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In J&K, School closures, strike calls a history now: DGP Dilbagh Singh

Says infiltrators coming from across border along with drugs, weapons to a carry out strikes on forces; Have killed many infiltrators in past; Efforts on to nab attackers involved in recent attacks; G-20 summit outcome of peaceful atmosphere in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 10

Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh Wednesday said that Rajouri and Poonch forest are close to LoC and the area has a difficult terrain while as efforts are on to track down the perpetrators of the recent attacks that left ten soldiers dead. DGP Singh also stated that the G-20 meeting in Srinagar was the outcome of the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in J&K as school closures and strikes were history now.



Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at Ramban district of Jammu, DGP Singh, as per news agency, said police along with the security forces have killed many infiltrators who had infiltrated into this side from Rajouri and Poonch

sectors. "It is not clear whether the recent strikes carried out state strikes leaving ten soldiers dead in Rajouri and Poonch is a fresh one or part of an old group. Efforts are on to track them down," the DGP said, adding that

"forest areas of Rajouri and Poonch are close to LoC and there is difficult terrain."
"We will track the group and eliminate them soon," he said. The DGP said that infiltrators have
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Cisco to set up India manufacturing unit; Cisco chief meets PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

US technology major Cisco announced today that it will begin manufacturing in Tamil Nadu as part of efforts to diversify its global supply chain by setting a target of \$1 billion in combined domestic production and exports in the coming years. Cisco CEO Chuck Robbins met Prime Minister Narendra Modi today.



The PM said in a tweet: "Delighted to meet you @ChuckRobbins and good to see @Cisco harnessing the wide range of opportunities available in India."

The Cisco chief said in a tweet that his company is investing in manufacturing in India, with an aim to drive over \$1 billion in combined domestic production and exports.

"Thank you for your leadership, Honorable PM of India, @narendramodi!"
"Thrilled to announce @Cisco is investing in manufacturing in India, with an aim to drive over \$1B in combined domestic production & exports."
A statement from the company said: "This move is a part of Cisco's strategy to create an even more diverse and resilient global supply chain and support India's vision of becoming a global manufacturing hub."
"With this latest investment, Cisco will cater to the growing demand from customers in India and aims to drive more than \$1 billion in combined domestic production and exports in the coming years."
The creation of a new manufacturing operation was announced by Cisco Chair and CEO Chuck Robbins in New Delhi, following a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and a series of strategic engagements with Dr.S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, Rajeev
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Member of Parliament, Chairperson DDC Budgam call on Lt Governor



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 10

Pramod Tiwari, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday at Raj Bhawan.

Tiwari discussed with the Lt Governor various issues of public importance and development

in J&K.

Nazir Ahmad Khan, Chairperson, District Development Council Budgam also called on the Lt Governor and apprised him about various matters pertaining to development of the district.

The Lt Governor assured the Chairperson DDC Budgam of
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DC Jammu conducts an extensive tour of border areas

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 10

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa today convened an extensive tour of Arnia, Suchetgarh, Mandal, Marh and Pargwal to attend the meeting regarding Standing Committee on Security along India-Pakistan border.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted an extensive tour of village Treva in Arnia, Sai Khurd in Suchetgarh, Fallai Mandal in Mandal and Gol Patan in Marh which are adjoining to border areas.

During the tour, the

Deputy Commissioner interacted with the local residents on development issues including construction of bunkers in border areas for public and security forces, data regarding worship places, construction of bridges over nullahs in border areas, land acquisition cases etc.

The local residents apprised the Deputy Commissioner regarding the issues faced by them in day to day life including power and water supply and road connectivity.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized on better road connectivity,

uninterrupted power and water supply in the border areas to avoid inconvenience to the people of border areas.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned officials to remain vigilant about drone, drug trafficking and other suspicious activities in border areas. She also asked them to register complaint and take strict action the violators.

The Deputy Commissioner also appealed to the local residents to immediately inform the concerned officials regarding any suspicious activities in their respective areas.

NIA attaches properties of 3 accused in 2 cases

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 10

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday intensified its security crackdown in Kashmir by attaching the properties of three accused linked with various banned Pakistan-based militant organisations, a spokesman said.

The NIA has stepped up its vigil against militant outfits, their affiliates, agents and over ground workers (OGWs) by conducting raids on properties of suspects and across locations, and has been moving swiftly to take action in such cases, a statement



issued to the news agency reads.

The NIA attached the immovable properties of three accused in two different cases of militant activities involving members, cadres of outfits like

the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), among others, it said.

In the first case, NIA attached the immovable properties of two
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Union Home Secretary visits PHQ Sgr

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 10

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla Wednesday visited Police Headquarters at Srinagar where he chaired senior officers meeting. He was accompanied by Director IB, Tapan Kumar Deka.

The meeting was attended among others by DGP J&K Dilbagh Singh, DIB, Tapan Kumar Deka, Additional Chief Secretary J&K, R. K. Goyal, Spl. DG CID J&K R. R. Swain, ADGP Jammu, Mukesh Singh, ADGP Headquarters PHQ, M. K. Sinha, IGP Traffic



J&K, Vikramjeet Singh and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri. The Union Home Secretary was received by DGP J&K and his team of

officers on his arrival at PHQ, a statement issued to the news agency.

DGP J&K and other officers briefed the
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Is Congress ignoring J&K leaders?

No native in party's national team

AGENCIES
JAMMU, MAY 10

In a very strange statistic, the grand old party—Congress—which draws its connection with Kashmir, seems to be ignoring its leaders from Jammu and Kashmir as none from the Union Territory figures in the party's top national team. Moreover, in the recent campaigns for Punjab by-polls and assembly elections in Karnataka, no party

leader was included in Congress list of 80 star campaigners despite having president, battery of veterans and former ministers.

"It seems that the party high command is not having much faith in local leadership of J&K," a senior J&K Congress leader said, adding that, "It was evident during Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra (held in early January), when a team from Punjab was called in to manage a large por-

tion of yatra, while celebrity leaders were invited to provide momentum to the BJY", a senior party leader, told news agency, pleading anonymity. Moreover, as per party sources, none of the Jammu and Kashmir natives figured in the party's national team, which is the top decision making body in the organization.

It was the first time in the last six-seven decades when J&K was unrepresented in

the national team of Congress. Earlier, stalwarts like Karan Singh, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Saif-U-Din Soz, Durga Prasad Dhar, Inderjit Malhotra and others were part of Congress national team like decision making body, but after Ghulam Nabi Azad left grand old party and parted his ways to constitute new political outfit, no one seems representing J&K within the party.

"There were posts of ten general secretaries,

20 PCC in-charges for different states and UT's, around 66 in-charges secretaries and around dozen joint secretaries besides the President but interestingly none of them is native of Jammu and Kashmir or Ladakh," another party leader said.

However, on many occasions Congress leader and Former President Rahul Gandhi said that he and his family belong to this Kashmiri Pandit community. KNO

'Blue Economy' to be major contributor to India's overall economy: Dr Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that in the years to come, "Blue Economy" will be major contributor to India's overall economy and the Deep Ocean Mission announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the core

component of it.

The Minister was chairing the first-ever high-level Steering Committee Meeting of Deep Ocean Mission today at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi. The Committee consists of Union Ministers of State of Environment, External Affairs, Defence and Finance in addition to Vice Chairman Niti Aayog.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Deep Ocean Mission is part of Government of India's Blue Economy initiative. The mission, said the Minister, heralds India's ushering into an era of "Blue Economy"

which is going to play a major part in building India's overall economy during the years to come.

The Deep Ocean Mission is a high-level multi-ministerial, multi-disciplinary programme for better understanding of the deep sea living and non-living resources of the Indian Ocean and will aid in India's efforts to attain the Blue Economy status.

Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State,



Ministry of Finance, V. Muralideharan, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State, Ministry of Defense, Suman K Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Prof. Ajay Kumar

Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, Dr M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences and other senior officers of various ministries attended the meeting.

The Mission Steering Committee (MSC) is the highest Policy making body constituted under the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM). The MSC will provide broad policy direction to the mission and exercise the main programme and governance for the deep ocean sector and advise the other committee in policy and implementation strategies. The MSC chaired by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today reviewed the progress of DOM of various components.

Dr Jitendra Singh fur-

ther said that the technologies developed under the mission would help in exploration of the oceans and possible harnessing of non-living resources like energy, fresh water and strategic minerals. The design and development of subsystems of the manned submersible to carry three humans has been completed and integration is in progress.

The Minister further mentioned that the design of the mining machine is ready and a demonstration trial of miners crawler on sea bed has been complet-

ed in stage I. It is planned to undertake pumping of nodules to the mother ship during 2026 for which testing of various components is in progress.

Talking about ocean resources, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the exploration of strategic minerals like cobalt, nickel, copper and manganese are expected to pave the way for future commercial exploitation of these resources. It Potential sites for hydrogen sulphides have been mapped and detailed surveys in this area
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Suba Group of Hotels Launches 'Click Hotel Tulian', Katra



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: Suba Group of Hotels has Click Hotels - an owned Indian Hotel Brand has marked another milestone in the Holy place of Mata Vaishno Devi - Katra with the launch of 'CLICK HOTEL TULIAN' in a picturesque region of Jammu & Kashmir and the most famous of Goddess Vaishno Devi. As an average of approx. 25K - to 30K people visit Vaishno Devi Katra on a daily basis. This hotel is easily accessed by Road, Rail, and by Air via Jammu Airport. Some of the prominent tourist destinations including Vaishno Devi Bhawan & Patnitop are located in close proximity to the hotel.

Announcing the opening, Mansur Mehta, Managing Director, Suba Group of Hotels, said, "We are delighted to launch CLICK HOTEL TULIAN in holy place of Mata Vaishno Devi Katra. With the launch of Click Hotel

Tulian, we look forward to serve all religious frequent travelers, Groups, and along with new-age travelers, who look forward to a modern & quality Stay. Click Hotel Tulian perfectly epitomizes the Click Hotel by Suba Brand Standard along with the Brand's core values of offering - Hi-Quality Bed - Breakfast & Broadband (WIFI) plus immaculate service and unparalleled hospitality".

"We are pleased to expand our footprints in Jammu & Kashmir, India with the launch of Click Hotel Tulian in Katra & this is our second hotel with Tulian Hotels & Resort Group. This full-service hotel with all contemporary elements is ideal for Religious & Leisure Guests along with new age and group travelers. It is our endeavor to continue to penetrate our reach across popular destinations across the country & offering Standard quality Stay facilities," said, Mubeen Mehta,

CEO, Suba Group of Hotels.

Click Hotel Tulian, Katra features contemporary yet modern accommodation via 37 Executive & Family Rooms, One in-house coffee shop - CINNAMON; mainly serving all Veg Indian Cuisine along In-Room Dining for dining options, efficient service and a comprehensive range of guest facilities to ensure a pleasant stay for the guests.

Click Hotel Tulian, Katra is one of the finest affordable luxury hotel in Katra. This hotel is located in the heart of the holy town, close to the main shrine board office. Very close proximity to Banganga - the point from where the Climb commences and in close proximity to the Helicopter Counter, making it a perfect destination for the pilgrims and near to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station.

With the Launch of Click Hotel Tulian, Katra - we wish to offer Click Hotel's standard format of

Stay Experience to all our regular Suba Patrons and specially the new age travelers - who look forward to enjoy the quality stay, best shower experience along with hi-speed Wifi at prominent locations at dynamic stay charges." - said Abinash Ashok, VP Suba Group of Hotels.

As a hotel partner, we are proud to associate with Suba Hotels, and the main reason behind to opt for CLICK HOTEL - its brand acceptance to new age travelers along with frequent visitors to Katra. This is our second association after experiencing the successful working association of Click Hotel Tulian @ Srinagar. We wish to continue enjoying the Click Hotel's successful business module as supported by their Regional Sales offices across India along with their regular patrons. We all pray for a strengthened association and we are sure this will add value in Business and Occupancy." - said (Pankaj, Gundep, Mir & Balkirat) Partners - Tulian Hotels.

Each of the properties boasts luxurious rooms with a host of banqueting and F&B facilities. Suba Hotels serves modern travelers by providing a distinctive stay experience, outstanding quality services, and exceptional facilities at competitive pricing. The company has footprints in all major metros, including tier 1 and tier 2 cities. All of their facilities provide elegant and large rooms, exciting locations for holding weddings, events, and exhibitions, and a fantastic dining experience at iconic restaurants.

"TBS Released Admission Poster of the MBA Program (2023-25)"

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: The Business School, University of Jammu, released the admission poster of the MBA program for the 2023-25 batch. The poster release event was graced by special guest Prof. Naresh K. Padha, Dean of Academic Affairs, University of Jammu along with Prof. Vinay Chauhan, Director, The Business School, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Prof. Versha Mehta, Prof. Alka Sharma, Prof. Sameer Gupta and other faculty members, staff and students of TBS.

Prof. Padha congratulated the Director, TBS and all faculty members for taking such initiatives and suggested to create awareness about Management education and its career prospects to young aspiring graduates. Prof.



Chauhan apprised the gathering that this poster release event marked the beginning of the career counseling and orientation program for effective talent nurturing of the students across the various colleges of the Jammu region.

He emphasized that TBS, being a pioneer institution, always strives to create awareness among young

minds to soak in opportunities in a highly competitive environment, and this initiative of TBS shall enlighten the path of students and lead them towards building successful careers in Management. To achieve this objective, TBS plans to reach out to approximately thousand students across ten colleges in the month of May. The

event also marked the start of its maiden counseling session for final year students of MAM College, Jammu.

The session was conducted by Dr. Komal Nagar, Associate Professor, Dr. Aubid Parrey, Assistant professor and final year MBA students-Soham Gupta, Vanshika and Mohak Sharma.

Apni Party committed for women empowerment: Altaf Bukhari



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari today said his party is committed to the social, educational and political empowerment of women in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Women empowerment is our top priority. They are a major section of the society that remained neglected for decades. Apni Party has provided ample space and representation to the women to highlight their issues and get them redressed from the platform of this party," said Altaf Bukhari here at Apni Party Jammu Headquarters.

On this occasion, dozens of women from Samba district joined the Apni Party in presence of Bukhari sahib.

While welcoming the

new entrants into the party fold, he expressed hope that their joining would strengthen the party at the grass root level.

He congratulated the women wing of Jammu province for their team work and asked them to work at the ground level among the women in every nook and corner of Jammu province to address the issues being confronted by the women.

He said that "The women have played a very important role in every field. However, we think that they need social, educational and political empowerment in J&K and their empowerment will help them to upgrade their living standard."

He said that "The Apni Party believes in equality in society. Therefore, we have decided to enhance the mar-

riage assistance of the poor girls at the time of their marriage up to 1 lakh, and this amount would be released within 1 month of their marriage."

He said that the widow pension scheme/old age pension/handicapped would be increased up to Rs 5000 per month from Rs 1000, four free cooking gas cylinders per year to the poor families if the Apni Party forms the next Govt.

He also highlighted various other social security schemes which would be launched by the Apni Party if it forms the Govt in J&K.

"The women equally shouldered responsibility with the men and they deserved to be provided all the benefits from the Govt so that they get free of cost education and health care facility from their childhood," he said.

He said that the skill development centers need to provide the latest skills to the women so that they can be able to earn their livelihood.

"The women entrepreneurship needs to be encouraged in J&K with the support of the Govt and banks through financial support in the shape of easy loans to start their own business," he added.

Meanwhile, he announced the district team of women wing for Samba district. The newly nominated members include Prinyanka Mangotra as District President Samba, Kamlesh Kumar and Parmjeet Kour as District Vice Presidents of Samba District.

Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh, Provincial Vice President, Jammu, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath, District President, Samba, Raman Thappa, Provincial Secretary/Urban Jammu District President, Dr Rohit Gupta, J&K Apni Trade Union, President, Ajaz Kazmi, District President Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti, Adv Lovely Mangol, Provincial President Women Wing, Jammu, Parmjeet Kour, Provincial President, Jammu, Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, District President Jammu Women Wing, Ritu Pandita, Shivani Koul and others were among those who were present on the occasion.

Popular govt alone is the panacea for ills afflicting J&K: Harsh Dev



JJ NEWS SERVICE

CHENANI, MAY 10: Accusing the present regime for its indifference and neglect of the common masses facing denial of even the basic amenities, both in urban and rural areas, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh, Former Minister and State President JKNPP said that a democratically elected govt alone was the panacea for the ills afflicting the centrally ruled UT of J&K. He said that babus requisitioned from other states had hardly any idea about the peculiar problems of the UT's diversities and had failed to satisfy the urges of the people. While the common masses had hardly any

access to the 'babus' operating from their cocooned Chambers, the latter too seemed to have abdicated their responsibilities of interacting with public so as to ascertain their difficulties and to take the appropriate remedial action for redressal of their genuine grievances, asserted Mr. Singh. He was touring various villages of Chenani constituency today including Ball, Morh, Toldi, Nala, etc to take stock of people's problems in the area.

"While the frequent power outages and acute drinking water problems had made the lives of people a living hell, the helmsmen seemed to be least bothered about the sufferings of the public. As the affected people were

protesting on roads on day to day basis, a highly impudent and apathetic bureaucracy preferred to remain cocooned in their sanitized environment quite unmindful of the woes of the agitating masses. Not only was the common man annoyed over the administrative apathy towards their basic concerns but varied sections of society had expressed their disapproval with the proxy rule of the centre. The unemployed youth including the contractuals, consolidated and daily wagers assured of a fair deal had all felt betrayed and cheated and were fighting for their rights on roads and streets with none to listen to their woes.

Singh maintained that the people in the rural areas in particular were the worst victims of govt apathy with none to respond to their shrill cries for justice. Deprived of proper connectivity and communication, the people residing in several remote and far-flung areas had lost contacts with the civilized world due to road blocks and disruption of traffic on damaged roads for months together. Sadly there were no takers for even the staff deficient and defunct schools thereby jeopardizing the careers of rural students.

Councillor Sahil Gupta visits ward; listens Problems of Public

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: Bharatiya Janata Party Leader and Councillor of Municipal Committee Bishnah, Sahil Gupta visited the ward today and listened to the problems of the people, people told that the slab has been put to run over the drain, but due to the theft of iron grating, Public face difficulties in night.

While listening to the problems of the people of the ward, Sahil Gupta told them that on behalf of the Municipal Committee Bishnah, they have been asked for another plan of Rs 10 lakh, in which they will soon do the work of these streets.

Councillor Sahil Gupta told that in his ward all the street works have been completed and gratings have been installed on all the drains.



Public thanked Gupta for listening to the Problems of the ward and appreciated Gupta's work and actions, the meeting was attended by

Vijay Kumar, Ashwani Sharma, Rakesh Kumar, Ravi, Shekhar, Tushar Digra, Manish Kumar, Vansh, Rohit and others.

Government Polytechnic Jammu organise workshop on soft skills

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: Department of Travel & Tourism Management and Instrumentation & Control Engineering of Government Polytechnic Jammu today organized a one day workshop on 'Soft Skills'. The workshop was inaugurated by Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal Governemnt Polytechnic Jammu, who encouraged the students to make maximum benefits of such workshops and try to inculcate the soft skills such as writing, and communication skills to enhance their employment opportunities.

Ms. Neetu Dhar Khajuria, knowledgeable Soft-Skills Trainer who has a sound understanding of the needed traits for workplace success and strong ability



to train on diverse levels and fields was a resource person.

She has extensive experience of 15 years to train on soft-skills, giving presentations, holding workshops and delivering orientation programmes. She worked in organizations like Franklin Institute of Air

hostess Training, University of Jammu, Apteck Aviation, M.I.E.R, as resource person.

The workshop was attended by 4th and 6th semester students of Travel and Tourism and I&C branches were present for the program. Er. Ashok Verma and Gagan Pratap

Singh were coordinated the Program. The seminar was concluded with the vote of thanks by Sh Gagan Pratap Singh. Other present on the occasion were faculty members Mr Amit Sharma, Mr Dhiraj Kumar, Ms Sakshi Kapai, MsHarmeet Kaur, Ms Ruchi Mahajan, MsPriya Bandana.

Kavinder calls on Maha Assembly Speaker, discusses development scenario in J&K



J I NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, MAY 10: Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday met Rahul Narwekar, Speaker Maharashtra State Assembly and discussed various aspects of political spectrum in J&K and the development carried out by the Centre after the end of Article 370.

During the interaction, Kavinder said that BJP has emerged as the most popular party in the UT of J&K as the so-called Kashmir centric parties

have been exposed badly in the last few years and people today have rejected all those leaders who believed in dynastic politics. Without naming the parties, Kavinder told Narwekar about the ways and means by which the parties that ruled J&K in the last over 70 years satiated their vested interests without bothering about the sufferings of the common people.

He said that the hype made by NC, PDP and even Congress over communal politics in J&K is all part of the deception tactics by these entities as

there is no such issue in J&K especially the Valley because people in the entire UT have openly started saying that for the last over 7 decades, the parties in power have looted the resources in Kashmir and gave two hoots to the plight of masses as they were the sufferers of all time.

Kavinder said that after 2014, the people have reposed faith in the Modi Government and today each and every single soul is availing the benefits of welfare schemes which have been crafted without any discrimination or prejudice over religion or region.

Kavinder also praised the Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly to J&K for holding such a coveted position, which requires acumen, patience and wisdom to handle difficult situations without getting away.

Meanwhile, members of Muslim community felicitated Kavinder during his visit to Ullhas Nagar in Mumbai. To the surprise of everyone, the Muslim brethren raised slogans of Jai Shri Ram on the arrival of the BJP leader from far off J&K UT.

During the interaction, the prominent Muslim community members told Kavinder that all communities live in harmony in Ullhas Nagar, and they have never heard of any kind of communal tension in the region.

Sat Sharma insists for swift justice on 'irregularities' in fire and emergency dept recruitment



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: Showing solidarity with the aggrieved fire and emergency dept applicants, Sat Sharma insisted for swift course of justice on 'irregularities' in fire and emergency dept recruitment.

"Delayed justice is justice denied", said Sat Sharma, former Housing & Urban Development Minister, J&K, while listening to the deputation of fire and emergency dept applicants.

Sat Sharma, former BJP president and former Minister along with former MLA Ashwani Sharma, JMC Controller & BJP SC Morcha Seh-Prabhari Jeet Angral, and BJP SEM Shailla Gupta listened to the public grievances at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The deputation alleged large-scale irregularities in the recruitment continuously for a decade. They said that the Jammu and Kashmir administration also constituted a three-member committee to look into irregularities in the selection process in the fire and emergency department, but the report has not been submitted yet. They said that the issue has been alive since March 2013, but hasn't yet reached a fruitful conclusion. They alleged the corruption, paper leak, & favoritism in the total act.

While listening to their grievances, Sat Sharma (CA), added that BJP is committed to end the woes faced by the common masses. He said that it is a matter of grave concern that the youth as the powerhouse of the Nation is

upset and wary over the future. He immediately talked to the concerned persons and pressed for the early solution to their issue. "LG sahib must take cognizance of the whole matter and instruct the concerned department officials to end the issue with a respectable and acceptable solution as the Delayed justice equals to the justice denied", said Sat Sharma.

"We raised the issue earlier resulting in the formation of a committee and will press again for justice. The Modi govt is committed to justice to everybody. Youth must not be deprived of their rights. These applicants have the required proofs, and we will ensure that no injustice is done to them", said Sat Sharma.

Ashwani Sharma said that the BJP has also earlier

raised the issue of fire and emergency dept applicants. He added that the party leaders have followed their case and will ensure that the issue reaches a logical end while asking the administration to provide an amicable solution to the applicants.

Jeet Angral and Shailla Gupta diazied the issues and coordinated the camp proceedings.

During the camp, people from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir visited the party office in the form of deputations to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns before the senior party leadership.

The main issues presented were related to the Ration card, verification of land titles, transformer issues, electric poles, street-lights, repair of lanes/roads, job issues, etc.

Listening to the various issues represented by the deputations, BJP leaders telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials and issued letters for the others after which he assured them that their issues would be addressed soon.

DIQA workshop on 'NAAC Preparations: AQAR and SSR Submissions' held

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 10: CUK VC asks faculty to conduct SWOC of depths, suggest solutions to issues Ganderbal, May 10: Central University of Kashmir (CUK), Vice Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath Wednesday asked the faculty mem-

bers and administrative staff of the varsity to fully involve themselves for preparations in run up to the assessment by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). "Our primary objective should be to further improve the NAAC Grading and for that the university employees, including the teaching and administrative staff have to work as a cohesive unit. They have to thoroughly analyse the previous Peer Team Review Report and proactively start working on the inadequacies highlighted in the same", Prof. A Ravinder Nath, said, while addressing the Nodal Officers of the departments, during a one-day workshop, organised by the university's Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) on "NAAC Preparations: AQAR and SSR Submissions", at varsity's Tulmulla Campus here.



bers and administrative staff of the varsity to fully involve themselves for preparations in run up to the assessment by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). "Our primary objective should be to further improve the NAAC Grading and for that the university employees, including the teaching and administrative staff have to work as a cohesive unit. They have to thoroughly analyse the previous Peer Team Review Report and proactively start working on the inadequacies highlighted in the same", Prof. A Ravinder Nath, said, while addressing the Nodal Officers of the departments, during a one-day workshop, organised by the university's Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) on "NAAC Preparations: AQAR and SSR Submissions", at varsity's Tulmulla Campus here.

Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Ahmad and Mr. Umar were also present on the occasion. CUK Vice Chancellor, asked the faculty members to undertake Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges (SWOC) analysis of their respective departments, identify the issue and come up with the solution for the same. He assured the faculty members that the university will promote capacity building of the teachers and will frame policies and guidelines on all academic and administrative issues so that it becomes a role model for other institutions of higher learning. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Shahid Rasool, appreciated the DIQA for conducting the workshop and said that such events should be a regular feature in the university. Prof. Shahid laid strong emphasis on documenting all the processes done in the departments and asked the Nodal

Officers to upload the same on their respective pages on the university website continuously. He said that there is a need to inculcate innovation and creative skills, technology skills, interpersonal skills, accessible and inclusive learning among the students for their overall growth and development. Prof. Shahid said that workshops like these also provide a platform to the faculty and administrative staff to interact with each other and provide solutions to the issues confronted by the institutions. Enumerating the steps and measures taken by the DIQA, Director DIQA, Prof. Wali Muhammad Shah, said that four AQARs have been successfully submitted in the NAAC and this workshop was organised to sensitise the Nodal Officers about the information required for the fifth AQAR.

He informed the Vice Chancellor that the university faculty and administration is being geared up and the deficiencies identified in the previous Peer Team Report are being worked on. Prof. Shah asked the Nodal Officers to provide the details as required by the NAAC immediately so that the pending AQAR is submitted without any delay.

Advisor, DIQA, Prof. Parveen Pandit, in her address, asked the faculty members to remain in touch with the students graduating from the university in order to get details about their employment and career progression. She also asked the departments to provide the students a platform to showcase their hidden talent, adding that the mentor-mentee relationship in the university needs to be strengthened further.

Dr. Mohammad Sayid Bhat and Dr. Faizan Ashraf Mir conducted the proceedings while as Ms. Gulafroz Jan proposed the vote of thanks.

Strong protest held in RS Pura in favour of agitating wrestlers

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: Kissan leader Ch Mohan Singh senior Congress leader Badrinath Sharma along with leaders from other political parties today strongly protested in favour of agitating wrestlers who are demanding action against the chief of the Wrestling Federation of India over allegations of sexual harassment of players.

The protesters also torched effigy of WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh demanding an FIR against WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and a CBI probe into the matter. Addressing the protesters, Ch Mohan said that the players who have made the country proud in the world are sitting at Jantar Mantar against 'sexual harassment', but why no action is being taken against accused. It is a matter of great regret that international level players who have brought laurels to the country have to sit on



dharna, they should get justice", Choudhary said. "A wrong happened with these daughters who raised the glory of the country, they raised their voice against the wrong, but what did they get," Choudhary asked. "Instead of getting justice, they are in tears and against the abuse allegations and demanded action against Singh, adding that women wrestlers who have brought glory to the country should not have to face harassment. "This matter is objectionable, and the central government should take action against Brijbhushan Singh,"

Sharma said, He said that the BJP, which teaches girls what to wear, to protect themselves from possible harassment, has failed to respond when the wrestlers lodged a complaint against the WFI President. Commending some of the sportspersons, who had stood against the abuse allegations and demanded action against Singh, adding that women wrestlers who have brought glory to the country should not have to face harassment. "This matter is objectionable, and the central government should take action against Brijbhushan Singh,"

Sharma said, He said that the BJP, which teaches girls what to wear, to protect themselves from possible harassment, has failed to respond when the wrestlers lodged a complaint against the WFI President. Commending some of the sportspersons, who had stood against the abuse allegations and demanded action against Singh, adding that women wrestlers who have brought glory to the country should not have to face harassment. "This matter is objectionable, and the central government should take action against Brijbhushan Singh,"

Representation by SOS Int'l on land ownership rights to WPRs; Chuni apprehends it may hit PoJK DPs

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: Apprehending that the Government move on according land ownership rights to 'West Pakistani Refugees' (WPRs) in Jammu and Kashmir may hit the interests of Pak occupied Jammu Kashmir Displaced People, SOS International, an organization for PoJK DPs has submitted a representation to the J&K Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta. In the representation, forwarded by SOS Chairman Rajiv Chuni, the Government has been urged to ensure that the land being given to West Pak Refugees must not be earlier allotted to any PoJK DPs and further there should be a rider that the beneficiary West Pak Refugees must not be having possession on piece of land allotted to PoJK DPs or a party in any case of such nature in the court of law.

"We the PoJK DPs appreciate the Government decision of conferring land ownership rights to West Pakistan Refugees and believe that only a displaced person can truly understand the pain of displacement from home and

hearth, however, at the time, there are some apprehensions which was want to bring into your kind notice as land of hundreds of PoJK DPs is under illegal possession of West Pak refugees who are tillers since decades," reads the representation. While elaborating, the SOS International has reminded that PoJK DPs after migration from their homes and hearths following Pakistan backed tribal attack, were temporarily settled here by granting them Agricultural Land to rural settlers or Residential Plots to those who opted for urban category. In a number of such cases where the agricultural land was allotted to PoJK DPs, the tillers were West Pak Refugees. Since these West Pak Refugees were not entitled for ownership rights, this was the reason that the Land to Tiller Act of 70s could not change the status even as a number of WPRs illegally occupied the PoJK DPs' lands they were tilling notwithstanding the High Court order against the same. Pointing out that there are thousands of such cases pending in the court of law where the land of PoJK DPs is under illegal possession of West Pak Refugees

who were the tillers, the SOS International has expressed apprehension that the Government move to accord the ownership rights may lead to formal transfer of the land of PoJK DPs under illegal possession of the West Pak Refugees, to the latter thus rendering the former displaced one again. "Keeping in view this apprehension, we appeal to kindly use your good office for ensuring that no injustice is done with PoJK DPs while according ownership rights to West Pak Refugees. This can be done by ensuring that ownership of the land being accorded to West Pak Refugees must not be earlier allotted to any PoJK DP. Besides, there should be a rider that the beneficiary West Pak Refugees must not be having possession on piece of land allotted to PoJK DPs or a case of such nature in the court of law," further reads the representation to the Chief Secretary, hoping that the Government will incorporate such clause in the law to be enacted for land ownership rights to West Pak Refugees so that PoJK DPs are not disturbed and displaced once again from their homes and hearths.

DGP visits Ramban; inaugurates transit accommodation, JIC

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: The Director General of Police J&K Shri Dilbag Singh today visited Ramban District where he inaugurated transit accommodation and newly constructed JIC. He also reviewed the security scheme of the district with jurisdictional officers and later held a Joint security review meeting with Army officers at sector II Headquarters Chanderkot. Accompanied by Spl. DGO, J&K, Shri R.R Swain, ADGP Jammu Zone, Shri Mukesh Singh, the DGP was received by DIG DCR Range Shri Sunil Gupta and SSP Ramban Ms. Mohita Sharma. The DGP first inaugurated transit accommodation at Kowhag Ramban for police personnel travelling through the district. He also inaugurated the newly constructed JIC, which is equipped with the latest gadgets and

technology to achieve better results in investigation and operational work.

Chairing officers meeting at the transit camp, the DGP emphasized that local & highway security grids need to be kept fully geared up at all levels and joint efforts of all security forces must continue to ensure that elements inimical to peace are not given any space to disturb peace. He stressed on enhancing the functioning of model nakas on the National Highway and directed to ensure that these model nakas are functional round the clock. He said that the working with devotion and dedication in the right direction has to continue for the peace and stability of the Union Territory. He directed for keeping a strict vigil on attempts of transportation of drugs through National Highway. He also emphasised upon

the officers to make adequate use of modern security gadgets including CCTVs and drones to further augment the security of the district. He also directed for ensuring smooth traffic management on National Highway.

The meeting besides, the visiting officers, was attended by DIG DCR Range, SSP Ramban, CO IR 16th Bn Shri Pawan Parihar, ASP Ramban and other jurisdictional officers. SSP Ramban briefed the DGP regarding the measures taken for securing the District particularly National Highway from any anti-peace activity. She also apprised regarding implementation of traffic management for smooth vehicular movement on National Highway. Later, DGP visited Sector 11 Army headquarters Chanderkot where he chaired a joint security meeting with the Army & Police officers.

Rahul, Priyanka urge Karnataka people to vote in large numbers



AGENCIES BENGALURU, MAY 10

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday appealed to the people of Karnataka to vote in large numbers to build a 40-per cent commission-free state.

"Karnataka's vote... for 5 guarantees, for women's rights, for youth employment, for the upliftment of the poor. Come, vote in large numbers." "Let's build a 40% commission-free, progressive Karnataka together," Gandhi tweeted in Hindi.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said the people of Karnataka have decided to choose a progressive, transparent and welfare-oriented government. He also welcomed first-time voters to participate in this democratic process for a better future.

"People of Karnataka have decided to choose a progressive, transparent and welfare-oriented gov-

ernment. Today, it is time to vote in large numbers. We welcome our first-time voters to participate in this democratic process for a better future," he tweeted.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also appealed to the voters to exercise their franchise. "As the polling for the assembly elections begins, I urge all my sisters and brothers in Karnataka to go out there and vote for change. It's time to bring in a strong, development-oriented and capable government that works tirelessly to make your lives better," she said.

This is a high-stakes election battle, the challenge for BJP is to break the 38 years old jinx of overthrowing ruling parties. For Congress, dethroning BJP to give much-needed boost for it to reverse the fortunes, while HD Deve Gowda-led JDS is fighting to hold on to its turf.

VLACs for welfare & employment generation schemes to be held across Anantnag; DDC

JNEWS SERVICE ANANTNAG, MAY 10

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, S F Hamid today presided over the Block Diwas event held at Checkwangund village in the Hiller block.

The event was attended by members of the Hiller block, PRIs, and the general public who shared their

suggestions and demands related to various schemes for the development of the area.

The DDC assured the gathering that the District Administration is committed to addressing the issues of the general public. He appreciated the mass participation and positive response of the people, which he said highlights the importance of Block Diwas.

G-20 Summit DDC Chairperson Ganderbal inaugurates blacktopping work on Tullamulla-Dangerpora-Khirbhawani road

JNEWS SERVICE GANDERBAL, MAY 10

Ahead of the G20 Summit, the Roads and Buildings department Ganderbal has started the upgradation and blacktopping work of the Tullamulla-Dangerpora-Khirbhawani Road.

District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishaq today visited Tullamulla-Dangerpora-Khirbhawani road taken up under G20.

While inaugurating the black topping, the DDC Chairperson said that road connectivity is the basic requirement for growth and development of any area.

The DDC Chairperson was informed that under this upgradation work, all the road stretches that have been damaged on the Tullamulla Khirbhawani-

Dangerpora via Theerua up to the Dumbkadal (Shifa Kadal) junction will be fully repaired and macadamised. Besides, shoulders on both sides of the roads will be fully developed so that people can also walk by foot.

Paved shoulders help prolong the life of the blacktop surface and serve as lay-by for parked vehicles to ensure the full functionality and utility of the carriageway to its design capacity. There will also be maintenance of the centre verge of the road, an official said.

The DDC Chairperson called upon the officers to put in sincere and dedicated efforts to take the benefits of all government schemes to the targeted sections of the society.

The Executing Agency was directed to complete the work at the earliest to provide benefits to the general public of the area.

Block Diwas: Mega grievance redressal camp held at Manasbal, Ganderbal

JNEWS SERVICE GANDERBAL, MAY 10

With an aim to redress the grievances of people at their door steps, the District Administration Ganderbal today conducted grievance redressal camp at Conference Hall of Manasbal Development Authority as part of Weekly Block Diwas programme.

The camp was presided over by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani.

The Block Diwas witnessed huge participation of people of adjoining areas and PRI members who apprised the ADCD about various issues and demands pertaining to their areas for the welfare of people.

During the proceedings of Block Diwas, PRIs and locals raised a number of grievances and general demands related to augmentation of water and power supply, desilting of Anzbar Khul, macadamisation of road from Beehama



to Safapora, removal of encroachments, dredging of irrigation canals and other issues of public importance.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADCD said the District Administration is ensuring timely redressal of the genuine demands and in this regard Action Taken Report of grievances raised in Block Diwas

proceedings are displayed at concerned locations of the blocks where weekly Block Diwas is conducted so that people are aware about the action taken on their demands and grievances.

He also urged the locals to come forward and take the benefit of government schemes especially that are meant for employment generation and other individual beneficiary schemes that are launched for the welfare of people as per their eligibility.

The program was attended by CPO, ACD, ACP and other district and sectoral officers. DDC member Safapora, BDC Chairperson Safapora besides Sarpanchs and Panchs were also present on the occasion.

DC Bandipora flags-off 'Swachta Karvaan'

JNEWS SERVICE BANDIPOPORA, MAY 10

The Deputy Commissioner (Bandipora), Dr Owais Ahmad Wednesday flagged-off the 'Swachta Karvaan' as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) at Bandipora.

The Swachta Karvaan is an initiative of the government to raise awareness about cleanliness and sanitation across the country.

Besides Deputy Director Rural Sanitation, Qazi Masood, the event was attended by a large number of people from different walks of life, including PRI, school children, government officials, members of local NGOs, and citizens. The participants took a pledge to keep their surroundings clean and make a positive impact on the environment.

During the event, Dr. Owais emphasized the importance of cleanliness



and sanitation in improving the health and well-being of individuals and communities. He also spoke about the various initiatives taken by the government to promote cleanliness and hygiene, including the SBM.

The Swachta Karvaan will travel to different parts of Bandipora over the next few days to raise awareness about cleanliness and sanitation. The

participants will also engage in various activities such as cleaning drives, awareness campaigns, and interactive sessions with local communities.

Dr Owais urged people to maintain the system of door to door waste collection and collect the waste only in dustbins so that the surroundings, especially water resources, should be kept hygienic and clean.

Deputy Director Rural Sanitation on the occasion said that flagging off of Swachta Karvaan is a significant step towards achieving the goals of SBM in the district. He said they hope that the initiative will inspire people to become more conscious of their surroundings and take proactive steps towards promoting cleanliness and hygiene in their communities.

FSD Anantnag imposes penalty of Rs. 2 lakh on 07 erring FBOs

JNEWS SERVICE ANANTNAG, MAY 10

The Food Safety Department (FSD) Anantnag has seized food items worth Rs. 1 Lakh from the premises of M/S: Quality World Mattan.

The seized items include Fit Cracker (Pran), Biscuit Potato (Pran), and Pran Fit milk flavoured Biscuits, after they were found to be of unsafe quality due to the presence of sulphite as Soz above the maximum prescribed limit. The reports came from the National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad, which prompted the Food Safety Department to conduct a thorough investigation.

The department also procured 03 enforcement samples from the seized stock for further analysis.

Additionally, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Adjudicating Officer under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006) Anantnag imposed a penalty of Rs. 2 lakh on 07 erring Food Business Operators, including a prominent company, for violating the regulatory provisions of law under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The accused FBOs were convicted during the trial of the cases filed by the Food Safety Department. The statutory samples procured by the Food Safety Officers of the district for analysis at National Food Laboratory Ghaziabad and Food Laboratory Kashmir were declared as Sub-Standard/Misbranded Quality.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

In J&K, School...

been coming from across the border to foment trouble. They come along with weapons and drug consignments but we have busted many such modules and killed many infiltrators in various operations," he said.

The DGP said that efforts are on from Pakistan to lure youth towards drugs that are being air-dropped through drones. "Police along with security forces are alert to foil all such bids," he said, adding that even though many youth have fallen prey to drugs, police is trying its best to keep the youth away from drugs so that they don't tread the wrong path.

To a query about the upcoming G-20 event being held in Srinagar, the J&K police chief said that the event was the outcome of the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the entire UT. "Smart City is being developed and a massive development is taking place. Closure of schools, street protests, strike calls and business losses is a history now. G-20 is an opportunity to promote J&K's tourism potential at the international level and to give the tourism industry a global push amid a peaceful atmosphere," the DGP said. KNO

Cisco to set up...

Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics & Technology, B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, and K. Rajaraman, Telecom Secretary.

"Today, we are announcing strategic investments in Indian manufacturing capabilities as the next step in delivering cutting-edge technologies to our customers in India and across the globe," said Chuck Robbins, chair and CEO of Cisco. "Fueled by a rapidly developing digital economy, India is a focal point of innovation and business for Cisco, and we remain deeply committed to our partnerships here."

The manufacturing facility will build Cisco's best-in-class technology, designed to provide flexible, cost-effective delivery of next-generation services and applications and support complex cloud computing environments. The products can meet companies' dynamic demands as they strive to foster agility in an increasingly hybrid, digital-first world.

Cisco is now building core manufacturing capabilities in India, including testing, development and logistics,

and expanding in-house repair operations. In addition to supporting supply chain resiliency, reducing lead times, and elevating customer experience, this will add further impetus to the local economy.

India is a key market for Cisco and its second largest R&D center outside the US. Since commencing operations in India in 1995, Cisco has focused on helping the country digitize at scale and speed, including accelerating the transformation of critical sectors like transport, agriculture, including through the Country Digitization Acceleration program, and building a skilled workforce through the Cisco Networking Academy program, it said.

Member of Parliament...

appropriate redressal of all the genuine issues put forth by him during the interaction. KNO

NIA attaches properties...

accused, Doulat Ali Mugal and Ishaq Pala, in Herman Shopian Tehsil in Kashmir under the UA(P) Act, the statement said.

"While Ishaq Pala, currently lodged in Central Jail Agra, was a terrorist of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM)/Al-Badr, Doulat Ali Mugal was an over ground worker of the proscribed HM and is currently out on bail. The former, while in Central Jail Srinagar, had conspired with his co-accused, including Riyaz Naikoo and Doulat Ali Mugal, and assisted Danish Ghulam Lone and Suhail Ahmad Bhat to cross the border from Kupwara sector to join militant ranks and wage a war against the State. Accused Doulat Ali Mugal had provided logistic support to accused Danish Ghulam Lone and Suhail Ahmad Bhat at Kupwara when both were about to cross the LoC," the statement said.

The duo was chargesheeted by the NIA on February 22, 2019 and charges were framed by the NIA Special Court Jammu on August 06, 2019.

The properties attached on orders of NIA Special Court, include land measuring 5.5 Marla and 3.5 Marla under survey Nos.1597 Min and 1598 Min, including one double storey house of accused Doulat Ali Mugal located at Village Manigah Kupwara, and Immovable property in the form of two rooms under the ownership of accused Ishaq Pala at village Allora, Tehsil Herman,

Shopian, the statement added.

The NIA had launched investigations into the case in February 2018, and had busted a HM module of OGWs/militants, the statement said, adding that the others arrested and chargesheeted in the case were Danish Ghulam Lone, Suhail Ahmad Bhat, Ferooz Ahmad Lone, while a key conspirator, Reyaz Ahmad Naikoo, a top militant of Hizbul Mujahideen, was killed in an encounter with the security forces.

In the second case, the agency attacked the immovable property of accused Fayaz Ahmad Magray, an Over Ground Worker of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and currently lodged in District Jail Jhajjar, Haryana, the statement said, adding that the Property consisted of six shops constructed over land measuring 5.5 Marlas under survey No. 2664 Min at Lethpora, Pulwama, belonging to the accused.

Fayaz was chargesheeted on August 01, 2018 for conspiring, along with local/Pakistani militants of JeM, to execute a fidayeen attack on CRPF Group Centre Lethpora, Pulwama, it said, adding that he carried out a ruse of the CRPF centre, and provided logistic support to JeM militants before and after the attack.

During the attack, two militants, Fardeen Ahmad Khandey and Manzoor Ahmad Baba, along with one Pakistani Abdul Shaikoo, were killed inside the CRPF Group Centre Lethpora. Other key conspirator militants, namely Mudassir Khan and Sajjad @ Mufti Waqas (Pakistan), were killed in subsequent encounters, the statement said.

The NIA launched investigations in February 2018 into the criminal conspiracy to commit acts of militancy and violence in Kashmir. Its investigations led to the busting of a module of Over Ground Workers of JeM. Besides Fayaz Ahmad Magray, other accused arrested in the case were identified as Nissar Ahmad Tantray, Syed Hilal Andrabi, Irshad Ahmad Reshi. All of them were subsequently chargesheeted by the NIA, the statement added. KNO

Union Home Secretary...

Union Home Secretary regarding the working of Jammu and Kashmir Police and measures taken for maintaining peace in the UT. On the occasion, DGP on behalf of all ranks of J&K Police presented mementos to the Union Home Secretary & DIB as a token of love

& respect, the statement said. KNO

'Blue Economy' to be...

are planned during end of 2024 using Remotely Operated Vehicle. A dedicated multi-purpose survey vessel is being acquired, he said.

In the meeting, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey said that the mission aims to boost the central government's vision of 'New India' that highlights the blue economy as one of the ten core dimensions of growth.

Union Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan said that it is essential that the Mission involves all stakeholders and takes everyone into confidence especially the communities residing in the coastal regions of the country.

Union Minister of State, Ministry of Defense, Shri Ajay Bhatt appreciated the Ministry of Earth Sciences for progress it has achieved in making the Deep Ocean Mission a reality and ensured all the support from the Ministry of Defense and the Indian Coast Guard.

Shri Suman K Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog said that there is a lot of potential in the Deep Ocean Mission. Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India complimented the team behind the mission for the progress achieved and said that in one year the project has really fructified.

Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr M Ravi-chandran thanked the various ministries for working together to realise the goals of Deep Ocean Mission.

The Deep Ocean Mission was sanctioned in September 2021. The estimated cost of the Mission is Rs. 4047 Cr. for 5 years with two phases: Phase I - Rs. 2823.40 Cr. - three years, Phase-II - Rs. 1223.60 Cr. - after successful review of Phase I. The Deep Ocean Mission consists of 6 themes: 1) Development of Technology for deep sea mining, manned submersible and underwater robotics, 2) Development of Ocean and climate change Advisory services, 3) Technology innovations for exploration and conservation of deep sea biodiversity, 4) Deep Ocean survey and exploration, 5) Energy and Freshwater from the Ocean, 6) Advanced marine station for Ocean Biology.

Dulloo reviews implementation of HADP; Exhorts officers to achieve targets in set timelines



J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 10: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, today reviewed implementation of certain schemes being executed under the ambitious Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) during a meeting held with concerned officers and other stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K; Directors of Sericulture; Agriculture and Horticulture Jammu and Kashmir besides other concerned officers.

ACS impressed upon the officers to implement the holistic plan in its entirety keeping its aims and objectives in mind. He asked them to do all the preliminary works before hand regarding issuing of tenders, procurement and management of human resources.

He asked them to maintain all standards of transparency by framing thorough specifications of tender documents for timely procurement and utilization of resources. He stressed on accepting applications for all the components exclusively through online mode on its portal from the public. He made out that the same has been launched with the aim of ensuring transparency, accountability and fairness.

Dulloo also took note of the position of funds available under each scheme of this plan. He assured that all requirements raised during the meeting would be taken into account for early resolution. He also directed the officers to submit deliverables under

each of the component so that these are completed within the set timeframe.

ACS exhorted upon the officers to ensure that all projects being executed under HADP are completed within the set timelines. He was apprised that all the preliminary preparations and consultations with the stakeholders are space and going to be implemented in letter and spirit within its set timeframe.

The sub projects taken up for discussion during the meeting included Development of Seed & Seed Multiplication chain, Promotion of Niche Crops, Promotion of Vegetable/Exotic Vegetables under open and protected cultivation, Strengthening of Agriculture Marketing in UT, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, Beekeeping, Promotion of Sericulture, Promotion of Millets and Nutri-cereals, Farm Mechanization year round Mushroom Cultivation.

Some of the works which were also deliberated upon during the meeting included 100% off take of seeds, framing of strategy document for development of breeder and foundation seeds, establishment of 500 CSPs/SPOs, engagement of 12000 primary seed producers, Promotion and expansion of area under crops like Saffron, Kala zeera, Chilli, Mushkhuddi, Red Rice etc.

Similarly, the meeting discussed creation of new mandies, establishment of CA stores, creation of Agriculture Branding Centres, Market Intelligence Cell, area expansion under Medicinal & Aromatic Plants

besides establishment of Centre of Excellence on Herbal technology and beekeeping.

The avenues like development of 10 lakh mulberry plants, establishment of Chawki Rearing Centres, Certified seed production of 2000 Quintal of High Yielding Varieties at Departmental farms, expansion of area under millets by 6000 Ha, Mechanization of Public Sector farms, establishment of AI and Precision Farming Centers, Procurement of new strains of Mushrooms and establishment of 26 Pasteurized Compost Making Units and 72 Controlled conditioned cropping units etc also came up under discussion during this meeting.

The plan includes a total of twenty nine projects. These projects based on the principles of economy, equity & ecology shall transform the agricultural economy of J&K putting it on a new trajectory of growth, almost doubling the output of the sectors, boosting exports and making the sectors sustainable & commercially viable. This will herald a new phase of farmer prosperity and rural livelihood security in J&K. The agricultural output which stands at Rs 37600 crore shall increase with a resultant increment in sectoral growth rate to 11%.

Moreover, the interventions would result in creating employment opportunities for over 2.8 lakh youth and establish around 19,000 enterprises. More than 2.5 lakh persons shall be skilled in various agri-enterprises ranging from seed production, precision farming of vegetables, bee-rearing, cocoon production, mushroom farming, integrated & organic agriculture, high-density fruit farming to processing, dairying, sheep & poultry farming as well as fodder production. In the next five years, the UT shall have a motivated workforce with entrepreneurial skills in a commercially viable and ecologically sustainable agri-ecosystem, as is envisaged with the completion of this holistic development plan.

Vital boost for Pashmina Sector: H&H Deptt commissions OFDA 4000

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 10: In a major boost towards the testing and authentication of Pashmina, a state of art equipment OFDA 4000 stands procured by the Handicrafts & Handloom Department Kashmir.

The equipment was inaugurated by Director Handicrafts and Handlooms Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah, today at the Pashmina Testing and Quality Certification Centre, Bagh e Ali Maridan Khan Nowshera, Srinagar.

At this occasion, Director was briefed that the equipment was unique and its availability would enhance the testing process for classification of Pashmina and other fibres. He was also informed that the testing results of the equipment are more

accurate and would decrease the time period required for testing and certification of Pashmina significantly.

Further the equipment is the first one to be commissioned in the UT of J&K and such facility of testing with OFDA 4000 is available at very limited places in the country.

The equipment is capable of testing more than 4000 fibres in less than a minute and can determine such characteristics of the fibre like micron, length, crimp etc.

It can test Pashmina fibre, yarn and fabric thus making testing easy and hassle free.

With the availability of the OFDA 4000 the process of labeling of Pashmina based GI crafts particularly Pashmina, Kani and Sozni is set to receive a big boost and shall result in

widespread use of the GI certified products and would also help in checking of counterfeit Pashmina.

Further the availability of the equipment would not only help in securing the future handmade Pashmina sector in the UT of J&K but shall also significantly increase the earning of the artisans associated with Pashmina craft.

On this occasion the staff of Handicrafts and Handloom Department and Pashmina Testing Centre were provided training by Hebert Hornik from Hornik Fibretch in the operation and maintenance of the equipment.

The department intends to conduct awareness camps about GI testing and labeling so that the stakeholders of the Pashmina sector take advantage of the said facility.

FSD Anantnag imposes penalty of Rs. 2 lakh on 07 erring FBOs

J I NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, MAY 10: The Food Safety Department (FSD) Anantnag has seized food items worth Rs. 1 Lakh from the premises of M/S: Quality World Mattan.

The seized items include Fit Cracker (Fru), Biscuit Potato (Fru), and Pan Fit milk flavoured Biscuits, after they were found to be of unsafe quality due to the presence of sulphite as Soz above the maximum prescribed limit. The reports came from the National Food Laboratory Ghaziabad, which prompted the Food Safety Department to conduct a thorough investigation.

The department also procured 03

enforcement samples from the seized stock for further analysis.

Additionally, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Adjudicating Officer under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006) Anantnag imposed a penalty of Rs. 2 lakh on 07 erring Food Business Operators, including a prominent company for violating the regulatory provisions of law under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The accused FBOs were convicted during the trial of the cases filed by the Food Safety Department.

The statutory samples procured by the Food Safety Officers of the district for analysis at National Food Laboratory Ghaziabad and Food

Laboratory Kashmir were declared as Sub-Standard/Misbranded Quality. The Food Safety Department has been proactive in ensuring the safety of food items sold in the district.

They have been conducting regular checks on various food items to ensure that they are of good quality and meet the prescribed standards.

Meanwhile, the department has urged the public to be vigilant and report any instances of substandard food items being sold in the market.

The Food Safety Department has assured the public that they will continue to be vigilant and take strict action against those found violating the prescribed standards.

National Painting Camp by Directorate of Tourism, JKCCA culminates

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: A three days' National Paintings Camp organized by Directorate of Tourism Jammu & Kashmir in association with Jammu & Kashmir Centre for Creative Arts (JKCCA), Jammu, at Tourist Complex, Mansar Lake in District Samba of J&K (UT), culminated on 9th May, 2023. Sh. D P Abrol, Vice-Chief, JKCCA was the chief guest on this occasion. Ten well known artists from different states/UTs of the country viz. Dr. Dr. A K Dixit, New Delhi; Pratima Singh, Lucknow; K S Gill, Atul Mattu Dharminder Sharma and Atul Mattu, Amritsar; Jang S. Verma and O P Sharma, Jammu; Mirm Dey, Kolkata; Deepak Mehra, Bari Brahma; and Ritika Verma, Nud (Samba) participated in the artists camp, w.e.f. 7th - 9th May, 2023, in the lap of Nature surrounding Mansar Lake.



Rai IRS, Director Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department, Jammu and Smt. Sunaina Sharma JKAS, Joint Director, J&K Tourism Department, Jammu for their support in organizing the three days art event at Tourist Complex, Mansar Lake (Samba). He also appreciated the participating artists for creating paintings in a scenic view of Mansar Lake area in its varied hues. He said that the purpose of organizing such events is to promote art & culture in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and draw people from other parts of the country to enjoy the Natural beauty of the area, as well as to share the experiences of creativity and the styles and mediums with the other artists.

It may be mentioned here that JKCCA, established in 1999, is working for the cause of preserving, promoting and activating the splendid art heritage of Jammu & Kashmir. JKCCA has so far organized hundreds of such activities within and outside the state including fourteen International Art Exhibitions, and many state and national level art exhibitions and painters camps so far.

G20 Submit an Opening for Startups and Local Industry for Export of their Products in International Market : FOIJ

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: Federation of Industries Jammu Welcome the Delegates of 20 Major Countries of G20 Submit in Jammu & Kashmir which will open avenues for the Local Industry in World Market and also a boost for the Startups to show case their Innovations in different fields to Dignitaries for Tie-Up with the Angel Investors in their Countries. While highlighting the issue, Sh. Lalit Mahajan, Chairman Federation of Industries Jammu conveyed heartfelt thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Home Ministers Sh. Amit Shah for conducting the G-20 Summit in Srinagar from 22nd to 24th May 2023 which will prove an

golden opportunity for the Local Industry as well as Startups for Tie Up to Export their Products to have the Angel Investors for the Commercial as well as marketing support for Innovated Products developed by the Young prospective Entrepreneurs of Jammu & Kashmir. It is pertinent to mention here that with the sincere efforts of Dr. Jitendra Singh Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Science & Technology, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance Numbers of Buddy Entrepreneurs has taken the initiative to develop their Products under the Startups programme of Govt. of

India and it is the right time to Showcase their products for getting the Angel Investors for the large-scale production of their products and also to Export of their products for International market.

It is worthwhile to mention here that after Article 370 was revoked since 5th August 2019 massive Economic Development in Jammu & Kashmir in progress in last four years which did not happened in last 50 years which also includes the Massive Industrialization on the basis of Package of Incentive announced by Govt. of India in 2021 for which the credit goes to our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah resulting Job opportunities for local people in near future.

CBI, Bishnah organises Financial Literacy, Social Security Scheme awareness Camp

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: One day awareness programme on 'Financial Literacy, Government Sponsored Schemes and Mass Bank Account Opening' was held at Sunrise Higher Secondary School, Sikanderpur, Bishnah District Jammu. The programme was organised by Nations Development Association (NDA) in collaboration with Central Bank of India Branch Bishnah. The programme was participated by more than 100 Students Parents and they opened bank account at Central Bank of India (CBI). In his welcome speech, Principal of Sunrise Higher Secondary School, Sikanderpur, Bishnah Dr. G.S. Charak that despite of heavy daily schedule, the bank officials are willing to spend time to gether with Sunrise High Secondary School, Sikanderpur, Bishnah Students and Parents.



Rupali Gupta Branch Manager of CBI, Branch Bishnah, Jammu and Assistant Manager CBI and Sushil Singh Charak Chairman Nations Development Association (NDA) spoke as resource persons in the programme. The programme is organised to make the Students and Parents aware on how to open bank account, how to apply start ups loans, Government Sponsored Insurance Schemes Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMBSBY), Life Cover under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan (PMJDY), Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY), Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWB-CIS) and know about its benefits, he added.

Rupali Gupta CBI Branch Manager said that Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is a flagship scheme of Government of India. The scheme facilitates micro credit/Loan up to Rs. 10 lakh to income generating micro enterprises engaged in the non farm sector in manufacturing, processing, trading or service sector. MUDRA supports Financial Intermediaries to extend loans to the non-corporate, non-farm sector income generating activities of micro and small entities.

Gupta also said these Micro and small entities comprises of millions of proprietorship / partnership firms running, as small manufacturing units, service sector units, shopkeepers, fruits / vegetable vendors, truck operators, food-service units, repair shops, machine operators, small industries, artisans, food processors and others, in rural and urban.

Sushil Singh Charak said the scheme is being offered by Public Sector General Insurance Companies or any other General Insurance Company who are willing to offer the product on similar terms with necessary approvals and tie up with banks for this purpose. He also appreciated the role of Principal of Sunrise Higher Secondary School, Sikanderpur, Bishnah District Jammu Principal Dr. G.S. Charak and his team members for providing logistic and for making local arrangements. The event was coordinated by Mrs. Sunamjeet Kour. Present on the occasion Chief Bank of India staff Nitya Tosh Vasishta, Vijay Kumar, Bodh Raj and Sat Pal.

NMB: Education Department Bandipora holds Awareness programmes

J I NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, MAY 10: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad, awareness programs/Quiz Competitions/Rallies on Drug Demand Reduction were today organised at HSS Naidkhai, HSS Nowgam and HSS Hajin.

The programs were attended by the

huge gathering of students, staff members of the institutions along with SMDC members, PRI members and the representatives of the Medical department.

Students on the occasions delivered lectures regarding the ill effects of Drug Addiction. Staff members also gave an in-depth briefing about the menace of drug addiction around our localities and other parts of Kashmir

valley. The representatives of the Medical department raised awareness among students regarding the demerits of drugs and its impact on society.

During the programme, PRI members also discussed the bad effects of drug addiction in the society and said that the message of 'Say No To Drugs' should spread in the nook and corners of the society.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Pakistan unrest has bearing on J&K situation

The unrest in Pakistan has always had a direct bearing on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir which shares its boundaries with the hostile country. Several parts of Pakistan have reported violence after the former Prime Minister and main opposition leader Imran Khan was arrested on Tuesday. His arrest has raised the stakes of the neighbouring country's political crisis and sparked clashes between his supporters and police. Imran Khan was ousted by Pakistan Parliament last April after, according to his allies, the military dropped its support for him. Public disputes between Khan, the military and the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had mounted in intensity over the past days, after Khan accused a senior officer of involvement in an assassination attempt against him in November, which he narrowly survived. Military and government officials have strongly denied those claims. Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have kept a close vigil over the situation in Pakistan as it has the potential of directly affecting the peace here. National Conference chief and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah has somewhere rightly pointed out that a destabilised Pakistan was dangerous for all countries, including India. He argued that India want a stronger and a democratic Pakistan where democracy flourishes, which would also improve its relations with India. There is no denial of the fact that the internal situation in Pakistan was "very dangerous" and its economic condition was also very bad. A peep into the history of Pakistan shows that since independence, the first Prime Minister of the country was assassinated, then (Zulfiqar Ali) Bhutto was hanged and later his daughter Benazir Bhutto fell to bullets. Now, Imran Khan is the fourth former PM, who has been jailed. Pakistani authorities claimed that Khan's arrest was linked to a corruption and money laundering case that has been evolving for months. The former prime minister also faced a number of other charges in separate cases, all of which he has rejected. It is a bare truth that Pakistan's deteriorating economic situation has become the top concern among the people of Pakistan, with the current government and Khan trading blame over the root causes of the crisis. Financial experts fear that the country may be on the verge of defaulting on its international loans. After coming to power in 2018, Khan's rhetoric became more anti-American, and he expressed a desire to move closer to China and Russia -- including talks with President Vladimir Putin, the day the invasion of Ukraine began. At the same time, U.S. and Asian foreign policy experts said that Pakistan's powerful military has traditionally controlled foreign and defence policy, but Khan's sharp public rhetoric had an impact on a number of key relationships. The coming days with a lot of unrest are crucial for Jammu and Kashmir and India is closely looking at the unfolding developments in the neighbouring country.

Covid-19 shows medical community can do wonders

Identifying and overcoming the inadequacies in our public healthcare sector have been big takeaways.

MANOJ JOSHI

The World Health Organisation, on May 5, 2023, declared that Covid-19 was no longer a public health emergency of international concern. In simpler terms, Covid-19 has become like any other endemic disease. Covid-19 had swept across continents in many waves, affecting over 76 crore people and causing close to 70 lakh deaths. India has had 5.9 lakh deaths and nearly 4.5 crore infections. India saw over 4 lakh cases a day during the peak of the second wave in May 2021. The staggering death toll across nations was termed as "both a profound tragedy and a massive global failure at multiple levels" by the Lancet Commission on lessons for the future from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Some of the failures identified by the commission were the lack of timely notification of the initial outbreak of cases, delay in acknowledging the crucial airborne exposure pathway of the virus, the failure of governments to cooperate and adopt uniform best practices for controlling the pandemic, shortfall in funding, inequitable distribution of vaccines and failure to combat disinformation.

With cases down to a few thousand a day in India in May 2023, people have moved on to normal life. But the virus is here to stay. It will continue to cause sporadic illness, which could be troublesome in vulnerable persons. As pointed out by experts, it will be left to individuals to take preventive measures. The coming months and years will tell us if periodic vaccination is required for new strains or not.

The biggest lesson from Covid-19 is that if the medical community works in unison, it can do wonders. It took less than a year after the genome of the novel coronavirus was deciphered for the first vaccine to be available for use. It used to take years to make a vaccine earlier; the fastest vaccine -- the mumps vaccine -- had taken four years to develop. The United Kingdom government's Vaccine Taskforce, the Operation Warp Speed of the USA and the European Union, all invested heavily with liberal funding, with scientists working in different domains contributing to the development of more than one vaccine. This experience paves the way for vaccines



not only against more pathogens but also cancer and heart disease.

The pandemic had exposed the inadequacies of the health infrastructure and preparedness, both in the developed world and developing nations. Media reports of long ambulance queues outside hospitals in the UK or bodies piled up in US hospitals were followed by visuals of people scampering for oxygen cylinders or crucial drugs during the second wave in Indian cities. India did respond with great determination and action. While makeshift field hospitals were set up, nearly one lakh ICU beds were created with augmentation of ventilator capacity and new oxygen plants installed. Capacity building was done from scratch for manufacturing PPEs and antigen-based and PCR-based testing for the virus. India proved its mettle in vaccine manufacturing by producing billions of doses of vaccines, including its own researched and developed vaccines. Identifying and overcoming the inadequacies in our public healthcare sector have been the biggest takeaways from the pandemic. However, India needs to increase its healthcare spending, which currently is less than 1.5 per cent of the GDP. There is a need to ramp up health infrastructure in not only rural India but also in towns and cities. India also established INSACOG (Indian SARS-COV-2 Genomics Consortium), a network of 54 laboratories, to monitor

the genomic variations in the SARS-COV-2 virus in India to help understand viral dynamics, mortality trends, outbreaks and epidemiology of the infection and plan interventional strategies. The data generated can also be used to understand long-term complications and the duration for which the immunity lasts as well as forecast future course specific to our country. The setting up of INSACOG has reiterated the need for adopting technological advances and acknowledging the fact that investment in science is a rewarding experience.

The pandemic has also generated health awareness like never before. Apart from the 'R' factor, spike protein, receptors and oxygen saturation becoming household words, people now understand containment, surveillance and isolation and the importance of reporting disease. There has, indeed, been a distinct change in individual behaviour towards health. Widespread use of telemedicine, including videoconferencing, has also helped patients in getting an option to connect with specialist doctors. It can transcend distance and remoteness and transform healthcare in semi-urban and rural areas. Imagine how many lives can be saved among those who suffer a head injury, stroke, heart attack or complications of pregnancy if specialists are available in remote areas.

The other experience was with

online teaching. Though it was initially hailed as a radical shift in learning, it soon led to fatigue. However, it is here to stay and if used judiciously, for example in universities, its virtues outweigh the drawbacks. Work from home has seen the pendulum swinging, but again, it can certainly be useful in many fields to cut down on overhead office expenditure.

Covid-19 has also been a great leveller in making people aware of their vulnerabilities regarding their health, irrespective of social class or economic superiority.

Though life is rapidly returning to normal, during the two years of the pandemic, health had become an overriding factor in life. Bonding with family and friends has a new meaning now. Though public memory is short and many people are back to the same old pre-Covid routine, for a lot of others, life has changed, with new priorities and focus on a healthy life, more exercise, eating right and more time with those ones.

The pandemic has shown us the importance of maintaining public health and preventing the spread of any disease. People also realised how crucial mental health is. The selfless work done by volunteers, social organisations and healthcare workers has brought up traditional Indian values of humanitarianism and charity.

Post Covid, the world should emerge wiser and safer, having learnt its lessons.

Businesses are still bogged down by red tape

GOVT OFFICIALS INSIST THAT THE CENTRE HAS IMPLEMENTED REFORMS RELATING TO EASE OF DOING BUSINESS.

SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN

Red tape is the bane of the Indian bureaucracy. To some extent, every government is plagued with this issue. British comedy series 'Yes Minister' was a humorous take on the Gordian knots into which the state can even its political leaders. In this country, a similar maze of rules and regulations has been a disincentive for foreign investors to venture into these shores for many years. Indian entrepreneurs have equally faced the tribulations of the licence raj regime. There seemed to be light at the end of the tunnel with the economic reforms and liberalisation policies that were launched in 1991. Since then, successive governments have tried their best to cut red tape and simplify procedures. Even so, bureaucrats continue to weave a tangled web.

A recent media report on this issue is telling. It says that about 30,000 applications seeking to condone delayed returns are pending with the Income Tax Department. What is even more interesting is that officials are quoted in the report as seeking to study each application indi-

vidually before taking a decision. The concern over scrutiny is inexplicable given the fact that the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has in recent years directed that delays can be condoned by senior officials. The fact that prolonging the clearance of the applications will cause hardship to income tax payers is evidently of little consequence to the officialdom.

This is just one instance of stubborn bureaucracy that has come to light. Conversations with those in trade and industry reveal that there are many cases where regulations have been given priority at the cost of the ease of doing business. In this context, one must note that this government has tried to convert interfaces between businessmen and officials into digital rather than physical ones. Many difficulties have been resolved by this shift towards digital interactions. Yet, those in the industry find that often the digital format becomes unworkable at crucial stages. This was mentioned to me by an executive who noted that the CBDT's efforts to prevent face-to-face meetings with officials were thwarted by the mysterious collapse of systems.



The experience is anecdotal but could reflect a trend, given the corporate sector's continuing woes over delays due to red tape.

There is also a tendency in recent times for government officials to insist that the Centre has implemented reforms relating to ease of doing business. In fact, at a business channel's conference of small and medium enterprises where procedural issues were highlighted, G20 Sherpa and former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant recently stated that the Centre had done its work and it was now for the

states to carry out reforms. Given the latest report about thousands of pending income tax applications, it is evident the work is not finished even for Central government agencies.

Yet, it must be conceded that the regulatory framework has come a long way from the days of the licence raj. According to the Economic Survey, the Centre and states together have eliminated more than 39,000 compliances to foster ease of doing business. In addition, over 3,500 provisions related to minor technical or procedural defaults have been decrimi-

nialised, while minor economic offences have also been decriminalised under the Companies Act of 2013.

These measures are all to the good, but the fact is, there are still inordinate delays in approvals for setting up and operating a business in this country. This at a time when India is competing for foreign investments with other countries like Vietnam and Indonesia that are reported to have an easier climate for setting up industries. In the case of the former, the advantages include simplified investment

rules, low labour costs, tax incentives and its participation in regional trade groupings. Indonesia is also luring many companies looking to implement a 'China plus one' policy after a series of reforms making investments easier than ever.

Currently, India is also receiving paucins of praise from foreign investors and media over its attractiveness as an alternative to China. The enthusiasm has grown after the opening of the Apple retail stores that received much positive publicity along with its sizable investments in manufacturing facilities. It has also, along with Samsung, been the driver of the doubling in mobile phone exports over the last two years from \$5.8 billion to \$11.2 billion in 2022-23.

It is precisely for this reason that the country needs to ensure that foreign investors are not disillusioned by the long time frame and numerous processes involved in setting up operations. While the broad swathe of economic policies cannot be faulted, including the successful production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, it is the nitty-gritty of setting up a business that remains daunting for investors.

Basics like construction permits and power connections, for instance, require innumerable approvals and take a long time. These processes need to be made simpler and quicker.

Many such issues are indeed within the purview of states. Here, there is a glimmer of hope that regulations will be eased as state governments are now vying for a share of the investments flowing from both domestic and foreign sources.

What is encouraging is that states not known for being industrial centres, such as UP and Rajasthan, are trying to attract investors. To do so, they will have to improve their regulatory processes.

A lesson to be learnt by these states is that Big Tech is setting its sights on the southern region where the business climate is considered more salubrious. Apple's collaborators Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron are making sizable investments in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, giving a clear indication of the better climate for industry there. It is, thus, clear that red tape will have to be cut in a big way both by the Centre and the states if investors are to remain here for the long run.

SONAM BAIWA WAS BULLIED FOR HER SKIN COLOUR: 'AS A PUNJABI, I WAS NOT GORI-CHITTI ENOUGH'

Sonom Bajwa has said that she was 'shunned' in the Punjabi film industry and celebs were given importance. Sonam Bajwa has said that she was bullied as a child for her skin colour. She was asked whether she ever felt sidelined in the Punjabi film industry, when she revealed that she was sidelined by her relatives in her childhood. Sonam is currently promoting her upcoming film *Goldy* on the OTT platform directed by (Harjota) Vijay Kumar Arora, the film also stars Tania, Gurjazz and Gitaz Bindrakhia.

Sonom told Siddharth Kannan in an interview, "When I was growing up as a kid, I was bullied for my skin colour because as a Punjabi, I was not gori chitti (fair) enough. A few of my relatives never even invited me to their house ever. I have never seen their houses while growing up. But when I

did well in my career, they called me to their house all the time; but unfortunately, I lost connection and respect. So this is life everyone respects successful people in industry or society."

She added that the best reaction is to avoid becoming the similar kind of people. "So, yes. People have sidelined me, and that too at an age, where you don't understand why they were doing this. In the industry, when I was shunned and big and successful celebs were given importance. It did not affect me much, to be honest, as I had seen much worse. I have also experienced that the makers would remove me from a film and not even let me know. So I have been through such times, but it doesn't affect me much."

Sonom worked with Bigg Boss 13 contestant Shehnaaz Gill in the latter's movie debut *Honsla Rakh* alongside Diljit Dosanjh.



Shweta Basu Prasad reveals what Sharmila Tagore told her at New York meeting

Shweta Basu Prasad shared glimpses from her recent meeting with veteran actor Sharmila Tagore in Manhattan, New York. Taking to Instagram on Wednesday, Shweta shared pictures with Sharmila. In the photo, the duo smiled and posed for the camera. In the picture, Sharmila wore a maroon chiffon saree and a matching blouse. Shweta was also seen in a maroon velvet outfit. Sharing the photo, Shweta Basu Prasad captioned it, "With Devi, in Mahanagar (heart eyes emoji). Sharmila ji and I during PR activities for #myindianfilmfest for our respective films *Gulmohar* and *Retake*. New York city..." Shweta also added the hashtags—Sharmila Tagore, Satyajit Ray, Devi Shweta Basu Prasad, New York, New York Indian Film Festival, *Gulmohar* film and *Retake* short film. Shweta geo-tagged her location as Manhattan, New York.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, Shweta shared a candid picture with Sharmila. She wrote, "I had to tell her so much. Talk about Tagore, Ray and winged eyeliner. All she said was, 'We are both wearing the same colour'. Me: 'Yes we are twinning. Also, I love you.' Shweta has written and directed the short film *Retake*. The film is about a 60-year-old artist who questions his life decisions and artistic endeavours after meeting his former lover and buddy at the funeral of his mentor. The film stars Anupam Kher, Zarina Wahab, and Danish Husain. Recently, Applause Entertainment announced on Instagram that the film will premiere at the New York Indian Film Festival. Anupam had commented on the post, "Looking forward for the world to watch our gem of a short film. #Retake." Shweta is best remembered for her award-winning performance in *Makdee* as a child artist. Recently, the actor garnered praise for portraying the role of Binod Das's wife in the Prime Video show *Jubilee*. She has also featured in series such as *Criminal Justice* and *India Lockdown*.

Sharmila returned to acting with *Gulmohar* after a long time. Helmed by Rahul Chittella, Manoj Bajpayee, Simran and Suraj Sharma are also a part of this movie. The film released on Disney+ Hotstar in March this year.

'I was filming music video with Jin and Suga, then we ate together', says BTS' Jimin. Here's where it happened

BTS member Jimin shared that he filmed a music video with his fellow group members Jin and Suga but added that it happened in his dream. Taking to Weverse on Wednesday, Jimin also said that in his dream he also feasted on a meal with the duo. Jimin wrote a post, as translated by Twitter user @btstranslation7, "I just woke up from this dream where I was filming a music video with Jinnie hyung and Yoongi hyung and then we went to go eat together." Reacting to the post, a fan wrote, "It's like when you dream about a mutual friend and immediately tell your other friend. He dreamt about Jin and Yoongi and immediately thought 'I should go tell ARMY.'" A comment read, "Oh baby, Jimin is missing his Yoongi and Jin hyung this much that he's



dreaming about them." A Twitter user said, "I believe dreams are mostly manifestations of what we were thinking about that day. He was probably thinking of his hyungs." "Please make it come true, Jimin! Tell your hyungs about it I'm sure they will definitely do it," read a

comment. On Weverse, a fan wrote, "Jimin are you ok? Will you please respond to me? I'm interested in how you are feeling. Please answer if not I will not breathe." The BTS singer replied, "But you must be breathing right now. Go on now hold your breath again." Jimin also

wrote, "Hehehe there are so many [armys] who stayed awake after coming back from the states. I have been trying to get into a healthy routine of sleeping early, getting up early. But this... is not it... hahaha." The singer recently returned from the US after finishing his work commitments. On Weverse, he shared a note, "I have returned safely, everyone! Thank you to all of the armys who came out to greet me and thank you so, so much to the armys who came to [support me] at the Tiffany [6 col] event, too." Jimin will treat fans to a new track from the upcoming *Fast* franchise movie, *Fast X*. The BTS singer will collaborate with rappers and singers Kodak Black, NLE Choppa, JVKE, and Muni Long for the song.

Prabhas greets fans with 'Jai Shri Ram'

The 3D trailer of Prabhas-starrer *Adipurush* was screened for select fans at a mall in Hyderabad on Monday evening. Fans turned up in large numbers to have a dekho of their favourite hero. Prabhas along with the team including director Om Raut, Kriti Sanon and Bhushan Kumar, watched the trailer amid huge fanfare.

Interestingly Prabhas' signature phrase is 'Darling' and that's how he usually addresses his fans and everyone. But this time he said 'Jai Shri Ram' (because of the film's genre). And subsequently, all the fans in the theatre echoed 'Jai Shri Ram.'

"I am not going to call you Darlings; I rather want to chant Jai Shri Ram throughout the film's promotional activities," said Prabhas to a euphoric response from the fans, speaking at the trailer screening. Videos from the event went viral on social media. A glimpse of the special gathering was shared by the makers, and it appeared to be an eventful affair. Dramatic turnaround!

When the trailer of *Adipurush* was first released last year in October, it received massive backlash for poor Vfx. Everyone criticised that the Vfx of the characters in the trailer are more like cartoons. The Om Raut directorial which was supposed to release for January 2023, was subsequently postponed to June 2023 because the makers wanted to rework on the graphics and improve the product. The makers invested and spent a lot of time and corrected the Vfx of the film to a large extent, and eventually released the trailer of the film on Monday.

Fans have been going gaga at the new trailer and feel that the characters in the film are more realistic than how it was.

Priyanka Chopra says all her actor ex-boyfriends were great, wonderful people: 'Relationships may have ended badly...'

Priyanka Chopra has spoken about all the actors she dated in India before finding true love in husband Nick Jonas. In a new podcast, Priyanka spoke highly of all her exes, calling them 'great' people, even if their relationships ended badly. Over her long career in Bollywood, Priyanka was linked to Shahid Kapoor, Harman Baweja and even Shah Rukh Khan. The actor never confirmed dating any of them. On Alex Cooper's podcast *Call Her Daddy*, Priyanka mentioned that she was a 'serial monogamist', when it came to dating.

"I went from relationship to relationship. I did not give myself time at all between relationships till my last one," she said. When asked why that was the case, she said, "I think I worked a lot and I always ended up dating the actors that I worked with are the people that I met on my set. And I think that, I just thought I had an idea of what a relationship should be like, and I kept seeking that and trying to fit the people that came into my life



into my idea of that relationship and I've dated great people." "Yeah, the relationships may have ended really badly some of them, but like the people that I've had, I've dated in my life, have been really wonderful. But after my ex before my husband, I literally took two years off. And that was a big reason," she said. Priyanka also talked about the beginning of her romance with Nick. Her co-stars from *Quantico*

hated her boyfriend at the time as she was always on the phone with him, crying. They wanted her to give Nick a chance and his brother Kevin also thought he should meet her. It was after she thoroughly Googled him one night and landed on his sultry video for *Close* that she finally decided to go out on a date with him. The couple is now parents to one-year-old daughter Malhi Marie Chopra Jonas.

Sonakshi Sinha says dad Shatrughan wanted her to join police; she sent him 1st pic after landing cop's role in *Dahaad*



Actor Sonakshi Sinha has opened up about father-actor Shatrughan Sinha's reaction to her role as a cop in the upcoming series *Dahaad*. In a new interview, Sonakshi revealed that in her childhood Shatrughan Sinha would tell his friends that his daughter would become a police officer. She added that Shatrughan is 'very keen to watch the show'. Sonakshi has a special connection with police uniforms. She made her debut in *Dabangg* (2010) opposite Salman Khan who played a cop. She was also a part of *Rohdy Rathore* (2012) opposite Akshay Kumar, who essayed the role of a police officer. Now, the actor herself has donned the police uniform for her debut OTT series *Dahaad*.

In an interview with news agency ANI, Sonakshi said, "I was looking for a powerful character for a long time. It's a very interesting character."

There are fun elements too. I have played such an important character after a long time. Abhi toh dil dahaad dahaad kar raha hai... Dil dhadak raha hai. Par excitement mein. (The heart beats faster due to excitement) The show marks my debut on the OTT platform as well. For the first time, the audience is going to watch me in a long format series."

Speaking about Shatrughan's reaction, Sonakshi said, "Papa bohat khush hai. (Papa is very happy). When I was a child, Papa used to tell his friends, 'My daughter would be a police officer.' So after donning the uniform, I sent him the first photo and told Papa, 'I have fulfilled your dreams...' He is very keen to watch the show." Sonakshi has learnt bike riding, judo and action stunts for the drama.

AMIR IQBAL KHAN ELIZABETH OLSEN, JESSE PLEMONS ON PLAYING REAL CHARACTERS IN 'LOVE DEATH' THERE'S ADDED PRESSURE

"Love & Death" actors Elisabeth Olsen and Jesse Plemons believe while the overall process of playing a character remains the same, there is "added pressure" when the story is based on true events. The actor duo currently star in "Love & Death", a miniseries based on the true story of Candy and Pat Montgomery and Betty and Allan Gore - two churchgoing couples enjoying their small-town Texas life until an extramarital affair leads somebody to pick up an axe. Olsen, who plays Candy in the HBO MAX Original series, said



the weight of essaying a real person is apparent but an actor

has to let go to be able to perform freely. "We have to abandon that weight and pressure or we will just feel stuck and too scared to make a choice. There's also some imagining that we have to do when there's a real person and when it's not a real person."

"Your imagination is just what your job is without the fear of comparison," the actor, known for biographical drama "Kill Your Darlings" and playing the superhero Scarlet Witch in *Marvel Cinematic Universe*, told agencies in a virtual roundtable interview. It's important for actors to remem-

ber that "there's another prism", she said. "The other prism is the script in the director's point of view and we are trying to take up our lane to serve this other story. And the other story isn't necessarily also completely trying to tell every single person's truth, yet it's not fully really in our control anyway," Olsen, 34, added. Plemons, popular for his performances in "Breaking Bad" and "Judas and the Black Messiah", echoed his "Love & Death" co-star's sentiment. "In a lot of ways, it's the same," said the actor, drawing parallels between playing real and fictional parts.

"You're still kind of creating a character based on your impression of what you have. It's either just a script and you fill in the blanks and connect the dots in your mind and answer whatever questions you need to answer. With a true story, you just have more," he added. Preparing to play Alan, who has an affair with his wife Betty's friend Candy, was a "fun process", Plemons said. "Those early weeks and months of just kind of digging around and seeing what you know, reading as much as you can and then just seeing what

strikes you and what sparks some idea. So it's similar. There is some added weight, pressure. "If the person actually lived, you do feel a responsibility to tell again their full story as you perceive it. You hope the way you perceive it is close and something that if they happen to watch it, they wouldn't be totally appalled by it," the 35-year-old actor added.

Billed as a riveting crime drama, "Love & Death" is an 80s-set series directed by Lesli Linka Glatter ("Mad Men" and "Homeland") and written by David E. Kelley of "Big Little Lies" fame.

Israel : Rocket attack underway from Gaza on southern Israel

GAZA CITY, MAY 10: Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday fired several barrages of rocket fire into southern Israel, in their first response to a series of Israeli airstrikes that have killed a total of 16 Palestinians, including three senior militants and at least 10 civilians.



The rocket fire set off air-raid sirens throughout southern Israel, where residents had been braced for an attack since Israel carried out its first airstrikes early Tuesday. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

Earlier on Wednesday, Israeli aircraft struck targets in Gaza a second straight day on Wednesday, killing at least one Palestinian and pushing the region closer toward a new round of heavy fighting.

Tuesday's strikes killed three senior Islamic Jihad militants and at least 10 civilians - most of them women and children. Palestinian militants have pledged to retaliate while Israel says it is prepared for a further escalation of hostilities. The Israeli military said Tuesday it was bombing Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant infrastructure in the coastal enclave.

The army said one airstrike targeted militants travelling to a rocket launch site in the southern Gaza Strip. Medics said the attack killed one man and seriously wounded another. Palestinian officials could not confirm whether the men were militants. It also remains unclear whether two Palestinians killed in a separate airstrike late Tuesday were militants or civilians. The Israeli military had instructed residents of southern Israel to remain near bomb shelters, and schools were still closed for a second day as a precaution against rocket attacks. Israel says the airstrikes are a response to a barrage of rocket fire launched last week by Islamic Jihad in response to the death of one of its members from a

hunger strike while in Israeli custody. Israel says it is trying to avoid conflict with Hamas, the more powerful militant group that rules Gaza, and confine the fighting to Islamic Jihad. But Hamas has expressed solidarity with its smaller counterpart, and the two groups often coordinate with one another. If the violence continues, the risk of a full-blown war could increase. Israel and Hamas have fought four wars since the start of 2023, according to an Associated Press tally. At least 20 people have been killed in Palestinian attacks targeting Israelis. Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek all three areas for a future state.

raid. Troops returned fire, killing the two men, and confiscated their firearms, it said.

The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the slain men as Ahmed Assaf, 19, and Rani Qatanat, 24. The Islamic Jihad militant group later claimed the two men as its members.

Israel has been conducting near-daily military raids in the occupied West Bank for over a year to detain suspected Palestinian militants, including many from Islamic Jihad. The northern West Bank city of Jenin and its environs have been the frequent target of such raids as it has emerged as a hub of Palestinian militant activity. Israel says the raids in the West Bank are meant to dismantle militant networks and thwart future attacks. At least 107 Palestinians, around half of them militants, have been killed by Israeli fire in the occupied West Bank since the start of 2023, according to an Associated Press tally. At least 20 people have been killed in Palestinian attacks targeting Israelis. Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek all three areas for a future state.

Congress Has No Right To Criticise Centre On Inflation: Nirmala Sitharaman

BENGALURU: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who cast her vote for Karnataka Assembly polls on Wednesday, expressed confidence about BJP coming back to power in the state with full majority and criticised the Congress over inflation during UPA rule.



On the issue of rising inflation, the Union minister said she and the BJP government stand with the people and want the prices to come down. Contending that the BJP government is making efforts to control price rise, she hit out at the Congress saying that it doesn't have any right to criticise the Centre on the issue as inflation was constantly high during its tenure.

"You are watching for yourself the situation here, senior citizens, youth, women have come with families and are peacefully standing in queues to get their rations, and looking at the way in which they interacted with me it is clear to me that BJP will come back victorious with full majority," Ms Sitharaman told reporters here after voting.

To a question on the foremost issues on her mind while voting as an elector, she said, "Good infrastructure, conducive environ-

ment for business and startups - in Bengaluru and Karnataka in the future days. Also for farmers producing 'Shree Anna' (millets). I have voted for the BJP government here and in Delhi, which we call double-engine government." "From the way I see it, Bengaluru is coming out in a big number (to vote). I hope the number will be improved upon," she said responding to a question on voter turnout concerns in Bengaluru.

Nirmala Sitharaman, a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, cast her vote at Jayanagar Assembly segment here. Responding to a question on price rise and inflation, Ms Sitharaman pointed out that inflation had constantly

been high during UPA rule. "I'm not in the competition of comparison. But constantly from 2014 till today, the Modi government has taken several measures to control inflation. Even in Karnataka, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai reduced the excise rate on petrol twice," she said, adding, "On the issue of inflation, I'm with people. Yes, it has to come down, but opposition has no right (to criticise), let them look at their tenure."

The Union Minister, however, did not want to respond to a question on the number of seats the BJP is expected to win in this Assembly polls.

Stating that she and her party always pray to

'Bajrangbali' and chant 'Nirmala Chalisa', Ms Sitharaman said Congress people become "election time bhakts of Lord Hanuman". "Karnataka is Hanuman ji land, this is the place of his birth. Coming here, you (Congress) are writing something in your manifesto. There is no bigger example of bewakoofi (foolishness) than this," she added. The comments have come in the backdrop of controversy over the proposal in the Congress' election manifesto on banning Bajrang Dal.

Both BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi picked up the issue to portray the grand old party as being against Lord Anjaneya and the sentiments of Hindus, and raised 'Jai Bajrangbali' slogans repeatedly during the high decibel campaign.

PM Modi's charisma works not only in Karnataka but across the country, the Finance Minister said, adding it is because people directly connect with the Prime Minister that they know he hears their voice and responds to them. Voting began at 7 am across the state and it will end by 6 pm. The results of the election will be declared on May 13.

Disruptions in NDMC meeting after BJP raises issue of renovation expenditure on CM's residence

NEW DELHI, MAY 10: The NDMC meeting on Wednesday witnessed disruptions after the BJP members raised the issue of crores of rupees spent on renovating Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence.

The BJP leader alleged that Kejriwal, who was absent in the last two meetings, attended Wednesday's meeting and 'left' the proceeding in between. However, sources in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claimed that the chief minister left after the proceedings were over.

The BJP has been attacking Kejriwal and AAP, claiming Rs 45 crore was spent on the renovation of the chief minister's residence 6, Flagonoff Road during 2020-22. The AAP has hit back, saying the BJP was trying to divert attention from real issues by raising this matter.

Addressing a press conference, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) vice

chairman and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Satish Upadhyaaya alleged, "The NDMC meeting was disrupted after Kejriwal was asked about the corruption."

"NDMC members asked him several questions, but he did not reply. We could not carry out the proceedings," NDMC member and BJP leader Kuljeet Singh Chahal said he raised the issue of expenditure on the CM's residence and showed pictures of the house in the meeting.

Kejriwal is a member of the NDMC by virtue of being the New Delhi MLA. According to the NDMC Act, MLAs from this constituency automatically become members of the Council. "We could not carry out a simple proceeding because Kejriwal stayed mum during the meeting and wanted the meeting to end soon," Chahal alleged at the press conference.

On Tuesday, Lt Governor V K

Saxena sought a detailed report from the chief secretary within a week into allegations levelled by Congress leader Ajay Maken about "extravagant" expenditure and violations in the renovation of the chief minister's official residence.

The AAP alleged that the BJP and Congress are colluding against it. "Everyone knows that this is a false case meant to tarnish the image of Kejriwal ji. Ajay Maken's complaint shows that BJP and Congress are both together and working against AAP," it alleged in a statement on the LG's decision on Tuesday.

The AAP has maintained that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence was built in 1942 and the roof had collapsed there. Following the roof collapse incidents, the public works department suggested a new house be built, the party had said.

Bengal Ban On 'The Kerala Story': Supreme Court To Hear Producers' Plea On May 12

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today agreed to hear on May 12 a plea by the producers of controversial multi-lingual film 'The Kerala Story' against the West Bengal government's ban on screening of the movie after the makers said they are "losing money everyday". Senior advocate Harish Salve mentioned the matter for urgent listing before a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha. Mr Salve said the petition challenges the ban by the West Bengal government and the "defacto" ban in Tamil Nadu.

The bench said it held on Tuesday posted for May 15 a separate plea against the Kerala High Court order refusing to stay the release of the movie and the fresh plea would also be heard on that day.

However, the bench agreed to list the plea for hearing on May 12 after Salve said, "We are losing money everyday." "The Kerala Story" starring Adah Sharma was released in cinemas on May 5. Directed by Sudipto Sen, the film depicts how women from Kerala were forced to convert to Islam and recruited by the terror group Islamic

State (IS). On May 8, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had ordered an immediate ban on the screening of the film in the state to avoid "any incident of hatred and violence", a senior state government official had said. The top court had on Tuesday agreed to hear on May 15 a plea against the Kerala High Court order refusing to stay the release of the film. On May 5, the high court had refused to stay the release of the movie and said the trailer does not contain anything offensive to any particular community as a whole.

The high court had noted the producers' submission that they do not intend to retain an "offending teaser" which contained a statement that "32,000 women" from Kerala were converted and joined a terrorist organisation. It had said the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has examined the movie and found it suitable for public exhibition. The high court had also noted that the producers have published a disclaimer along with the movie which specifically says it is fictionalised and a dramatised version of

events and that the film doesn't claim accuracy or factuality of historic events. "In view of the disclaimer also, we are not inclined to pass an interim order restraining the respondents from exhibiting the film as such. In view of the above and taking into consideration the statement made by the producer that the producer does not intend to retain the offending teaser in their social media handles, no further orders are necessary in this petition at this stage," the high court had said. It was hearing a batch of petitions which sought to set aside the certificate for public display given to the movie by the Censor board among other pleas including to ban it.

The petitions before the high court had contended that the movie "falsely portrayed" certain facts which had resulted in "insulting" the people of Kerala, and sought a stay on the movie's impending release.

On May 4, the top court had refused to entertain for a third time a plea challenging the CBFC certification granted to the movie, saying courts must be very careful while staying exhibition of films.

The wrestlers also decided to wear black armbands on Thursday to protest the "slow pace of investigation" against Singh. The protesters have been demanding arrest of Singh for alleged sexual harassment and intimidation of seven female wrestlers, including a minor. Delhi Police have filed two FIRs against the WFI president, medalist Bajrang Punia.

The wrestlers also decided to wear black armbands on Thursday to protest the "slow pace of investigation" against Singh. The protesters have been demanding arrest of Singh for alleged sexual harassment and intimidation of seven female wrestlers, including a minor. Delhi Police have filed two FIRs against the WFI president, medalist Bajrang Punia.

Ukraine's occupied nuke plant faces possible staffing crunch

KYIV, MAY 10: Russia plans to relocate around 2,700 Ukrainian staff from Europe's largest nuclear plant, Ukraine's atomic energy company claimed Wednesday, warning of a potential "catastrophic" lack of qualified personnel" at the Zaporizhzhia facility in Russia-occupied southern Ukraine.

Workers who signed employment contracts with Russia's nuclear agency Rosatom following Moscow's capture of the Zaporizhzhia plant early in the war are set to be taken to Russia along with their families, Energoatom said in a Telegram post. Energoatom did not specify whether the employees would be forcibly moved out of the plant nor was it immediately possible to verify Energoatom's claims about Moscow's plan. "Removing staff would 'exacerbate the already extremely urgent issue' of staff shortages, Energoatom said.

The Moscow-installed governor of the region ordered civilian evacuations from the area last Saturday, including from the nearby city of Enerhodar where most plant workers live. The full scope of the evacuation order was not clear.

Fighting near the plant has fueled fears of a potential catastrophic incident like the one at Chernobyl, in northern Ukraine, where a reactor exploded in 1986 and spewed deadly radiation, contaminating a vast area in the world's worst nuclear accident.

Zaporizhzhia is one of the 10 biggest nuclear plants in the world. While its six reactors have been shut down for months, it still needs power and qualified staff to operate crucial cooling systems and other safety features. Kremlin-installed authorities in the Zaporizhzhia region are accelerating their push to relocate local residents, including families of workers at the plant, due to an expected Ukrainian counteroffensive. Kyiv officials said. Military analysts say Ukraine may focus the counteroffensive on the Zaporizhzhia region, trying to split Russian forces in two by pushing through to the Azov Sea coast in the south.

Relatives of Zaporizhzhia plant staff who agreed to relocate were taken to Russia's southern Rostov region and placed in temporary camps, the Ukrainian General Staff said. It added that plant employees are currently prohibited from leaving Enerhodar. It made no mention of the alleged Russian plan referred to by Energoatom.

Ukraine's National Resistance Center, which says it runs and coordinates Ukrainian partisan movements on territory occupied by Russian forces, says Russian-installed officials in Zaporizhzhia are shutting down schools, preparing buses and appointing officials to oversee the evacuation process. They allege that the process is largely targeting children.

The International Criminal Court in March issued an arrest warrant for Russian leader Vladimir Putin for war crimes, accusing him and Russia's children's ombudsperson of personal responsibility for the abduction of minors from Ukraine. At the time, Ukraine's human rights chief Dmytro Lubinets said that 16,226 Ukrainian children had been forcibly taken to Russia, citing data from Ukraine's National Information Bureau.

After taking over at Zaporizhzhia, the Russians left the Ukrainian staff in place to keep the plant running but the exact number of workers currently at the plant is not known.

HC grants Centre time to state stand on plea against poll parties having names with religious connotation

New Delhi, May 10: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted the Centre four weeks to state its stand on a petition for de-registering political parties having names with "caste, religious, ethnic or linguistic" connotations and flags that resemble the national tricolour.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjay Kumar Prasad, was informed that in spite of issuance of notice on the public interest litigation in 2019, the central government was yet to file a reply.

Observing that the central government was an "equally important party" to the petition filed by lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhya, the bench said, "Council for Union of India prays for 4 weeks' time to seek instructions. He is granted 4 weeks' time."

The court also asked the counsel for the Election Commission of India, which has already filed a response to the petition, to seek further instructions in the matter. Upadhya has contended



in his plea that the use of names with religious connotations or symbols similar to the national flag or emblem might prejudicially affect the poll prospects of a candidate and would amount to a corrupt practice under the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951. "Review the political parties, registered with caste, religious, ethnic or linguistic connotations and ensure that they are not using a flag, similar to the national flag, and de-register them if they fail to change it within three months," the plea has said. The petition said such a step will help ensure free and fair elections. It has referred to political parties such as Hindu Sena, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen and Indian

Union Muslim League as examples of names with religious connotations and said this was "against the spirit" of the RPA and the Model Code of Conduct.

"In addition, there are many political parties including the Indian National Congress, which use a flag similar to the national flag, which is also against the spirit of the RPA," it said.

In its reply filed in 2019, the Election Commission had said in 2005 it took a policy decision not to register any political party having a name with religious connotations and thereafter, no such party has been registered.

However, any such party registered before 2005 will not lose its registration for having a name with a reli-

gious connotation, the poll panel said. It said any pre-2005 party cannot be de-registered for having a name with a political connotation and the issue of use of national flag as a symbol by the Indian National Congress has already been decided by the Supreme Court, which had observed that the party has been using it for long.

The EC had also said it was having a flag resembling the tricolour, the poll panel said. "Particulars regarding flag are not a relevant factor to be furnished by a political party for registration."

"The present petition is devoid of merits and liable to be dismissed," the poll panel had said in its affidavit.

The EC also said it has separately instructed all recognised parties to take note of the Supreme Court direction not to seek votes on the basis of religion or caste and to ensure its strict compliance.

Seeking votes on the basis of religion or caste will also amount to violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), it said.

Wrestlers challenge Brij Bhushan to take lie detector Narco Test

NEW DELHI, May 10 Olympic medalist wrestler Sakshi Malik on Wednesday challenged WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh to undergo lie detector Narco Test if he is confident of his innocence after seven grapplers levelled sexual harassment allegations against him.

The protesting wrestlers also said that they will oppose holding of competitions if Singh is involved in their

organisation. "I challenge WFI president to take a Narco Test. We are also willing to take the test.

"Let the truth come out in the open, because I'm right and who is not," Malik said at a press conference here.

"We want all competitions to take place under the ad hoc panel of IOA. If WFI chief is involved in any way, we will oppose it," said another Olympic



Govt Polytechnic College Kishtwar hosts Standard Writing and Debate competition

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MAY 10: Government Polytechnic College Kishtwar on Wednesday organized Standard Writing and Debate competition providing the students an opportunity to showcase their talent.

The event started at 12.00 noon in the premises of the institute with different curricular activities as per the guidelines laid down by The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). As many as 40 Students of 4th and 6th Semester participated in the event hosted by Er. Dheeraj Prakash Shan, mentor & Resource Person of the BIS. The objective of organizing such an event was to create awareness regarding the



importance of the standards to the students. The Student standard club Mentor described the motive of the event to the participating students and informed them about different types of standards pub-

lished by BIS such as products, methods of tests, Code of practices, Service Standards etc, with some common examples of day-to-day life. He also explained the importance of standards to the students.

He guided the students on the structure of an Indian Standard covering classes such as Foreword, Scope, References, Raw Materials requirements, finished product requirements, methods of sampling and

testing, packaging & marking requirements etc. The Students gave excellent performances in standard writing and debate competition on different Standards. It was very difficult for the Judges to decide the winners as all the students gave amazing performances. Tania Ara, student of 4th Semester Civil Engineering bagged the first Prize; Archit Padha, student of 6 Semester, Electrical Engineering was awarded the 2nd Prize, while Nassir Ayub Student of 6 Semester Civil Engineering was awarded with 3 Prize.

Canva Devi and Mohd Ikhliss received the Consultation Prizes. Principal Er. Mahmood Ahmad congratulated the

winners and appreciated Mentor, all faculty members & participant students for making the event a great success.

He encouraged the students to follow the standards in developing skills and making best use of the BIS standards in daily life. Er. Sarjay Kumar Gupta HoD of the institution thanked the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for taking this initiative in the welfare of the society. The event concluded with refreshment to all the participants. The program was coordinated by Sunam Sen, Er. Krishna Parihar, Er. Vikas Sharma, Er. Haroon Waza, Er. Arg Singh, Rakesh Kumar and other supporting staff of the institution.

Orientation program on fire prevention & emergency services held in GDC Vijaypur

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, MAY 10: Government Degree College Vijaypur, in collaboration with Fire and Emergency Station, conducted an awareness/orientation programme on fire prevention and emergency services for the faculty and students of GDC Vijaypur under the patronship of worthy Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Gupta. The program was initiated with the welcome address by Prof. Poonam Kundan, Head of Department of Environmental Sciences. She briefed the students regarding the imperativeness of the program to promote safety and reduce the risk of fire-related incidents.

In the first session, Jograj Singh Jasrotia (Incharge, Fire and Emergency Station, Vijaypur) explained to the students regarding types of fires and how various precautionary measures should be adopted during such disasters.

He gave various tips on how to prevent fires from starting, such as keeping flammable materials away from heat sources using smoke detectors and being cautious when cooking. In the second session, mock drill was conducted by the team of personnel of fire station Vijaypur wherein they explicated the varied simple modes of using fire extinguishers in a user friendly manner and other firefighting equipment.

Principal of the College Dr. Vandana Gupta tendered sincerely the endeavour of fire and emergency services.

The students were unveiled from the ignorance of such important and cautious need as the handling of fire extinguishers and emergency evacuation was simplified to them.

Power shutdown

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 10: Power Controller Kashmir has informed that, the power supply to Receiving Station Waterhail shall remain affected due to carry out upgradation works on May 13 and 15 from 10 am to 4.30 pm. Similarly, in order to carry out shifting of electrical utilities the power supply to receiving station Brakpora shall remain affected on May 15 from 11 am to 3 pm. Likewise, the power supply to 33 KV Habak-Zakura-Burzhama line shall remain affected on May 17 from 9 am to 3 pm. due to carry out Branch Cutting of tress laying in the vicinity of the line.

Similarly, in order to carry out shifting of electrical utilities, the power supply to receiving stations Mirbazar, Vessu, Chowgam, Qazigund Railway and Kund shall remain affected on May 11 from 11 am to 3 pm.

Samba admin launches major crackdown against illegal mining

14 VEHICLES SEIZED, 16 VEHICLES FINED ON SPOT, RS 3 LAKH PENALTY COMPOUNDED IN ONE WEEK: OFFICIALS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, MAY 10: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Samba Abhishek Sharma the Geology and Mining Department has intensified its efforts to crack the whip on illegal mining of minor minerals by laying round the clock Nakas in several areas of Samba District.

During the exercise, DMO Samba, M Sayeed and team seized dozens of minor mineral laden vehicles in different parts of the District. During the crackdown, around 30 vehicles including 10 dumpers, 18 tractor trolleys and 2 JCB machines were seized and penalized. Besides a fine of Rs 3 lakh has been compounded, this includes the vehicles apprehended by Samba Police. The departmental team asked drivers to purchase minerals from legal sources only and stay away from illegal mining practices. The District administration has adopted a zero tolerance policy against illegal mining and unauthorized transportation of minerals and people involved in the illegal trade shall not be spared, said a senior officer. The drive was conducted in continuation to the administration's tough stance against illegal mining in the district.

The locals were also asked to alert the administration of all illegal mining activities so that strict action could be initiated against those involved.

Meanwhile, authorities have urged general public to purchase the minor minerals (construction material) from the legal vendors on notified Government rates through online mode with assured service deliverance within the given time frame.

NMBA: Anti Drug Addiction programs held across Bandipora

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, MAY 10: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad, awareness programs, Quiz Competitions and Rallies on Drug Demand Reduction were organised today at BHSS Bandipora, HSS Sumbal, HSS Gadakhud, HS Onagam, HS Panar and HS Garoora.

The programs were attended by the huge gathering of students, staff members of the institutions along with SMDM members, PRI members and the representatives of the Medical Department.

Students on the occasion delivered lectures regarding the ill effects of Drug Addiction. Staff members also gave an in-depth briefing about the menace of drug addiction around our localities and other parts of Kashmir valley. The representatives of the Medical department also raised awareness among the students regarding the demerits of drugs and its impact on the society.

During the programme, PRI members also discussed the bad effects of drug addiction in the society and said that the message of 'Say No to Drugs' should spread in the nook and corners of the society.

It was given out that the main aim of such programmes is to spread awareness amongst the student community to take necessary steps for curbing the drug menace.

DC Udhampur holds public outreach camp at Tikri under Block Diwas program

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MAY 10: Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya today conducted an extensive tour of Block Tikri of District Udhampur and listened to public issues and demands at Panchayat Ghar Tikri as part of Weekly Block Diwas program.

BDC Chairperson, Nisha Sharma; DDC Councillor, Ashu Sharma, Sarpanches, Panches besides a large number of general public hailing from adjoining panchayats projected scores of demands and problems being faced by them.

They demanded water supply augmentation under JJM scheme, release of pending liabilities under 14th FC, Establishment of Anganwadi centre, Repair of solar lights, installation of Hand pumps, Scarcity of drinking water, Opening of Sewing centre, Construction of Boundary walls, Construction of Panchayat Ghar, Construction and Road topping of various roads, road



connectivity, Construction Foot Bridge over NH, inclusion of area on tourism map, Uninterrupted power supply in the area, Installation of mobile towers, Appointment of JE post, etc.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the demands and problems raised by the PRIs and general public, and passed on spot directions for redressal of their grievances at the earliest.

He directed the officers to take first hand appraisal of all the grievances of PRIs and redress them on priority.

The DC redressed many grievances on the spot by passing directions to the concerned officers. He stressed upon the officers to work with dedication and sincerity and redress genuine grievances of the people pertaining to their respective departments within the specified time frame.

BDC Chairman, DDC member and general public presented a detailed memorandum of demands to the DC and thanked for organizing the public outreach camp in the area.

DC Budgam convenes Block Diwas at Panchayat Halqa Kandoora of block Beerwah

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, MAY 10: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo today held a public grievances redressal camp/Block Diwas at Panchayat Halqa Kandoora in Block Beerwah of Budgam.

The programme was held at Panchayat Ghar Kandoora, wherein local PRIs, elders and local youth delegations from villages Sail, Sonpach, Kanigund, Latina, and other adjacent villages participated and raised their demands with the DC. Stressing on

speedy execution and completion of ongoing developmental works, the DC called for robust development of the area.

He assured people that all their genuine demands shall be taken up with the relevant quarters for prompt disposal.

He said all issues taken up during the Diwas shall be also discussed with all the departments concerned for speedy resolution.

Concerned departments were instructed to hold mutation camps and other awareness camps for con-

venience of the general public.

ACD and Tehsildar concerned were directed to identify suitable patch of land for the development of sports ground for local youth.

Officers were strictly instructed to ensure better service delivery to the general people.

Among others, ADDC Budgam, Dr. Akramullah Tak, JD planning, Rafiq Ahmad; ACD, ACP, SDM Beerwah, Executive Engineers of all wings, Tehsildar, BDO and District and Sectoral officers, officials were present on the occasion.

Secretary Tribal Affairs visits Kupwara; Inaugurates renovation, fencing project of G&B Hostel, convenes public outreach programme

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, MAY 10: Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, today visited Kupwara and inaugurated repair, renovation and fencing project of Gujjar Bakerwal hostel, Kupwara.

Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattaray and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

Secretary held an interaction cum public outreach programme with parents, students and staff of Gujjar Bakerwal Hostel and took stock of pace of work on different projects being executed in tribal villages of Kupwara.

During the visit of Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel Kupwara, Secretary reviewed status of facilities being extended to the students in the hostel.

Dr. Shahid, while addressing during the outreach programme at the hostel, congratulated the district administration Kupwara for active involvement of tribal communities in different development plan formulation and their execution as well.

He appreciated the district administration for ensuring participation of tribal community in different welfare and development programmes.

Secretary assured the people all support from the Tribal Affairs Department regarding quality education, infrastructure



development, youth engagement, empowerment and skill upgradation of tribal communities, provision of facilities in different sectors including healthcare, veterinary, Animal Husbandry, employment, promotion of tribal art and culture.

"The Tribal Affairs department in collaboration with district administration is actively engaging with all the stakeholders for a coordinated approach aimed at over-

all welfare and holistic development of tribal community of the district" Dr. Shahid maintained.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner elaborately explained about the status of implementation of various development projects in the district. He said that Tribal docks in areas like Bungas and Drangyari are being turned into home stays as tourist footfall is increasing in the district.

He informed that around 100 tribal students are availing education, boarding and lodging facilities in Gujjar Bakerwal Boys hostel, Kupwara.

Later, a colourful cultural programme depicting importance of education of tribal boys and girls was presented by the students of hostel.

Secretary distributed certificates of appreciation and mementos among the students, staff and community leaders for their exemplary achievements in different fields.

Secretary also had feedback on different issues concerning welfare and development of the district.

Director Tribal Affairs, Musheer Ahmad Mirza; SSP Kupwara, Yougal Manhas; DDC Member Kalaroose, Mustafa Rahie; DDC Member Hytham, Haji Sonaulallah Khan; ACD Kupwara, Hilal Ahmad Mir, Chief Education Officer Kupwara A.H Fani, BDO Hayhama, Dr. Tarique Ahmad Padder, Warden G&B Hostel, Nisar Ahmad, ZEO Khumriyal, ZEO Sogam, BMO Sogam, Dr. Fareed besides other officers from district administration were present on the occasion.

Later, Secretary along with Deputy Commissioner and officers of district administration paid a visit to Tribal Smart School Gung Jahaneger and Tribal smart School Gagal to take stock of education facilities there.



DC listens to public grievances, assures timely disposal of genuine public issues

J I NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, MAY 10: To assess the local issues and listen to the grievances of the people, the District Administration Kathua today held Block Diwas at Community hall, Hiranagar which was presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Rakesh Mishra.

During the camp, the locals raised several demands including release of pending MGNREGA payments, compensation of crops, supply of good quality seeds, availability of minor minerals, protection work along nallahs, up-gradation of drainage system in Hiranagar town, fresh survey under Awas plus scheme etc.

Some other issues included replacement of damaged electricity poles and wires, filling of vacant posts in Revenue, Health



and school education departments, early completion of border bunkers etc. Chairman, BDC Hiranagar, Ram Lal Kalia urged PRIs and officers to work in close coordination to expedite development works especially in the border belt of Hiranagar subdivision. He also highlighted the issue of renewal of gun license, repair of road stretch near

assured them that all their issues and demands shall be taken with the concerned authorities for their timely redressal.

While highlighting the objective of Block Diwas, the DC said that the programme aims to listen to public demands and issues at their doorsteps.

Responding to the issue of uncovered families under the Border Bunker scheme, the DC directed XEN PWD Kathua to draft a revised proposal and remove bottlenecks so that safety of good quality bunkers can be extended to frontline border dwellers. In response to the issue of Bovine Slaughter, the DC assured the illegal transportation of bovine animals will be dealt strictly under law.

CPO, Uttam Singh; PO ICDS; SDM Hiranagar and other district and sectoral officers were present during the event. After the public

outreach programme, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a meeting of concerned officers at PWD Rest house Hiranagar to discuss issues highlighted during the Block Diwas proceedings.

He passed directions to the officers to redress all the genuine issues of the people before the next Block Diwas.

Later, the DC also visited CHC Hiranagar where he inspected health facilities being provided to the patients. He also took a round of OPD, Emergency and surgery wards and interacted with patients. He also enquired about the facilities and status of paramedics staff. Regarding the vacant post of Anaesthetist in CHC Hiranagar, the DC directed CMO Kathua to address the problem at the earliest. He also lauded the hospital authorities for maintaining proper cleanliness in the hospital.

DC Rajouri reviews progress of Jal Jeevan Mission schemes

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MAY 10: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting to review the progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the district.

Officers who attended the meeting were CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; SE Hydraulics, Bham Jyoti Sharma; EXEN Jal Shakti Rajouri, Ashwini Sharma; EXEN Jal Shakti Nowshera, Vipin Kumar and other concerned officers.

The meeting was informed that out of the 293 approved JJM schemes, work for 291 schemes have been allotted and construction of 129 schemes is already in progress. The laying of the supply pipe network has been progressing well, with 980 km of pipes already laid against the target of 13520 Kms.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized on maintaining quality of work, timely completion of projects and close supervision. He also urged stakeholders to focus on the maintenance of water supply installations. He also called for out-come based efforts and strict adherence to timelines for completion of all projects under JJM. The meeting was aimed at ensuring that the Jal Jeevan Mission is implemented effectively in the district so that the people in rural areas have access to safe and adequate drinking water, which is essential for their health and well-being.

SDM Khour reviews security scenario in Pargwal area

TAKES STOCK OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DEV SCHEMES; ASKS FOR REMOVAL OF BOTTLENECKS

J I NEWS SERVICE

PARGWAL, MAY 10: Sub Divisional Magistrate Khour, Anil Kumar Thakur today conducted a tour of Pargwal area to address various public issues and to clear various inter departmental bottlenecks for effective public services delivery. The SDM took review of the security scenario and asked for a close vigil on suspicious activities in view of the upcoming G20 Summit at Srinagar. Later, the SDM held an interdepartmental meeting to review the implementation of different schemes and to resolve bottlenecks.

Earlier, he convened a meeting of revenue officials and asked the department to immediately complete the ongoing Agriculture Census and provide online services to the general public as per Public Services Guarantee Act.

Those present in the meeting included BDO Chairperson, Nisha Devi; Tehsildar Pargwal, Manjeet Singh; BDO Pargwal, BMC Pallanwala and representatives of PHE, R&B, PDD, Horticulture, Irrigation & Flood Control and Police.

PPSPS Govt Women College organises interactive session on "Utilization of Library E-Resources"

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 10: The Department of Philosophy, in collaboration with the Department of Library Sciences of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev College for Women today organised an interactive session on the topic "Utilization of Library E-Resources".

The session was held under the patronage of the College Principal, Prof. Minu Mahajan.

The resource person of the occasion was Prof. Sonika, the Librarian of the College. She introduced to the students the e-platforms subscribed by the college for enhancing the knowledge of the students. The students were also guided about different login and download procedures of the respective e-platforms.

The session turned out to be really beneficial for students, especially for those who are unable to afford books and journals for themselves.

They would be able to access over 5400 E-books, E-Journals, E-Papers etc. available on certified portals like NLIST and DELNET without any monetary burden.

A total of 31 students participated in the session with great enthusiasm. The session was coordinated by Dr Varun Sharma, the Head of Department of Philosophy.

GDC Baderwah organises Swachhtha Abhiyan with active participation of 100 students

J I NEWS SERVICE

BHADERWAH, MAY 10: Government Degree College (GDC) Baderwah- NSS Unit today conducted Swachhtha Abhiyan (Cleanliness Drive) within the college Campus under the guidance of the College Principal Prof. (Dr) Kuldeep Kumar Sharma. Program Officer of NSS, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed led the initiative which witnessed active participation from around 100 students.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed highlighted the significance of maintaining a green campus as a stepping stone towards sustainable development. Considering Jammu and Kashmir's participation in the G20, GDC Baderwah has undertaken the responsibility of making its campus plastic-free and promoting environmental consciousness. In this regard, the NSS is organizing lectures and discussions to foster awareness among the students.

During the event, the NSS Unit's Program Officer revealed a comprehensive action plan that will be implemented in the future.

Both the faculty members and students enthusiastically pledged to combat littering and manage waste effectively within the college campus.

The cleanliness drive was spearheaded by eminent faculty members, including Prof Pinky Kotwal, Prof Sanjay Kumar, Dr. Nazir Ul Islam, Prof Deep Chand and others.

Their active involvement alongside the students served as a source of inspiration for everyone present. The NSS Unit's Swachhtha Abhiyan at GDC Baderwah exemplifies the college's commitment towards creating a cleaner and greener environment. By instilling the values of cleanliness and sustainable development, the college aims to contribute to the greater vision of a healthier and more vibrant society.

Awareness Rallies on Women Empowerment

DIRECTOR LIBRARIES HAILS SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF PROGRAMME THANKS RRRLF, SED, HEADS OF PARTICIPATING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 10: Expressing great satisfaction over the smooth and successful conduct of Awareness rallies on "Women Empowerment" by various educational institutions across J&K, Director, Libraries & Research, Mohammad Rafi has hailed the cooperation extended by the Directors of School Education Kashmir/Jammu, officers of the School Education Department and the heads of the participating educational institutions.

The Director Libraries also hailed the contribution of I/C Librarians and the staff of District Libraries of Srinagar, Anantnag, Budgam, Pulwama and Kathua for effectively coordinating with the concerned educational institutions in their respec-

tive districts to ensure successful conduct of the programme.

The Director Libraries has extended sincere thanks to Prof A P Singh, Director General, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata and his staff for their consistent support not only towards upgradation and expansion of Library infrastructure in J&K, but also actively involving J&K's Libraries Department in various activities sponsored by RRRLF.

Pertinently, a series of awareness rallies of students on Women Empowerment were organized by various educational institutions across J&K on 8/9 May 2023 to commemorate 250th birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, the father of Modern India. These rallies were jointly organized by the Department of Libraries & Research, J&K and the

School Education Department, J&K under the aegis of Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Ministry of Culture, Govt of India.

In Kashmir division major rallies were organized by the students of Govt Higher Secondary School, Humhama Budgam; Govt Girls Higher Secondary Institution, Chanapora, Srinagar; Govt Model Girls Higher Secondary School Ranibagh, Anantnag and Govt Higher Secondary School Nehama Pulwama. In Jammu an impressive rally was organized at District Library Kathua.

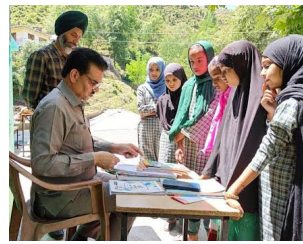
The Director Libraries said that the Department would continue to engage with various stakeholders to conduct various activities on community awareness through Public Libraries.

CEO Poonch conducts inspection of schools, stresses on punctuality, academic performance of students

J I NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, MAY 10: Chief Education Officer Poonch, Bishamber Dass and District Education and Planning Officer, N M Suri today conducted a surprise inspection of different schools in the Nangali Zone of Poonch district.

During the visit, the team of officers visited GHS Bandi Chechian, GMS Nangali, GPS Tharai, KGBV Saral etc. and interacted with the students and enquired about the quality of education being



imparted to them. The CEO also checked the facilities available for the students, such as Mid-Day

Meal, Free Uniform, ICT, Sports equipment etc. and took note of the conditions of the schools.

The CEO expressed concern over poor attendance of students in some schools and directed the heads to pay more attention to the punctuality of the students.

He also visited Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Saral to assess the functioning of the school and urged the Head of the Institution to focus on providing quality education to the students.

Weekly Block Diwas held at 4 locations in Doda district

DC LISTENS TO PEOPLE'S ISSUES AT ASSAR; USES DRONE TECHNOLOGY TO INSPECT ONGOING WORKS IN THE AREA

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, MAY 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Vishesh Mahajan today chaired the Block Diwas program at block headquarter Assar to assess the locals' issues, grievances, aspirations and take feedback from the people. This week Block Diwas program was held at four different locations to address the public across the district. The places where the mega camps under Block Diwas were Sub Divisional Headquarter Gandoh, Tehsil headquarter Kahara, Block Headquarter Assar and Panchayat Kathyara of Sub District Baderwah.

The Deputy Commissioner listened to a range of issues and grievances of the public and directed the concerned officers/officials to resolve the same and to report within 15 days. The PRIs and general public mentioned different road projects where execution of work is not going on smoothly and regularly. On the spot directions were issued



to SE PWD and XEN PMGSY to resolve bottlenecks in a time bound manner and conduct the quality audit of the roads about which the public complained. The CEO was directed to rationalise the teaching staff in remote

schools, besides submitting a proposal for merging AWCs having low beneficiary enrollments with nearby schools so that their services can be utilized. The CEO informed the people about the launching of e-kaksha which will

enable students of remote schools to get quality education through online classes. The AD FC&CA was directed to look into the complaints of ineligibility households possessing PHH ration cards and replace them with the genuine beneficiaries.

The Chief Agriculture Officer was directed to create a seasonal seed store at Top Need. Besides, ACR, ACP, ACD, Assistant Commissioner Labour Doda also spoke at length on various government sponsored welfare schemes and asked the public to get benefits of these welfare schemes. Some of the most important issues which were highlighted during the program at Assar were black topping of roads, ambulance facility at the local hospital, special Adhaar card updation centres for 9 panchayat, play ground in Karnal village, Road to Shamsaan Ghat, upgradation of high school at Bulandpur, posting of doctors at NITPHC Gagala, and other such issues. The DC, while addressing the gathering, informed that Drone technology will be used to assess the execu-

tion of works under PWD, R&B and PHE sectors in addition to the virtual inspection of the works already in practice in the district. The DC Doda inspected High School Jathi various and ongoing works around the venue of Block Diwas by Drone technology. The Block Diwas was attended by district officers, sectoral officers, and officials from line departments at all locations.

At the other three locations, the demands raised by the locals include upgradation of infrastructure and staff in the health and educational institutions, extension of road connectivity, black topping of roads, water and power supply in the area, construction of Play grounds etc.

The presiding officers at each camp assured the public that their genuine demands would be addressed without any delay by the concerned departments/agencies. The Block Diwas mechanism has been instrumental in bridging the gap between people and the administration and paved the way for overall development of the rural areas.

Asia Cup 2023: Sri Lanka, Bangladesh give thumbs down to PCB's hybrid hosting model

BUT A PCB OFFICIAL TELLS ESPNCRINFO THAT THE BOARD HAS EMAILS FROM BCB AND SLC SAYING THEY HAVE NO ISSUES PLAYING IN PAKISTAN

NEW DELHI: The PCB presented its 'hybrid' solution for hosting the 2023 Asia Cup again to the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), believing that this time it had resolved logistical and technical concerns the ACC had raised. Officials from both sides met in Dubai on Tuesday, but it emerged that Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have both objected to holding a part of the tournament in the UAE.

The hybrid model was the solution the PCB had proposed to account for the fact that India would not travel to Pakistan for the tournament because of ongoing political tensions between the governments of the two countries. The proposed solution will have India playing all their games in the UAE, with the rest of the tournament played out in Pakistan.

But ESPNCRinfo understands that the BCB and SLC cited logistical challenges involved in travelling between Pakistan and a second country during the Asia Cup, which is scheduled to be played in September, a month before the ODI World Cup is held across India. Both boards also pointed out that the



extreme heat in the UAE in the first half of September was a deterrent, too. "We have written to the ACC to say that we are against the hybrid model," Mohan de Silva, the SLC secretary, told ESPNCRinfo. "But beyond that, no final decision has been reached. It's very hot in the UAE at that time of year." In what is becoming an increasingly vexed issue, a PCB official countered by claiming that the board has received emails from both BCB and SLC confirming they have no issues playing in Pakistan. The official also pointed out that last year's Asia Cup was played from August 27 to September 11

in the UAE - the same window the boards are objecting to this time. In 2018, a 50-over version of the Asia Cup was also played in the UAE, from September 15-28. Both those events moved to the UAE as an alternative; in the first instance the tournament was supposed to be played in India but was moved because of India-Pakistan political tensions; last year it was shifted from Sri Lanka because of the political and economic turmoil the country was going through at the time. One suggestion is for the PCB to follow the example of SLC, which retained the hosting rights for the 2022 edition

but host it outside the country. This time, Sri Lanka has been talked about as a probable neutral venue and de Silva said SLC was ready. "If the offer is there to play the tournament in Sri Lanka, we will take it," he said. "Pakistan will be the official host." But the PCB remains adamant that its solution works for everyone. "The PCB presented a hybrid model that resolves issues of logistics and travel and production," a PCB official told ESPNCRinfo. "The board reiterated its position that we would not play the Asia Cup if the Pakistan-plus-neutral-venue model is rejected."

Afghanistan, meanwhile, are neutral. "In the previous two ACC meetings, we have strongly emphasised the importance of conducting the event at the scheduled time," an Afghanistan spokesperson told ESPNCRinfo. "As for the venue, we are abiding by the decisions made by the ACC and have no interest in favouring or objecting to any particular board's stance on the matter. Our priority is to ensure a fair and competitive tournament that benefits the growth and development of cricket in the region."

India and Pakistan have been grouped together along with Nepal in the six-nation Asia Cup scheduled to be held in the 50-over format as preparation for the World Cup. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are in the other group.

A total of 13 matches, including the final, will be played across 13 days. Like the format from 2022, the top two teams from each group advance to the Super 4s and the top two teams then contest the final. That leaves open the possibility of India and Pakistan playing three times, should both make it to the final.

David White to step down as NZC chief executive in August

WHITE, WHO HAS BEEN IN THE ROLE SINCE FEBRUARY 2012, SAID IT "FEELS LIKE THE RIGHT TIME TO STEP ASIDE"

WELLINGTON: New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White has announced his decision to step down from the role in August. White, who took over the position in February 2012, is just the fourth chief executive after Chris Doig, Martin Snedden and Justin Vaughan to lead NZC since the adoption of the Hood Report recommendations in 1995.



"NZC is in a secure financial position with a solid balance sheet and long-term commercial agreements in place," he said in a statement. "The BLACKCAPS are strong; women's cricket is healthy, our high performance programme is producing excellence, and the community game is stable. It feels like the right time to step aside." During White's tenure, the New Zealand men's team won the inaugural World Test Championship and reached the final of the World Cup three times (one T20 and two 50-over World Cups). Under him, New Zealand also took a big step towards pay equality, announcing that their women cricketers will earn the same match fees as the men under a new five-year deal in 2022.

White, a former Test cricketer, had also served as chief executive of Auckland Rugby and, before that chief executive of Wellington Rugby before taking up the NZC role. "Under David, cricket in New Zealand has become far more inclusive, especially in regard to women and girls, our tangata whenua, and our Pasifika communities," Snedden added.

"When you think of how he navigated the Covid-19 pandemic, preserving the integrity of the community, domestic and international game, and his strong influence at ICC level, it makes you realise just how lucky

Sergio Busquets to leave Barcelona at end of season

MUMBAI, MAY 10: Barcelona defensive midfielder Sergio Busquets will leave the club at the end of this season after spending 18 years with the Catalan outfit, the team said on Wednesday.

Busquets, 34, began his youth career at Barcelona in 2005 before making his first-team debut in 2008. The former Spain international served as the club captain for the last two seasons, having become an integral part of the team over the years. He helped Barcelona win eight LaLiga titles, seven Copa del Rey titles, three Champions League trophies and three Club World Cups.

"It has been an honour and a source of pride to have been able to wear this badge but everything must come to an end," Busquets said on Instagram on Wednesday.

Busquets, who retired from international duty last year, has made more than 700 appearances for Barcelona and holds the record for playing in more El Clasico than any other player with 48 appearances against Barcelona's rivals Real Madrid.

He could add another league title to his achievements this season, with Barcelona leading the points table by 13 points with five games remaining.

IPL: Ruturaj's quiet operation, sizeable impact for CSK

CHENNAI, MAY 10: Ruturaj Gaikwad has just walked beside the nets in the centre wicket at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. It is the pre-match practice session on the eve of the clash against Delhi Capitals on Wednesday. Inside the nets is his partner-in-crime, Devon Conway. Over the next 10-15 minutes, a fully geared-up Gaikwad - shadow practicing his stride - watches Conway go about playing his shots to the throw downs from Michael Hussey and others. In retrospect, the visual of it is not very different from the way the season has gone for the two Chennai Super Kings openers. Conway - 458 runs from 10 innings, fourth-highest run-getter after the match between Punjab Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders on Monday. Gaikwad is not too far behind either, with 384 runs, but it would not be unfair to say that he had to wait and watch as Conway rack up big scores for fun - something he himself is known for. Having started the season with a 92 and 57, Gaikwad is yet to notch up half-century post those knocks. It is not that he has not had a good innings or not contributed to the team's start. Against Mumbai Indians, he smashed a 16-ball 50 to set the tone in the chase.

However, it is a bit unlike Gaikwad to not convert the starts and accumulate big runs as he has done for the franchise as well as his state team in the domestic season. In fact, it is something he has been known for. In last year's Vijay Hazare Trophy, he smashed 660 runs in five games. This year, in the IPL, his last five scores read 35, 35, 47, 37 and 30. Neither Gaikwad nor the CSK management, though, is worried about it.

AFTER 18 YEARS AT BARCELONA, SERGIO BUSQUETS TO LEAVE AT END OF SEASON

MADRID, MAY 10: Sergio Busquets is ending his "unforgettable journey" of nearly two decades with Barcelona, he said Wednesday. Busquets, whose contract ends this season, announced his decision with a video released on social media.

"It hasn't been an easy decision but the time has come," the 34-year-old Busquets said, adding, "It has been an honor, a dream and a reason for pride to have been able to wear this badge." Busquets arrived at Barcelona in 2005 and made it to a "B" team coached by Pep

Guardiola after two seasons with the under-19s. He helped the "B" team gain promotion and eventually made his first-team debut in 2008. He has played 718 matches for Barcelona, putting him third all-time behind Xavi and record-holder Lionel Messi.

Ex-coach Darren Lehmann unhappy with Australia not playing tour games ahead of WTC final, Ashes

MUMBAI, MAY 10: Former Australia coach Darren Lehmann has expressed serious reservations over his country not playing tour matches ahead of the World Test Championship final against India and the grueling Ashes, saying the decision was fraught with risks.



Australia did not also play a single tour game in India ahead of the Border-Gavaskar series - in February-March, primarily because their board felt that playing practice games on green tops and actual matches on spinning tracks did not serve any purpose. However, Lehmann felt

that not playing tour games in foreign conditions is a risky proposition. "You need games to acclimatise first and foremost," Lehmann, who served as Australia coach from 2013 to 2018, told. "To get used to the ball

and wickets and pressure. No tour game is not a good idea. I hope it works but if it doesn't, who made that decision? will be asked. I think we win the Ashes anyway 3-1 but if we don't, wow," the former Australia player added.

Aap helmet utaar ke kyun aise karne lage: Watch Ishan Kishan pull Nehal Wadhwa's leg after win over RCB

NEW DELHI, MAY 10: In an hilarious video shared by Mumbai Indians' Twitter handle, wicket-keeper-batter Ishan Kishan can be seen pulling all-rounder Nehal Wadhwa's leg post triumph over Royal Challengers Bangalore. In the video, Ishan asks Wadhwa why did he celebrate the victory by taking off his helmet when it was no difficult task. "Ye last mein apne jh maara match easy ho gaya tha, sabko pata tha hum jeet rahe hain, aap helmet utaar ke kyun aise karne lage?" (The last ball you hit, everyone knew we're gonna win it, it was an easy course from there, then why did you gesture like that and took off your helmet?) To which, Wadhwa replied and explained that, "It happened in the



moment, the crowd was cheering so loud for us that it just happened naturally." Wadhwa scored an unbeaten fifty and guided the home side to a massive six-wicket victory. The left-handed batter struck four fours and three sixes to make 52 off 34 balls. Earlier, a fourth-century stand of the season

between Faf du Plessis (65 off 41) and Glenn Maxwell (68 off 33) took Royal Challengers Bangalore to 199 for five after Mumbai put them in to bat. Chasing 200, Mumbai Indians maintained their impeccable record of not losing to RCB at the Wankhede Stadium since IPL 2015, racing to victory in 16.3 overs.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIV. NO. III JAMMU

Sh. Vikas Sharma No- 2089-A-3
S/o Sh. Varinder Sharma Dt- 04-05-2023
R/O Kandoli Nagroti Tehsil Nagrota District Jammu

Sub.- Repair to Doors metallic frames, windows shutters including painting fittings etc, in different TRTs at Mini township Jagti Nagrota Jammu Block No. 1 to 64, Zone-A
Advised Amount Rs 78,92 lacs
Time of completion 90 Days
Ref.- This office Short e-NIT No.322 of 2022-23 Dated 02-03-2023

FINAL NOTICE
You were the lowest bidder 22.05% below for the above noted work and automatically computer generated message was received by you on 13-03-2023.

You have deposit CDR bearing No.499023 dated.17-04-2023 amounting Rs.184555/- but, you have failed to deposit two Nos of CDR's 10% and 3% amounting Rs.615200/- and 184600/-

So, you are finally directed to submit the original documents including CDR within 02 days positively failing which fresh tender at your risk and cost may be invited and you are debarred for an Year in tendering process in this division.

SD/-
(ER. SUNIL KUMAR DOGRA)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Const. Div No. III
Jammu

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) CONST. DIV. NO. III JAMMU

Sh. Vikas Sharma No- 2089-A-3
S/o Sh. Varinder Sharma Dt- 04-05-2023
R/O Kandoli Nagroti Tehsil Nagrota District Jammu

Sub.- Repair to Doors (PVC / Flush) metallic frames, windows shutters (Glaze / wire Gauze) including painting fittings etc, in different TRTs at Nagrota Jammu Block No.G, H, J, K, L, M (06 Blocks)
Advised Amount Rs 49.16 lacs
Time of completion 60 Days
Ref.- This office Short e-NIT No.322 of 2022-23 Dated 02-03-2023

FINAL NOTICE
You were the lowest bidder 26.01% below for the above noted work and automatically computer generated message was received by you on 13-03-2023.

You have failed to deposit two Nos of CDR's 15% and 3% amounting Rs.545700/- and Rs109200/- till date.

So, you are finally directed to submit the original documents including CDR within 02 days positively failing which fresh tender at your risk and cost may be invited and you are debarred for an Year in tendering process in this division.

SD/-
(ER. SUNIL KUMAR DOGRA)
Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Const. Div No. III
Jammu

MP Jugal Kishore reviews progress of CSSs at DISHA meeting

Calls for timeline completion of projects

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MAY 10: Jammu-Poonch Member of Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma today chaired the meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) of Rajouri district to review the progress of various centrally sponsored schemes. The meeting was attended by several officials, including the ADC, Rajouri, JFO Rajouri and Newsheera, ACB, ADC, CPO, PO ICDS, GM DIC, ACP, SE Hydraulics, SE PWD, and other concerned officers. The District member of DISHA, Dr. Nisar Choudhary, also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the progress and achievements under different schemes being implemented in various sectors of the district, such as MGNREGA, CRF, NABARD PMGSY, NSAP, SSA, PMJDY, APY, PMJBY, PMSBY, PMMY, PMU, PMEGP, Foshan Abhiyan, PM Kisan, KCC, soil health cards, ICPS, HADP, BBPP, NIM, housing for all, PMAY-U, PMAGY, NSAP, ISS, and other centrally



sponsored schemes.

DDC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal gave a PowerPoint presentation on the progress and status of different developmental projects and progress in the implementation of the centrally sponsored schemes being executed and implemented in the district by different agencies.

Regarding the Progress made under CRF, the SE PWD informed that 10 projects are underway across the district. He assured that the works will be completed within this year. The MP was further informed 114 NABARD Funded projects are also underway across the district out of which 25 have been completed.

The Assistant Commissioner Development Rajouri informed that out of 28981 works taken up under MGNREGA, 11769 works

have been completed generating 27.05 lakh mandays. He also informed that 646 families have been provided with 100 days of employment.

Under SBM, 161 Segregation sheds and 150 Community sanitary complexes have been constructed in the district, informed the ACP.

He also informed that door to door collection of solid waste has been started in the panchayats to achieve the goal of Swachh green Rajouri.

It was further informed that 23954 houses under PMAY-G and 3741 houses under AWAAS PLUS have been completed in the district, while 293 Jal Jeevan Mission schemes comprising 677 components have been approved at a project cost of Rs 194280 cores and 653 components have been allotted and 72 components

completed. "The meeting proved to be an excellent opportunity for officials to exchange ideas and assess the progress of various schemes being implemented in the district," said MP Jugal Kishore Sharma while chairing the meeting.

Jugal Kishore Sharma emphasized the importance of prompt and efficient implementation of the Central schemes and projects in the district. He stressed the need for transparency and accountability in the execution of the projects and urged officers to work with dedication and sincerity towards the development of the district.

The MP also highlighted the need to monitor the progress of centrally sponsored schemes to ensure effective and efficient implementation. He encouraged officers to work in coordination with each other and prioritize projects based on the needs of the people.

Additionally, he urged officers to explore new and innovative ways of implementing these schemes and involve local communities in the decision-making process.

To ensure timely completion of projects and that the benefits of these schemes reach the intended beneficiaries, the MP directed

officers to implement schemes in a transparent and efficient manner. He also stressed the importance of consulting with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) during the formulation of plans for the implementation of these schemes.

"The involvement of PRIs is crucial for the successful execution of these schemes, and officers should work closely with them to tailor schemes to the specific needs of local communities," said Hon'ble MP.

He also assured officers of his full support and cooperation in their efforts towards the development of the district and the welfare of its people. By working together and prioritizing the needs of the community, officers can ensure the successful implementation of these schemes and projects.

The MP, while taking stock of the issues raised in the previous DISHA meeting, expressed his satisfaction with the progress made by the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee in resolving the issues.

He commended the DDC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, and other officials for their tireless efforts in ensuring the timely completion of projects and schemes in the district.

Director Agriculture addresses Kissan Sampark Abhiyan at Anantnag

ASKS OFFICERS FOR MOTIVATING FARMING COMMUNITY TO ADOPT PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS IN THE APPROVED PROJECTS UNDER HADP



J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 10: To monitor the ongoing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (farmers' orientation program) under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), the Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited different areas of Anantnag district.

Director Agriculture held meeting with the farmers of different areas and took feedback from them regarding various departmental activities.

Addressing Kissan Sampark Abhiyan at Duroo Dalwash Anantnag, Director Agriculture stressed upon the concerned officers to give the program wide publicity so that mass participation of the farming community can be assured.

He asked the officers to aware the farmers about modern tools and techniques that have been incorporated in HADP to overcome the prevailing constraints and use different extension methods to motivate the farming community in adoption of proposed interventions in the approved projects.

Director Agriculture assured all the possible help from the department for the successful implementation of the program in all the districts, to uplift the livelihood of the farming community.

He marked the role of PRIs in the successful implementation of different programmes at grass roots level. He asked the officer to work in close coordination with the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions so that the said targets under different schemes could be achieved in a comprehensive manner.

Director Agriculture was accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag, Ajaz Hussain Dar, District Agriculture Officer, District Agriculture Officer Extension and other senior officers of the department.

Swachhata Karvaan: Awareness program held at Hajin

J I NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, MAY 10: Swachhata Karvaan, an intensive sanitation and hygiene awareness programme was held on Wednesday in Block Hajin.

The program was organised by District Administration Bandipora in collaboration with Rural Sanitation J&K.

Deputy Director Rural Sanitation J&K, Qazi Masood besides Assistant Commissioner Panchayati Bandipora were present on the occasion and elaborated the main objective of Swachhata Karvaan. The programme aims to ensure that open defecation-free behaviours are sustained and that solid and liquid waste management facilities are accessible. He further said by the end of this month the district will be declared legacy waste free. On the occasion, a pledge-taking ceremony was also organized wherein the participants were administered the oath and motivated to involve themselves in cleanliness activities. A series of events were held on the occasion including Nukkad Natak, Painting Competition, Debate and Quiz Competition.

DC conducts extensive tour of Pulwama; interacts with different communities

J I NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, MAY 10: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today conducted an extensive tour of the district to take stock of developmental works besides take first hand appraisal of issues projected by different communities living in the district.

During the tour, the DC visited Ziyarat Sharief Khanqah-e-Faiz Panah Tral, Jamia Masjid Tral, Shiv Temple Nowdal, Transit Accommodation Haal Pulwama and Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Awantipora.

While taking the stock of construction works, the DC directed the concerned executing agencies to speeding up the developmental works and complete the work within the stipulated time.

On the occasion, Aqual Management seized the opportunity to apprise the DC regarding some vital issues including roads, electricity, drinking water, and sanitation for early redressal. DC assured them that all the issues of public importance will be solved in a time bound manner.

He asked people to extend complete cooperation in effective implementation of developmental works.

He also took stock of other ongoing works and impressed upon the officers to ensure quality in developmental works so that the people of the area do not face any inconvenience.

While paying obeisance at the Shrine, he prayed for peace and highlighted the contribution of Saint regarding propagation of love and brotherhood. Besides, DC also visited Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Awantipora where the Committee members apprised him about the main issues being faced by them. He heard them patiently and assured that all issues of public importance will be looked into and redressed on top priority. Later, the DC visited Jamia Masjid Noor Ul Islam (Darul Uloom) Tral where fire broke out early this morning and took stock of the fire incident occurred and expressed grief over the tragic incident.

Atal Dulloo assesses GI Tagging of 5 newly recommended crops from J&K

STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF HISTORICAL DATA, LITERATURE-BASED EVIDENCE TAKES STOCK OF DEVELOPMENTAL WORKS AT RELIGIOUS PLACES; LISTENS PUBLIC DEMANDS; ASSURES TIMELY RESOLUTION OF ISSUES

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 10: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to evaluate the Geographical Indication (GI) status of five recently recommended crops from Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Secretary APD, Special Secretary APD, Directors of Sheep Husbandry and Animal Husbandry in both Kashmir and Jammu, Directors of Sheep Husbandry and Horticulture in Jammu and Kashmir, Director of Agriculture, Jammu, Technical Officers from APD, heads of

Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and other concerned both in person and online. The meeting commenced with presentations by the TWG heads, who provided updates on progress of GI certification applications for the newly recommended crops including Kevar, Lakhnapur Bhalla/Bada, Thandi Khui ki Bari, Kud Ka Patisa and Pecan nut.

During the detailed discussion, the TWG heads shared their work on each crop, presenting evidence of origin backed by historical data, emphasizing the unique characteristics of each crop and highlighting their distinctive features. Dulloo encouraged the TWGs to prioritize historical data and literature based evidence, ensuring a

robust foundation for successful GI certification of these crops. He asked them to seek guidance from experts and consult relevant departments with knowledge, evidence and historical background information on these crops.

Dr. Rajni Kant, a GI expert from Varanasi, provided valuable feedback during the meeting. He emphasized the significance of product inheritance and the distinctive attributes of each crop to minimize the risk of rejection during the GI registration process. Dr. Kant's said that his team is actively working on identifying additional evidence to support comprehensive GI applications for these products.

VLACs for welfare & employment generation schemes to be held across Anantnag: DDC

J I NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, MAY 10: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, S F Hamid today presided over the Block Diwas event held at Checkiwangund village in the Hiller

block. The event was attended by members of the Hiller block, PRIs and the general public who shared their suggestions and demands related to various schemes for the development of the area.

The DDC assured the gathering that

the District Administration is committed to addressing the issues of the general public.

He appreciated the mass participation and positive response of the people, which he said highlights the importance of Block Diwas.

Mega Block Diwas held at Chewa Ullar of Tral, Pulwama

MASSIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, A REFLECTION OF PEOPLES' CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMME: DC

J I NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, MAY 10: The District Administration Pulwama under the chairmanship of the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today held Block Diwas at Government Upper Primary School Chewa Ullar, Tral.

Several public issues including construction of Tral Pahalgam road, road connectivity to uncovered areas, Upgradation of Mandroora High School and other Primary schools, availability of playground for youth, Boundary wall around Schools, completion of under construction School buildings, providing of bore well and better drinking water facilities for students and for the whole area, allopathic primary health Centre in the area, development of irrigation khul and augmentation of the health infrastructure were projected by the local people and PRIs.



Dr Basharat gave a patient hearing to the grievances raised and assured quality disposal of genuine issues in a time-bound manner. The DDC directed the concerned department heads/ officers to resolve the same expeditiously and submit the action taken report before next scheduled block diwas. Various hurdles and bottlenecks in the social security schemes were also resolved on the spot with the convergence of multiple departments. He also gave on-the-spot directions for the redressal of many issues of urgent

nature as per the competence of concerned departments. While interacting with the local people, Sarpanchs, Panchs, and the delegations, the DDC said that the Block Diwas initiative of the Government and Administration is contributing immensely to good governance.

On the occasion, the DDC highlighted objectives of the various governmental programmes informing the public of various schemes and campaigns.

He encouraged the participants to highlight their individual issues

also to avoid their visits to government offices. He also directed the District and Sectoral officers to ensure service counter of their respective departments at Block Diwas meetings so that the public can reap the benefits of different government schemes without visiting offices repeatedly. The DDC directed the concerned officers to exert for the completion of ongoing projects, roads & bridges. He urged officers to complete the works within the shortest possible time.

He also directed the concerned