCB expects the Indian team to arrive in Dhaka on July 6, but the BCCI's selection committee is yet to name the squad for the tour comprising three ODIs and as many T20Is. It's understood that the members of the "targeted group" that attended the NCA camp have all been asked to submit their passports for the BCCI to fast-track their visa applications.

India, England, Australia playing bulk of Test matches will eventually kill the game: Chris Gayle

NEW DELHI, JUN 29: The big three - India, England and Australia - playing the bulk of Test cricket will eventually "kill the game" and the players of smaller boards like the West Indies must be paid better for international cricket to flourish, feels Chris Gayle.

Gayle is best known for his exploits in T20 cricket but he is also a veteran of 103 Tests and 301 ODIs.

Speaking to PTI, the 43-year-old said only three teams dominating the game can't be good for the game in the long run.

"Over the years, cricket has changed quite a bit. It is a big business now. Lot of money being thrown around not just in T20 leagues but Test cricket as well. The bigger teams getting paid more than the smaller teams, leaving them at a disadvantage."

"It needs to be structured, so that everyone can benefit. The disadvantaged and lower-ranked teams need to play more games to develop their skills. Infrastructure needs to be created for them and those players need to be paid well just like the big teams because everyone is playing the same amount of cricket," he said on the sidelines of Indian Veteran Premier League launch.

The Jamaican dasher's statement needs to be put into perspective as save the "Big Three", the lower-ranked teams in the ICC rankings don't play three formats regularly through the year.

Gayle can't predict what the future holds for ODIs as well but has linked up West Indies' struggling run in the ongoing World Cup qualifiers to lack of incentives for the smaller teams to play international cricket.

"Absolutely. We need to (incentivise). The women will also fight for

their rights as well, payment wise. I am sure they want to be up there as much as men from a pay point of view. I know there are leagues around the world but sometimes territories restrict those players to play in those leagues and they won't be able to get the funding they deserve," the former opener referred to the cap on number of private leagues that a freelancer can ply his trade in.

"If (the boards) don't allow them to play those tournaments, then pay them properly, so that you can make international cricket better rather than have two or three teams pretty much dominating Test and ODI cricket. It doesn't make sense at all. It would kill the game," said the Jamaican.

Gayle reckoned the extended domination of India, England and Australia would make the game boring as well.

"Yeah that is what I am talking about, that is where I am coming from. Pretty much these three teams are dominating international cricket. If we continue like this people are going to say 'hey we need a new team now taking over, new talents taking over and make a name for themselves'."

Two time world champions West Indies are on the brink of elimination from the ODI World Cup qualifiers in Harare and that has saddened Gayle. "It is upsetting. I have been a part of Qualifiers before. Sad to be in such a situation. Things have not gone our way going into the Super Six. It is going to be tough. I will be very very disappointed not seeing the West Indies in the World Cup here in India," Gayle, a two-time winner of the T20 World Cup.

Talking about the upcoming 50-over World Cup in India later this year, Gayle picked India, England,

Pakistan and New Zealand as the four semi-finalists.

On the much awaited Indo-Pak clash in Ahmedabad on October 15, Gayle has a rather different take.

"Whenever those teams play, especially in a World Cup, the revenues they generate is humongous. One game can take care of the entire ICC event. Pakistan and India players should demand a lot of money for those games because those games are high paid games TV wise."

"I don't control the board or the ICC. If I was in their position I would want a lot more," he said (laughing).

He also sees his longtime RCB teammate Virat Kohli to dominate the World Cup at home.

"Tough times don't last long tough players last longer. Virat is tough mentally as well physically. I don't see any reason why he shouldn't go to this World Cup and dominate. As players, we always go through phases where things seem a bit dull and you need positive energy around to uplift yourself. Once we get back in the groove, we know how dangerous we can be."

"I know India have not won an ICC trophy in a long time and same is the case with (West Indies). We last won in 2016. Pressure will be on India as they play at home as favourites," Gayle reckoned.

Gayle, who last played international cricket in 2021, has no immediate plans to announce his retirement. He would continue to play in leagues around the world, both professional and veteran events.

"I don't think there will be any international cricket from my point of view. After the World Cup (in 2021), I was supposed to have a farewell game."

The Ashes, 2nd Test, Day 1: Steve Smith Nears 32nd Test Century As Australia Make 339-5 At Stumps

MELBOURNE: Forced to bat, Australia punished fading England bowling in ideal conditions at Lord's to post 339-5 by stumps on the first day Wednesday of the second Ashes Test.

Steve Smith, boomed when he walked in and politely clapped when he walked off at stumps, led Australia's charge with an unbeaten 85. Alex Carey was with him on 11.

Smith anchored century stands with Marcus Labuschagne and Travis Head after opening batsmen David Warner and Usman Khawaja set them up by surviving a tough morning and disruption from Just Stop Oil protesters.

Josh Tongue, in his Ashes



debut, became the first England bowler to bowl out Australia's opening batsmen since 1968, and the first at Lord's since 1884.

Another lingering concern for England was No. 3 batter Ollie Pope, who injured his right shoulder making a stop after lunch and didn't return to the field. England said he was

clouds covered Lord's all day, and the covers were removed only just before play began after a light drizzle left the air humid and perfect for England's all-pace attack to swing the ball. England was without a specialist spinner or spin-bowling allrounder for only the second time in 20 years.

The two highest test wicket-takers at Lord's, James Anderson and Stuart Broad, got plenty of movement on a pitch that was deceptively slow, but couldn't get a wicket, and wouldn't all day.

Anderson should have had Khawaja out on 1 to a catch at first slip but Joe Root grassed the laces-high chance.

Edouard Mendy leaves Chelsea to join Al-Ahli

RIYAD: Edouard Mendy has departed from Premier League club Chelsea to join Saudi Professional League side Al-Ahli on a three-year deal.

The Senegal national spent three seasons at Chelsea and achieved glory with the club by winning the prestigious UEFA Champions League. Mendy conceded twice in the seven knockout matches in the champions league tournament. "Edouard Mendy registered nine Champions League clean sheets in 2020/21, a feat achieved by no other goalkeeper in their debut season in Europe's elite club competition,"



according to Chelsea website. After success with Chelsea, Mendy was named UEFA Champions League Goalkeeper of the Season. He also won the Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper.

penalty shootout.

Mendy kept 23 clean sheets for Chelsea during the 2021/22 season, including in both domestic finals. He also kept five consecutive shutouts in Champions League home fixtures, a first by a goalkeeper of an English club.

His 30th clean sheet for the Blues came in his 54th appearance. Only Petr Cech reached that figure in fewer matches.

Mendy's minutes were limited last term, but he did pass the 100-game barrier. In total, he featured 105 times for Chelsea and 49 of those games ended with a clean sheet.

Odd marks on Joe Biden's face shocked reporters on Wednesday but why?

WASHINGTON: When Joe Biden woke up and came out in public, people were surprised at the odd marks that suddenly appeared on his face on Wednesday. But now it has come to light that one of the oldest-ever presidents in the history of the US Joe Biden has a serious problem of 'Sleep apnea' and is using a CPAP machine, according to the White House.



The announcement came on Wednesday after reporters spotted marks on his face from the mask used to help him breathe at night. About 30 million Americans have sleep apnea, doctors say. A CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) device gently pumps air through a mask over the mouth and nose during sleep, holding the airways open. Sleep apnea is a disorder that causes a person to stop breathing while asleep. The brain tries to protect you by waking you up enough to breathe, but this prevents restful, healthy sleep. Over time, this condition can cause serious complications. However, this condition is often very manageable, especially with close adherence to prescribed treatments. Its symptoms include seizures in which one temporarily stops breathing during sleep, gasping for air during sleep, loud snoring, and fatigue even after a full night's rest. Doctors say this can result in poor memory and concentration, and the exhaustion causes a significantly higher risk of accidents.

The president has disclosed about him having Sleep apnea since 2008. Biden used the machine on Tuesday night, White House officials said. The imprint lines on his face were apparent when he left Wednesday morning for a speech in Chicago.

A CPAP machine is a motorized device that pumps air through a mask to open a sleeper's airway. About 5 million Americans have tried them. Approximately 30 million people in the U.S. are thought to have the condition, though only about 6 million are diagnosed with it, according to the American Medical Association.

Russia's Top Generals Drop Out Of Public View After Wagner Mutiny

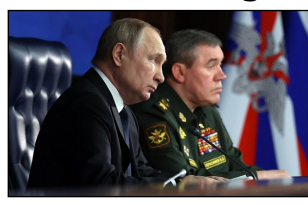
LONDON : Russia's most senior generals have dropped out of public view following a failed mercenary mutiny aimed at toppling the top brass, amid a drive by President Vladimir Putin to reassert his authority and unconfirmed reports of at least one arrest.

Valery Gerasimov, Russia's top general, has not appeared in public or on state TV since the aborted mutiny on Saturday when mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin demanded Gerasimov be handed over. He has not been mentioned in a defence ministry press release since June 9 either.

Gerasimov, 67, is the commander of Russia's war in Ukraine, and the holder of one of Russia's three 'nuclear briefcases,' according to some Western military analysts.

Absent from view too is General Sergei Surovkin, nicknamed "General Armageddon" by the Russian press for his aggressive tactics in the Syrian conflict, who is deputy commander of Russian forces in Ukraine. A New York Times report, based on a U.S. intelligence briefing, said on Tuesday he had advanced knowledge of the mutiny and that Russian authorities were checking if he was complicit. The Kremlin on Wednesday played down the report, saying that there was and would be a lot of speculation and gossip.

The Russian-language version of the Moscow Times and a military blogger reported Surovkin's arrest, while some other military correspondents who command large fol-



lowings in Russia said he and other senior officers were being questioned about their possible role in the mutiny. Reuters could not determine whether Surovkin had been arrested. Rybar, an influential channel on the Telegram messaging application run by a former Russian defence ministry press officer, said a purge was underway. He said the authorities were trying to weed out military personnel deemed to have shown "a lack of decisiveness" in putting down the mutiny amid some reports that parts of the armed forces appear to have done little to stop Wagner fighters in the initial stage of the rebellion.

"The armed insurgency by the Wagner private military company has become a pretext for a massive purge in the ranks of the Russian Armed Forces," said Rybar. Such a move, if confirmed, could alter the way Russia wages its war in Ukraine — which it calls a "special military operation" — and cause turmoil in the ranks at a time when Moscow is trying to stymie a Ukrainian counteroffensive. It could also cement or elevate the positions of other senior military and

He has spoken of the possibility of getting heavy weaponry and tanks for his forces in the wake of the mutiny.

Gerasimov was conspicuous by his absence when Putin on Tuesday thanked the army for averting a civil war, unlike Shoigu who has made several public appearances since.

Surovkin, Gerasimov's deputy, was last seen on Saturday when he appeared in a video appealing to Prigozhin to halt his mutiny. He looked exhausted and it was unclear if he was speaking under duress.

There were unconfirmed Russian media and blogger reports on Wednesday evening that Surovkin was being held in Moscow's Lefortovo detention facility after being arrested.

Alexei Venediktov, a well-connected journalist, said — without citing his sources — that Surovkin had not been in touch with his family since Saturday and that his bodyguards had gone silent too.

Prigozhin, who had spent months vilifying Shoigu and Gerasimov for their alleged incompetence in the Ukraine war, had frequently praised Surovkin who is widely respected in the army for his experience in Chechnya and Syria.

Surovkin, who did a stint as overall commander of the Ukraine war before Gerasimov was appointed to take over, is regarded by Western military analysts and by parts of the Ukrainian military as an effective operator.

He had been spoken of by Russian war correspondents as a potential future defence minister.

Uneasy calm prevails at Korean Demilitarised Zone

SEOUL: Like India and Pakistan, North Korea and South Korea share language, culture, cuisine, music, and much more. And just like the two South Asian neighbours, the two Koreas are also invariably at loggerheads.

Tensions between the two East Asian nations can easily be felt at the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), a strip of land running across the Korean Peninsula which is one of the most heavily-guarded places in the world.

A group of Indian journalists recently visited the DMZ that was established to serve as a buffer zone between the two Koreas under the provisions of the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement between North Korea, China and the United Nations Command. Created in 1953, the 250 km long and about four km wide DMZ put an end to the brutal Korean War, which claimed over 3 million lives. There have been various incidents in and around the DMZ, with military and civilian casualties on both sides. Within the DMZ, there is a meeting point between the two nations when negotiations take place and as the tensions flare up. It's called the small Joint Security Area (JSA).

But the most exciting part of the trip to the DMZ was the walk through the Third Tunnel of Aggression, which is one of four known tunnels under the

border between North Korea and South Korea. Only 44 km from the South Korean capital of Seoul, the incomplete tunnel was discovered in October 1978 following the detection of an underground explosion in June 1978, apparently caused by the tunnellers who had progressed 435 metres under the south side of the DMZ. It took four months to locate the tunnel precisely and dig an intercept tunnel.

South Korean officials claim the one-mile incomplete tunnel was designed for a surprise attack on Seoul from North Korea, and could accommodate 30,000 men per hour along with light weaponry.

Upon discovery of the third tunnel, the United Nations Command accused North Korea of threatening the Armistice Agreement. Initially, North Korea denied building the tunnel but subsequently declared it part of a coal mine, the tunnel having been blacked-out by construction explosions.

While four tunnels have been discovered so far, the South Koreans believe there are many more. The South Korean armed forces still spend a lot of time and energy on finding more infiltration tunnels. Though still well guarded, the tunnel is now a tourist site. Visitors enter either by walking down a long steep incline that starts in a lobby or via a mini train for up to three passengers each. Photography is forbidden in the tunnel. The South Koreans have blocked the actual Military Demarcation Line in the tunnel with three concrete barricades. Tourists can walk as far as the third barricade, and the second barricade is visible through a small window in the third. Also at the DMZ is the Dora observatory located on the top of Mount Dora. Visitors can use binoculars to see the North Korean territory. On a sunny day, visitors can clearly see South Korea's and North Korea's flags flying on their respective flagpoles through binoculars. One can also see North Koreans in border villages going through their daily routine.

But just over a mile from the DMZ, life is peaceful for residents in Tongil Chon who claim they will never leave despite war clouds hanging over them all the time. North Korea is visible from Tongil Chon too. For decades, North and South Korea have used border villages to show their respective wealth and superiority. Despite the prosperity in South Korea and visible signs of political repression in the neighbouring North, there are many in the East Asian nation who pray for the reunification of the two countries. Those above the age of 80 are especially desperate to be reunited with their long-lost relatives and friends on the other side of the border before they breathe their last.

India-America ties accelerating at breathtaking speed, says US Ambassador

Prime minister Narendra Modi's US visit has showed that India-America partnership is accelerating at a breathtaking speed, US Ambassador Eric Garcetti said on Wednesday.

Addressing an event at IIT Delhi, Garcetti said, "The Prime Minister's official state visit crystallised that our partnership is accelerating at a breathtaking speed and is having undeniable impact. This raises an interesting challenge. In so many areas, we're cooperating more closely than some ever imagined we could."

In his address, the US Envoy also said that the projects and transformative initiatives announced during Modi's visit will not only benefit the two countries, but the world as well. Garcetti said India and



the US have the power to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. "We have a future of boundless opportunities. We can stand together against coercion, we can stand together for peace," he said, elaborating extensively on the significance of the world's two leading democracies working together. The US Ambassador also underlined the importance of

spirit and hard work, dreams can come true, the Envoy said.

"But I don't need to convince anyone here about this. India is also a place where dreams become reality every day. After all, in India, a young boy selling tea grew up to lead his country on the global stage (referring to Modi). In India, a Santhali teacher rose to become President of her country (referring to President Droupadi Murmu)," he said.

"Today, India is improving lives and pulling people out of poverty through its transformative technology. Our countries have so much in common because the Indian dream and the American dream are two sides of the same coin — we share the same vision," Garcetti noted.

Nepal Citizenship Act Implemented Following Supreme Court Ruling

Learn about the implementation of the controversial Nepal Citizenship Act and the recent Supreme Court ruling.

KATHMANDU: The implementation of the Nepal Citizenship (First Amendment) Act, 2079, which has been a subject of controversy for an extended period, has given the green light. Although the law has been passed twice by Parliament, it was previously suspended by former President Bidya Bhandari. However, the current President, Ramchandra Paudel, has confirmed the act. Despite the absence of any provision in the law regarding citizenship through marriage, concerns and opposition have emerged without a thorough understanding of the law.



A joint bench consisting of Supreme Court Justices Arjan Singh Bhattarai and Kumar Regmi has paved the way for the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act. Earlier, in response to a writ filed by senior advocates Surendra Bhandari and Balkrishna Neupane, Judge Manoj Kumar Sharma issued a temporary interim order on May 21, preventing the implementation of the Citizenship Act. Nevertheless, on Thursday, the Supreme Court ruled against the continuation of the temporary interim order. Consequently, the Citizenship Act has now come into effect. "The remaining orders will be issued after the final hearing," stated Supreme Court spokesperson Bimal Paudel.

The new law does not introduce any provisions regarding citizenship through marriage; hence, the four-decade-old provision will remain unchanged. As per the Constitution of Nepal 2019, it states, "A wife who is married to a Nepali citizen shall be eligible to obtain citizenship at the time of the commencement of the constitution." Thus, during the period when King Mahendra introduced the consti-

tution, there was no specified time frame for foreign women married to Nepali men to acquire naturalized citizenship.

However, 13 years after the constitution was promulgated, a second amendment was made in 2032, setting a five-year deadline for the legalization of such marriages. The revised constitution stipulated, "Foreign spouses married to Nepali citizens must have resided in Nepal for a minimum of five years, and in the case of others, at least 15 years."

Nevertheless, this provision underwent revision within four years. The third amendment in 2037 stated, "In the case of a foreign woman married to a Nepali citizen, she shall obtain Nepali citizenship after renouncing her foreign citizenship."

With the restoration of democracy, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, issued in 2047, simplified this provision, stating, "Foreign women married to Nepali citizens shall be eligible to obtain Nepalese citizenship after taking the necessary steps to renounce their foreign citizenship." The constitution further required foreign women in such marriages to sub-

mit proof of their marital relationship with the Nepali citizen, as well as documentation showing their intent to renounce their foreign citizenship.

Consequently, a foreign woman married to a Nepali man could acquire Nepali citizenship by submitting a certificate indicating her intention of the citizenship renunciation process. This provision was also followed by the Citizenship Act, 2063, which stated, "A foreign woman married to a Nepali man, desiring Nepali citizenship, must submit a certificate confirming the renunciation of her foreign citizenship."

A foreign woman who fulfills these requirements shall be eligible for naturalized citizenship in accordance with federal law.

The Citizenship Amendment Act 2079, aligned with the Constitution issued in 2072, has not introduced any new provisions regarding citizenship through marriage. This means that the previous law of 2063 will be applicable to foreign women married to Nepalese citizens. It is important to note that the law of 2063 is essentially the law of 2049. A similar law also existed during the Panchayat period.

"Godfather Of AI" Asks Governments To Stop Takeover Of Society By Machines

TORONTO: Geoffrey Hinton, one of the so-called godfathers of artificial intelligence, urged governments to step in and make sure that machines do not take control of society.

Hinton made headlines in May when he announced that he quit Google after a decade of work to speak more freely on the dangers of AI, shortly after the release of ChatGPT captured the imagination of the world. The highly respected AI scientist, who is based at the University of Toronto, was speaking to a packed audience at the Collision tech conference in the Canadian city. The conference brought together more than 30,000 startup founders, investors and tech workers, most looking to learn how to ride the AI wave and not hear a lesson on its dangers.

"Before AI is smarter than us, I think the people developing it should be encouraged to put a lot of work into understanding how it might try and take control away," Hinton said.

"Right now there are 99 very smart people trying to make AI better and one very smart person trying to figure out how to stop it taking over and maybe you want to be more balanced," he said. Hinton warned that the risks of AI should be taken seriously despite his critics who believe he is overplaying the risks. "I think it's important that people understand that this is not science fiction, this is not just fear mongering," he insisted. "It is a real risk that we must think about, and we need to figure out in advance how to deal with it."

Hinton also expressed concern that AI would deepen inequality, with the massive productivity gain from its deployment going to the benefit of the rich, and not workers. "The wealth isn't going to go to the people doing the work. It is going to go into making the rich richer and not the poorer and that's very bad for society," he added.

He also pointed to the danger of

fake news created by ChatGPT-style bots and said he hoped that AI-generated content could be marked in a way similar to how central banks watermark cash money.

"It's very important to try, for example, to mark everything that is fake as fake. Whether we can do that technically, I don't know," he said.

The European Union is considering such a technique in its AI Act, a legislation that will set the rules for AI in Europe, which is currently being negotiated by lawmakers.

"Overpopulation on Mars" Hinton's list of AI dangers contrasted with conference discussions that were less over safety and threats, and more about seizing the opportunity created in the wake of ChatGPT. Venture Capitalist Sarah Gou said doom and gloom talk of AI as an existential threat was premature and compared it to "talking about overpopulation on Mars", quoting another AI guru, Andrew Ng.

Rahul Gandhi's convoy stopped by police in Manipur



IMPHAL: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's convoy which was on its way to Manipur's Churachandpur was on Thursday stopped by local police at a check post near Bishnupur, which is about 20 kilometres from the State capital Imphal. Gandhi who had landed in Imphal earlier today for a two-day visit was on his way to Churachandpur where he planned to meet people, displaced by the recent clashes, at the relief camps. Congress General

Secretary K C Venugopal while speaking to media said that the police said that they are not in a "position" to allow the leaders to head forward. "Rahul Gandhi's convoy has been stopped by police near Bishnupur. Police said that they are not in a position to allow us. People are standing on both sides of the road to wave to Rahul Gandhi. We are not able to understand why have they stopped us," Venugopal told agencies. Venugopal had

earlier had confirmed that during his stay, Rahul Gandhi will engage with civil society representatives and visit relief camps in Imphal and Churachandpur, two of the worst affected places in the State due to violence. Meanwhile, the All Manipur Students Union issued a statement today condemning the successive governments in the state and said that the Congress Party has a big role to play in it. "We believe that the

present communal crisis in Manipur is a result of the political blunders that have been committed by the successive governments that have ruled Manipur over time and Congress has a big role to play," the union said.

Addressing a press conference here, the All Manipur Students Union Secretary-General said "In 2012, the Congress party deleted four Gram Panchayats and one Zila Parishad constituency which were part of the Imphal West district from the Manipur Panchayati Raj system and they were allotted to come under the autonomous district council of Kangpovi district. It had further enhanced the dreamland of Kuki nation state."

Ethnic clashes broke out in the State nearly two months ago on May 3 after clashes erupted during a rally organised by the All Tribal Students Union (ATSU) to protest against the demand for the inclusion of Meiteis in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs).

India To Organise 3-Day Global Conference On Green Hydrogen In July

NEW DELHI: The central government will organise a three-day international conference on green hydrogen in the national capital on July 5-7.

The event to be held at Vigyan Bhawan, the government's main Wednesday, said will bring together the global scientific and industrial community to discuss recent advances and emerging technologies in the entire green hydrogen value chain. "The conference will enable the sector stakeholders to explore the evolving green hydrogen landscape and innovation-driven solutions in the sector," the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said.

Apart from domain-specific research interactions on hydrogen production, storage, distribution and downstream applications, the conference will also discuss green financing, human resource upskilling and start-up initiatives.

Secretary at the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, said that the green hydrogen ecosystem is important in order to attain the basic annual 5 million tonne production target under the National Green Hydrogen Mission

year 2030.

"Electrolyzer production capacity in the world is very limited, this capacity has to come up in India. And for this, it is important that we learn and adopt the appropriate technology for electrolyzer manufacturing as well as for various individual components of the manufacturing process," added Mr Bhalla. Meanwhile, Union Cabinet in early January approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission, aiming to make India a global hub for the production, utilization, and export of such technologies.

The green hydrogen mission will gradually lead to the decarbonization of industrial, transport, and energy sectors, a reduction in dependence on imported fossil fuels, among others.

India meets a sizable portion of its energy needs through imports, and this green hydrogen mission is seen as an avenue to reduce the dependence of imported fuel. The initial financial outlay for the mission is pegged at 19,744 crore, which includes research and development activities.

Under this mission, the government aims to raise annual green hydrogen

production to 5 million tonnes, renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 gigawatts, attract over 7 lakh crore in investments, lakhs of jobs, and most importantly over 7 lakh crore cumulative reduction of fossil fuel imports.

In the Budget Speech 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to launch a National Hydrogen Mission for generating hydrogen from green power sources. India has a huge edge in green hydrogen production owing to its favourable geographic conditions and the presence of abundant natural elements.

In his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the National Hydrogen Mission. "Of every effort being made by India today, the thing that is going to help India with a quantum leap in terms of climate is the field of Green Hydrogen. To achieve the goal of Green Hydrogen, I am announcing the National Hydrogen Mission today with this tricolour as a witness," Prime Minister Modi had said from the rampart of Red Fort.

Union Minister Amit Shah to address public rally in Rajasthan today

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to address a public rally in Rajasthan on Friday to highlight the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government. Shah will highlight the past nine years' achievements of the Modi government during a rally organized at Gandhi Ground in Rajasthan's Udaipur on Friday afternoon, said sources. The Home Minister's public rally is part of BJP's plan for holding a month-long mass reach-out program across the country as PM Modi-led Central government completed its nine years in office in two successive terms on May 30.

The senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader is learned to share the achievements of the Modi government for the welfare of people across the country in the past nine years. "Among those, some achievements include Pradhanmantri Ujjwala Yojana fuels the LPG use party to ease the growth with a rise in higher education institutions, the impetus to road

infrastructure under Bharatmala Pariyojana, empowering women, making quality medicines affordable for all, digital revolution by transforming India's economy through digital transactions, revolutionizing medical education in India, Northeast India's journey to end insurgency, Jal Jeevan Mission and record growth in the number of airports in India. Abrogation of Article 370, along with Article 35A, the two articles in the Constitution of India that gave a special status to the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, is among other achievements of the Modi government that might be counted by Shah during his rally in Udaipur.

The special status implied that Jammu and Kashmir were different from the rest of the country, and were instrumental in fuelling separatism. The two articles were abrogated by the Modi government in 2019, fulfilling a poll promise. Article 35A gave the state the right to determine who is a permanent resident of the state,

which was added to the Constitution by presidential order, not by an amendment. Article 370 said that all the provisions of the Constitution of India do not apply to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, and had listed the provisions that applied.

While Article 35A was abrogated and it no longer exists, article 370 was amended, and it remains in the Constitution, saying "that all the provision of the Constitution also applies Jammu and Kashmir." Along with this, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was also bifurcated into two union territories—Jammu and Kashmir with an Assembly, and Ladakh without one.

Handling Covid-19 is among other achievements of the Modi government which Shah may focus on in his address and its world's largest free immunization program, under which over 200 crore doses of made-in-India Covid-19 vaccines have been administered. The Covid platform developed to administer the vaccination program has been another success.

Day After Attack On Bhim Army Chief, Car Used In Crime Seized, 4 Detained

SAHARANPUR: A day after Chandrashekhar Azad Ravan, the chief of the Bhim Army, was shot at by a few armed men in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district, the police recovered the vehicle used in the attack, in its first big breakthrough in the case. The hatchback car - a Swift - was seized from Mirzapur village late on Wednesday night. The number plate of the car used in the attack showed it was registered in Haryana, police said.

The vehicle was located with the help of surveillance cameras. With the help of CCTV cameras, police officials have identified the four men who drove the car over to the house where the vehicle was found. But the men remain untraceable as they have switched off their phone to evade detection by the police, officials said.

Police have detained four people in the village and are questioning them to get leads in the case.

Two bullets were fired at Mr Azad's



car.

The first bullet entered the seat of the vehicle, grazing his waist as it passed through the door. The second bullet hit the back door, narrowly missing him.

Superintendent of Police (City) Abimanyu Manglik said the Bhim Army chief was undergoing treatment at the district hospital of Saharanpur and his condition was stable.

There was heavy deployment of police force on the district hospital premises as a precautionary measure as Mr Azad's supporters started gathering there in large numbers raising slogans and demanding the immediate arrest of the attackers.

Chandrashekhar Azad has appealed to his supporters to remain calm and asserted that he will keep on fighting constitutionally.

"I did not expect such a sudden attack. I want to appeal to my friends, supporters, and workers across the country to maintain peace. We will continue our fight constitutionally. I am fine with the love and blessings of crores of people," Mr Azad told ANI while recuperating in a hospital. Meanwhile, the Azad Samaj Party's founder member and media-in-charge Ajay Gautam told PTI that a memorandum would be sent to the President of India as well as the Uttar Pradesh chief minister and governor demanding Z-plus security for their leader.

Ulta Rath Yatra tragedy: Tripura CM orders magisterial enquiry into electrocution deaths

AGARTALA: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha has ordered a magisterial enquiry in connection with the accident during the 'Ulta Rath' (the return of Lord Jagannath's chariot) procession in Unakoti district's Kumarghat on Wednesday.

In the incident, seven people, including three children and three women, were electrocuted to death during the 'Ulta Rath' while those who have been partially (40-60%) injured. Also passed an instruction for conducting a probe into the incident by a committee headed by District Magistrate and submit the report," Manik Saha said in a tweet.

Further, expressing his disbelief, he stated that such an unfortunate incident had never occurred in the history of Tripura.



injuries & Rs. 74,000 for those who have been partially (40-60%) injured. Also passed an instruction for conducting a probe into the incident by a committee headed by District Magistrate and submit the report," Manik Saha said in a tweet.

Further, expressing his disbelief, he stated that such an unfortunate incident had never occurred in the history of Tripura.

chariot died on the spot, while those inside the chariot remained unharmed. This incident is truly unfortunate and unimaginable. As soon as I heard about the incident, I personally spoke with Minister Tinku Roy and former Minister Bhagaban Das, who were in Kumarghat and informed them that I would be coming. I have visited the site and tried to understand the situation. Such an incident has never happened in the history of Tripura. We express our deepest condolences," CM Saha said.

According to the CM office, the injured persons have been admitted to Fatikroy, Kumarghat, and GB Pant hospitals.

"I have visited Fatikroy and Kumarghat hospitals to meet the victims and the family members of the deceased.

Accused in Praveen Nettaru murder case may be hiding in Arab nations: NIA sources

NEW DELHI: At a time when the NIA is all set to take a decisive action in the Praveen Kumar Nettaru murder case, sources said on Thursday that the accused may have taken shelter in Arab countries.

The NIA Special court has granted permission for seizure of residences and properties of the prime accused persons, Umar Farooq and Mustafa Paichar, both residents of Kallumuttu if they fail to surrender before June 30. Abubakar Siddique and Nuffal M.H., are also the prime accused. NIA has been trying to locate members of terrorist organisations and sympathisers.

had declared Rs 14 lakh reward for clues on these accused persons. The NIA had declared Rs 5 lakh bounty each on clues about Tuffail and Mohammad Mustafa. Umar Farooq and Abubakar Siddiqui have Rs 2 lakh bounty on them. Sources said that Tuffail was involved in communal violence that took place in Kodagu and was part of the assault team of Popular Front of India (PFI). The accused have settled in Arab nations after the case was handed over to the NIA.

They had escaped through Nepal with the help of members of terrorist organisations and sympathisers.

The NIA teams had gone to Nepal for the arrest of the accused and returned empty-handed after the accused managed to cross the border before the officers could reach them.

The NIA had announced that it will seize properties that belong to the two key accused in the Praveen Nettaru murder case in Karnataka if they failed to surrender before it by Friday. The NIA has also offered cash rewards for information about the whereabouts of the absconding accused persons - Umar Farooq and Mustafa Paichar, both residents of Kallu Mutlu in Dakshina Kannada district.

NEW DELHI: A virtual eleventh-hour appointment in Chhattisgarh, of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's rival TS Singh Deo as his deputy, may buy peace for the Congress ahead of polls due in December, but the move has once again turned the focus on its unresolved feud in Rajasthan.

Long-reported speculation that Sachin Pilot will be accommodated in a Yojana seats the LPC use party to ease the pressure on Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and to attempt some sort of detente before the Rajasthan election has not yet come to pass.

Sachin Pilot tweeted his congratulations to TS Singh Deo, whose revolt in 2021 brought the Congress government to the brink before the Gandhis intervened.

"Heartly congratulations and best wishes to TS Singh Deo for his appointment as Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh," Mr Pilot tweeted.

The three Congress-ruled states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh will vote later this year, at the same time.

Similar to the power struggle in Rajasthan between Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot, the conflict in Chhattisgarh emerged shortly after the party assumed power in 2018. In August 2021, Mr Deo asserted his right to the Chief Minister's post, claiming that the Congress had promised him a



rotational arrangement. With the support of 55 out of 70 Congress MLAs, Mr Baghel made it clear he would not quit without a fight. Finally, the Gandhis stepped in and deemed that Mr Baghel would continue.

After the Congress's quick fix yesterday of elevating Mr Deo to number two, questions were raised on Thursday about a role for Mr Pilot, whose solo campaign and unrelenting criticism of his own party government led by Ashok Gehlot, for months, has deeply embarrassed the Congress.

On Wednesday, senior Congress MLAs and the Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra met with the party leadership in Delhi. They held discussions with party president

Kharge and in-charge SS Randhawa. Mr Pilot's supporters say the Congress is yet to make good on its promise of a better deal for him after his 2020 revolt against Ashok Gehlot.

Ashok Gehlot, who paraded the support of a majority of Congress MLAs at the time, effectively thwarting any threat to his government, has kept up the feud with his younger rival, ensuring an upper hand in the power tussle.

Last year, Congress MLAs supporting Mr Gehlot threatened mass resignation amid reports that Mr Pilot could replace Mr Gehlot, who was in the race for Congress president. The crisis was staved off when the party chose Mallikarjun Kharge instead for the presidential election.

Smriti Irani slams Rahul for his alleged meeting with George Soros' associate

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Smriti Irani on Wednesday slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's over his alleged meeting in the US with Sunita Vishwanath, who is a member of an organisation owned by billionaire investor George Soros, allegedly involved in anti-India activities.

Rahul Gandhi had gone on a 10-day

visit to the US from May 31 and participated in programmes in three cities, San Francisco, Washington DC, and New York. Raising questions about the Congress leader's alleged meeting in the US with Sunita Vishwanath, the Union Minister asked why is Rahul Gandhi "hobnobbing" with those who are funded by George Soros as it is known to

everyone what Soros intends to do. While levelling the allegation, Irani also produced a photograph before the media in which Rahul Gandhi can be seen sitting with Vishwanath. Irani said, "The question that has been left unanswered by the Congress party is - Is it true that Rahul Gandhi met Sunita Vishwanath during his trip to the US?..."

SANJY-2023: District Administration Kathua accords rousing reception to Shri Amarnathji Yatris at Lakhapur

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JUNE 29: District Administration Kathua today welcomed the Shri Amarnath yatris at Lakhapur; the gateway of Jammu & Kashmir amidst spirited participation of a large number of pilgrims who turned up for annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Yatris were formally welcomed at Lakhapur corridor in Kathua district by Vice Chairman DDC Kathua, Raghunandan Singh, DC Kathua Rakesh Minhas, SSP Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jammwal, President MC Lakhapur, DDC Member and other district and sectoral officers. The pilgrims left Lakhapur at 12:30 pm. Many devotees who got themselves registered for the annual pilgrimage were given RFID tags at Lakhapur for which the government put up 06 special counters. The Yatris who are already registered



for Yatra coming by road through Lakhapur have to undergo eKYC for the issuance of RFID Tags for them. DC Kathua while formally welcoming the Yatris assured that district administration has made elaborate arrangements for pleasant experience of the Yatris who can get help and other relevant information from dedicated Helplines and Counters established for the facilitation of the Yatris. Earlier, the scintillating cultural performances depicting Shiv Tandava and other devotional numbers enthralled the devotees and made them awe-struck. The spread of devotional performances presented by

which besides engaging the devotees electrified the atmosphere amidst the chants of 'Har Har Mahadev', 'Jai Baba Barani' and 'Bham Bham Bhole'. Later, the DC Kathua alongwith PRI and devotees inaugurated newly installed 'Selfie Point' depicting the town down point of Gateway of J&K which has become cynosure of all eyes. The newly added feature of Wall Art showcasing Basohli Art and Dogra Folk culture was another attraction for devotees entering J&K through Lakhapur Corridor. Besides, a large Helium Balloon welcoming the Yatris is garnering all eyes at Lakhapur entry point.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, RESEARCH FOREST DIVISION, JKFRJ COMPLEX, JANIPUR, JAMMU - 180007
E-mail:- dfofrjmm@gmail.com, Tel:- 0191-2953938

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: - Cutting, grubbing and removal of lantana at Beda Khater Purmandal Samba, (Scheme CAPEX 2023-24).
Ref: - e-NIT No 14 of 2023-24. Dated: 12.06.2023.

Due to low response of bids in response to the above cited e-NIT, the said e-NIT is hereby re-tendered the new dates of submitting bids and opening of bids shall be as under-

Last date of submitting online bids : 14.07.2023
Date of Opening of Bids : 15.07.2023

No:- JKFRJ/Res/JF-148/2023-24/595-99
Dt:-27.06.2023
DIP/J-4179/23

SD/
Divisional Forest Officer
Research Forest Division
Jammu

Directorate of Economics & Statistics celebrates National Statistics Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 29: National Statistics Day was celebrated by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics today in the Office complex of Directorate of Economics and Statistics at Ashok Vihar Janipur Jammu which was 17th in this series as a part of all India Programme.

The day was observed by pay homage and tribute to the Late Prof. P.C Mahalanobis, an architect of the Indian Statistics system. The theme of 17th Statistics Day 2023 is "Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". The objective of celebrating this day was to sensitise the people, especially the younger generation about the role of Statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation. Data integrity is important for Sustainable Development policy making. The UT of Jammu & Kashmir is making significant strides towards achieving sustainable development as a part of India's National Development Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. The performance so far shown by the UT of Jammu & Kashmir in terms of SDG India Index is laudable; as it is amongst the top 10 States/UTs in terms of SDG index. On the occasion, Digest of Statistics (2022-23) was released by Director General Economics and Statistics, J&K Satvir Kour Sudan and is available on the website of Directorate of Economics and Statistics (<http://ecostatj.nic.in>).

Director General, Economics and Statistics highlighted the achievements of the Directorate by formulation of various purposive indices viz. District Good Governance Index (DGGI), Aspirational Development Programme Index (ADPI), Panchayat Development Index (PDI) etc. Besides release of Economic Survey 2022-23 of UT of J&K, completion of 100% Physical Verification of 38423 works etc. The day reminds the participants about the use of statistics and its importance in various fields of economic planning, for the development and well being of people, besides an opportunity for the field functionaries to collect and compile data by improving its reliability for real time assessment of performance in various sectors of the economy.

DG Floriculture, Parks & Gardens visits Poonch

Inspects proposed site for development of Park at Dera Nangali Sahib

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 29: Director General Floriculture, Parks and Gardens Jammu S. Jatinder Singh conducted an extensive tour of District Poonch.

During the visit, he inspected the proposed site for the development of Park at Dera Nangali Sahib, Poonch which will cover an area of about 40 kanals with an estimated cost of Rs.24 crore.

The proposed site of the park is located near the Dera Nangali Sahib which is a world renowned pilgrim centre and seat of secular bonding of different communities of the area. The park, when developed, will have all the basic facilities that are required in a park for the visitors and add to the promotion of religious tourism in the district.

The Director General also reviewed the incentives to be given to the flower growers of the area under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Department. He also interacted with the farmers of the Poonch at Gulpur, Khari Dharamsal and Ajoite villages where fields of the farmers had grown hybrid Marigold crop. The farmers were assured of all the technical support by the Department to double their income as per the directions of the Government. Sanjeev Kumar, Assistant Floriculture Officer, Rajouri/Poonch and other officials of the Department accompanied the Director General during his two days visit to the District.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECH. DIVISION NORTH JAMMU
e-mail: xenorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 101 of 2023-24

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

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/ tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Replacement of components of 1.50 lakh GPH x 150 mtrs. Head HC pump of Manda unit No. 09 installed at CPS Sltite.	200/-	02% of the Quoted amount	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing : 27-06-2023 02.00 pm.

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 27-06-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 27-06-2023 (02.00 pm) to 06-07-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 07-07-2023 (02.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu/ tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L1 bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tendering authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L1 bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The original documents when submitted by L1 bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days after last date of receipt of bid.
- Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.
- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.

14. Special conditions as per Finance Department order No. OM A/24 (2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018.

- Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bids.
- The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.
- Similarly, instead of insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FDR should be obtained and kept on record.

15. Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

SD/
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI MECH. DIVISION NORTH
JAMMU

JSMDNJ/1607-09
DIP/J-4173/23
Dated: 26-06-2023

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION J&K GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, JAMMU MANDA HILLS, NEAR HOTEL ASHOK JAMMU.

Email: wlujammu@gmail.com

TENDERING

Short-Term Tender Notice : e-NIT No.- 32/WLWJ of 2023-24 dated: 27-06-2023

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

Name of work	Adr. Cost (in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Receiving/ Opening Authority
Construction of ponds in Co. 109 and 113 of Sudhmahadev Conservation Reserve	3.991 lacs	D	600	3 Months	Tender opening committee.

EMD (2% of advertised amount):- Rs 8,000/-

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

AA/TS No. & Date	99 & 109 of 2023-24 (RWLWJ) dated 17-06-2023
TS No. & Date	63 & 64 of 2023-24 (WLWJ) dated 16-06-2023
Position of Funds	Approved under CAMPA

Publishing Date	27-06-2023
Download Start Date	28-06-2023
Bid Submission Start Date	28-06-2023
Bid submission End Date	18-07-2023 up to 04:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	19-07-2023 at 12:00 PM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu)
Date of opening of Financial Bid.	19-07-2023

Bid documents can be seen at and download from the website:- <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

No.: WLWJ/
Dated: 27-06-2023
DIP/J-4125/23
SD/
WILDLIFE WARDEN
JAMMU

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. 81 of 2023-2024/Div-2 Dated 27-06-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on approved 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 completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contract or
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of Road From Janshup TO Nandini (UNDER CAPEX)	PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu	49.40	600	2% of Advertised Cost	03 Months	05-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	'A & B' Class
2	Construction of road from Jherry Kherry Hanuman mandir to P.HO Nekk Mohal (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu	10.00	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	05-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	'A & B' Class
3	Construction of Road /Lane from Harjian Basti To Chhapri Mohalla at kherry Block Bhawal, Jammu. (Under Non-Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu	2.80	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	05-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	'A & B' Class
4	Providing & Laying of RBM & WBM G-ri on Link Road from Barmini to Koot at Nagrota, Jammu. (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu	5.00	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Months	05-07-2023 (1.00Pm)	'A & B' Class

Position of AAA: Accreded.

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://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-06-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 27-06-2023 to 04-07-2023 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	27-06-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	04-07-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	05-07-2023 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed (Online)

1. 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 crediting to MII 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu at the time of allotment.

No.- 16879-901
Dated - 27-06-2023
DIP/J-4152/23
SD/
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD (R&B) CONST. DIV. NO. II
JAMMU

PRI representatives, Public Delegations call on Lt Governor

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 29: Several PRI representatives including members of District Development Councils (DDCs), BDC chairperson and public delegations called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

Sh Subash Chandar, Member DDC Narsoo, Udhampur and Smt. Binla Devi, Chairperson BDC Morigri met the Lt Governor and discussed several issues of public importance. Ms Surekha Devi, DDC



Member Arnia put forth the demand on behalf of the people of her constituency which included an ITI college in Arnia, construction of bridge Chak

Majra to Karyal, sports stadium, among other issues. A delegation led by Ms

Shelpa Dubey, DDC Member Vijaypur in their meeting with the Lt Governor held discussion on employment opportunities in AIIMS Vijaypur for local youth and various other issues.

Later, a delegation led by Ms Neena Sharma BDC Chairperson, Seri, Rajouri also discussed with the Lt Governor public importance issues.

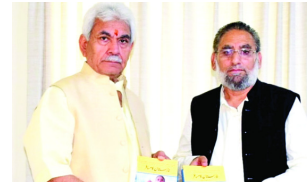
A delegation of Disabled Care Foundation led by Sh Umesh Sharma also called on Lt Governor and discussed issues which included enhancement of

monthly pension for disabled, creation of separate directorate of disability affairs, implementation of Acts, opening of model schools. The delegation of Dream City Welfare Association Muthi led by its president Sh Satish Bhat in their meeting with the Lt Governor discussed about the development of a park at Dream City Muthi.

The Lt Governor assured the delegations that the issues projected to him will be taken up with the concerned departments of the UT administration for early redressal on merit.

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Wani calls on Lt Governor

J I NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, JUNE 29: Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Wani called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

Dr Mushtaq Ahmed Wani, who is a renowned author, presented a copy of his autobiography 'Kharistan Ka Musafir' to the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor appreciated the voluminous literary work done by Dr Wani and his immense contribution to Urdu literature.

Earlier, students of University Institute of Engineering & Technology, University of Jammu, Kathua campus led by Sh Anant Mishra called on the Lt Governor and discussed issues pertaining to Infrastructure development and other issues at the campus.

Adding 107 more services to Auto Appeal System a step towards 'Bhrashtachar Mukta J&K': Dr Mehta



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 29: In a move to further improve online citizen-centric services, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today launched Task Scheduler, designed to help officers manage and organise their tasks and addition of Auto Appeal System for 107 more services, further streamlining government-to-citizen services in addition to over 103 services integrated with the auto appeal system last month. On the occasion the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri informed the Chief Secretary that out of 480 online services provided to citizens at present, 210 are onboarded the Auto Appeal System, that ensures timely delivery of services with auto-escalation of

applications in case of breach of timelines set under the J&K Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). While speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary directed for

onboarding rest of the services as early as possible for making 'Bhrashtachar Mukta Jammu and Kashmir' a reality. Dr. Mehta appreciated the proactive role played by the IT department and its concerted efforts for improving accessibility and ease of use of online government services under the PSGA. He placed a strong emphasis on the need to generate awareness among the general public about the online services offered by the Jammu and Kashmir government. He instructed for creation of online tutorials to help citizens learn

about it and take advantage of the various citizen-friendly services available online. In addition, the Chief Secretary discussed potential ways to increase both the accessibility and availability of these services, with the goal of ensuring that they are available round the clock with minimal downtime. As part of the broader Digital J&K initiative, which aims at improving the lives of citizens in J&K through the use of digital technology, the Chief Secretary discussed several measures to publicise the government's service delivery and performance.

These measures include the use of digital billboards throughout the districts to promote awareness of the government's efforts and

ALSO LAUNCHES TASK SCHEDULER TO STRENGTHEN DELIVERY OF ONLINE SERVICES

CALLS FOR INCORPORATING AI TO IMPROVE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

achievements.

Chief Secretary also discussed various other initiatives and online services that can be launched in the upcoming days for various citizen-friendly services and ensuring transparent governance.

He took strong note of building violations and instructed officers to devise digital surveillance measures to curb the menace within three months.

Dr. Mehta discussed opportunities in the digital arena for implementing artificial intelligence-based technologies for further improvement in governance and increasing accountability of departments and their respective officers while ensuring transparency and efficiency in departments.

Eid-Ul-Adha celebrated across Doda district with great enthusiasm, fervor



J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 29: The festival of Eid-ul-Adha was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervor in Doda district today.

Large number of people gathered at Eid Gah Doda and offered Eid Prayers.

The atmosphere was filled with joy and unity as people came together to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

The community spirit and religious fervor were evident throughout the day as people greeted each other. The administration and law enforcement authorities ensured the smooth conduct of the celebrations and the safety of the people.

During his address at Eidgah Doda, Imam of Jamia Masjid Doda Khalid Najib Sulharwardi, delivered a sermon on the significance of Eid Ul Adha and its teachings. Furthermore, the Imam emphasized the need to follow the teachings of Islam in all aspects of life and to strive for righteousness and piety.

Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Mahajan, SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, MC Chairman Ved Gupta, Dy SP Doda, SHO Doda and other senior civil and police officers were present on the occasion.

DDC Vice Chairperson takes stock of public issues



J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 29: Vice Chairperson District Development Council, Juh Manhas Pathania today interacted with the general public and listened to their issues at Dehma, Nardi, Khoon, Sortha, Nakki, Balpur and other locations.

She asked the PDD Department to avoid unscheduled power cuts for the convenience of the general public during the summer.

Mrs Pathania also inaugurated a 63 KVA transformer at Nardi, Panchaty Khoon in presence of Nimrata Bali Naib Sarpanch Khoon, Atul Kumar Panch and other prominent people of the area. She said that with the installation of the transformer, the power scenario in the area will improve immensely.

She apprised the situation to the concerned department to allot an additional 63 KVA power transformer and the department allotted the same. She said that the new transformer will provide an adequate power supply. She thanked the PDD on behalf of the citizens for timely intervention which will greatly benefit the well being of the area.

Earlier, she listened to the problems of the people of the area and issued directions for on the spot redressal of the same.

Mohan Lal Sarpanch S.K. Bair, Manoj Kumar Sarpanch Bilaspur, Ramesh Chander Gupta Sarpanch Khoon, Nimrata Bali Naib Sarpanch Khoon, Charan Das, Kuldeep Singh Ex Sarpanch, Sudesh Kumar, Shiv Ram, Bikram Singh, Badri Padiyal, Ved Sharma were present on the occasion.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2023

Fake Registration for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra busted by District Administration Samba

J I NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, JUNE 29: Today two buses carrying 68 Shri Amarnath Ji Pilgrims originating from Muzaffarnagar reported at Shri Chichi Mata mandir for e-KYC verification and issuance of RFID Cards.

On verification by the vigilant e-KYC Team of District Samba led by District Informatics Officer, it was found that yatra permits of most of the pilgrims were tampered. On further enquiry from the pilgrims and drivers, it revealed that these passengers got permits from one Mr. Rahul Bhardwaj R/O Muzaffarnagar, an agent of Vikas Bus Services operating from Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh in exchange of 7000 rupees per head.

The District Administration Samba under supervision of Abhishek Sharma, District Magistrate Samba and the District SSP, Benam Tosh, immediately swung into action and the district Police took cognizance of the incident. Consequently, an FIR under section 420/468 of IPC has been registered in Police Station Samba.

The District Magistrate Muzaffarnagar has also been requested to initiate legal action against the culprits namely Rahul Bhardwaj and others responsible for cheating these gullible pilgrims, so that no innocent pilgrims further fall prey to such kind of frauds.

The pilgrims shall be assisted in getting RFID cards which will be issued after fresh registration.

All Yatris are requested to keep their authentic Yatra Permits along with Aadhaar Card for proper e-KYC verification at the RFID counters and all Yatris are also requested to keep the RFID cards with them during the Yatra.

CJI to inaugurate 19th All India Legal Services Authorities Meet at SKICC Srinagar

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 29: Chief Justice of India & Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, Dr. Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, will inaugurate the 19th All India Legal Services Authorities Meet scheduled to be held tomorrow on 30 June at SKICC, Srinagar.

The inaugural ceremony would be attended by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India and

Executive Chairman, NALSA; Justice Sanjay Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee; Judges, Supreme Court of India; Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir; Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Law and Justice; Brigadier B D Mishra, Lieutenant Government, UT of Ladakh; N. Kotiasingh Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu &

Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief J&K Legal Services Authority and Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh & Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority. Judges of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will also be present in the inaugural session of the Meet.

The All India Legal Services Authorities Meet, scheduled to be held on 30th June and 01st

July, is being hosted by the Government of J&K and Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority and is being attended by Chief Justices of High Courts, Executive Chairpersons, State Legal Services Authorities, Chairpersons, High Court Legal Services Committees, Member Secretary, NALSA, Member Secretary, SCLSC, Member Secretaries SLSAs, Member

Secretaries HCLSCs, members of LADCs, panel lawyers, law students, faculty and students of various law universities, members of prominent NGOs amongst others.

The Meet will deliberate on the future course of action for Legal Services Authorities, targets and various challenges present before it and the steps to be undertaken to strengthen and streamline legal aid programmes in the country.

CEO SASB visits Neelgrath helpad, Holy Cave, Sheshnag Camp, inspects arrangements

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 29: Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), Dr Manddeep K Bhandari, today visited Neelgrath Helpad, Holy Cave and Sheshnag Camp to assess arrangements being put in place for ensuring 62 day long Shri Amarnathji Yatra scheduled to commence on July 1 with culmination on August 31.

CEO, while seeking information on all requisite facilities for the devotees visiting the revered Cave, exhorted upon the officers to ensure that all arrangements are in place for successful and peaceful conduct of this prestigious annual pilgrimage of Lord Shiva, Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2023.

Bhandari was accompanied by senior officers of the UT administration and other stakeholders. During the tour, the CEO



inspected and evaluated the preparations being undertaken by the concerned departments to ensure a smooth and successful pilgrimage for the devotees. He emphasized the significance of timely completion of all necessary arrangements to facilitate a safe and comfortable yatra experience for the pilgrims.

Bhandari had a detailed review of infrastructure, status of the track, setting up of tentage facilities,

toilet complexes, sanitation activities, restoration of water and electricity connections, telecom facilities, other logistical facilities during his visit to Sheshnag camp, Holy Cave and the Neelgrath helpad.

CEO asked the concerned departments to ensure that all necessary services are made easily accessible to the pilgrims at railway station, airports, on travel routes and Yatra Base camps.

He impressed upon the officials to create a strong healthcare and health emergency infrastructure with additional teams of doctors and nursing staff. He also directed for proper arrangements of regular ambulance, Helicopter

CEO conducts two day extensive tour of govt schools in far flung areas of Udhampur

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 29: The Chief Education Officer, Udhampur Geetu Bangotra accompanied with Assistant Director (E&S) Darshan Kumar conducted two days extensive tour of various schools falling in Zone Chenani and Zone Dudu viz. Hss Sudhmahadev, HSS Jakhed, HS Mantalai, HS Marothi MS Baishty, MS Chulliyar, MS Chapper including ZEO Office Dudu to reviewed their functioning and took stock of the problems being faced by the students and staff. During the visit, the team interacted with students and staff of the respective schools along with local PRI members and on spot instructions were issued to improve the academic performance of the students as per New Education Policy 2020 as well as to maintain the notebooks of the students and focus on their hygienic cleanliness.

service and oxygen cylinders.

He also took stock of the arrangements and facilities being made available for the concerned staff and sanitation workers deployed at the Base Camps.