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Power woes end in J&K as Govt procures additional 400 MWs from UP Govt, GoI

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 5

In a major relief to the power crisis that had gripped J&K since the past few days, the UT administration Thursday claimed to have procured 400 MWs of electricity from Uttar Pradesh gov-

ernment and the Centre. An additional 150 MWs are likely to be procured by October 9.

Principal Secretary to the Government, Power Development Department (PDD), H Rajesh Prasad while speaking exclusively to the news agency said that the department has

been able to resolve the issue by 90 per cent so far. "We have procured 150 MWs from the UP government and 250 MWs from the Central government. So a total 400 MWs of extra power has been managed so far," Prasad said. He said that from 09

October onwards, the department will be able to get additional 150 MWs. "With additional 150 MWs of power, we will have a total of 550 MWs of additional electricity and I believe that will suffice the demand," Prasad said. He said: "We have got the additional electricity

from the UP government, which will be returned to them in summers when the power generation in Kashmir remains high," he said, adding that the situation has been brought under control by procuring additional electricity. Asked about the demand, he said that in

Kashmir it is 1050 MWs while in Jammu, it is 1000 MWs. "Presently, there is a shortage of 150 MWs, which will be filled by or before October 06," he said.

He further added that adequate electricity will be ensured to the consumers after the procur-

ing of additional electricity, adding that the power cuts were the outcome of low power generation due to the prolonged dry spell that led to reduction in water discharge in major water bodies.

Asked about the power schedule in winters, he said the people will wit-

ness adequate electricity like last year. "During peak hours, we are getting electricity at the rate of Rs 12 per unit from power exchanges, we will still manage and ensure adequate electricity and the situation will be as good as last year," he said.

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Lt Governor reviews progress of Government's initiatives and development works at Kupwara

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a meeting to review the progress of the initiatives of the government and the development works at Kupwara district.

The Lt Governor directed the senior officials to visit border villages and stay overnight for a ground assessment of challenges and opportunities and plan activities, programmes and innovative measures for main streaming of villages.

Concerted and coordinated action should be ensured by all the departments for inclusive development, he said.

The Lt Governor



appraised the sector-wise performance of the saturation of the government schemes and also reviewed the winter preparedness of the District Administration and department-wise action plan.

He directed the officers to take concrete measures to increase the female literacy rate and ensure no child is deprived of educa-

tion. He further directed for proper rationalization of the teachers and utilization of manpower in education sector.

Reviewing the health sector, the Lt Governor directed for identifying the gaps in extension of health services and to take corrective measures. Special camps should be organized for saturation

of Golden cards and provision of online consultation of medical services must be made available wherever required, he said.

The Lt Governor directed Chief Engineer PWD to prepare SoPs for snow clearance and to ensure round-the-clock connectivity during the winters. He also enquired

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Jammu Kashmir is new success story in country today: LG Sinha

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated multiple development projects worth more than Rs. 26 Crores at Kupwara.

Addressing a public function at Boys Higher Secondary School, the Lt Governor shared the phenomenal developmental journey of Kupwara district over the last three years.

He said the border district has embarked on a significant capacity building in infrastructure sector. The projects inaugurated today are the reflective of government's commitment to provide better quality of life to the people of Kup-



wara, he added.

"Jammu Kashmir is the new success story in the country today. Our overall economic growth is demonstrating resilience and strength and scripting consider-

able achievement in every sector, bringing improvement in the lives of the people to build a strong Union Territory," the Lt Governor said.

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LG interacts with PRIs and public representatives at Kupwara



JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha interacted with members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and public representatives during his visit to Kupwara today.

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Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway progresses rapidly; Jammu route expected to open by Sep 2024

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 5

In a monumental development, the construction of the, 4-lane (expandable to 8 lanes) Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway is advancing at an impressive pace, with the much-anticipated Jammu route set to open by September 2024.

Talking to news agency, P. Siva Shanker, Regional Officer of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for the Jammu and Kashmir region said the expressway project comprises five segments.

"The stretch from Pathankot to Jammu is divided into three pack-

ages, with construction already underway on all of them. Simultaneously, the section from Jammu to Katra consists of two packages, one of which is in progress, while the last package is poised to commence shortly," he said.

Shanker said that the Jammu leg of the expressway is expected to be accessible by September 2024, followed by the Katra segment in June 2025. "These milestones will dramatically enhance connectivity in the region. Another official said one of the most promising aspects of this project is its potential to cut travel distances significantly,"

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LG pays homage to bravehearts of Army at Vajr War Memorial, HQ 28 Infantry Division Kupwara

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today paid homage to the bravehearts of the Army and laid wreath at Vajr War Memorial, HQ 28 Infantry Division Kupwara. He also visited the Vajr Gatha

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Museum and Exhibition Centre.

"The courage, valour, dedication and spirit of our brave soldiers to protect the integrity and sovereignty of the nation is unparalleled," the Lt Governor said.

"Vajr Gatha Museum and Exhibition Centre

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2.50 lakh backdoor recruitments made in past: Chief Secretary

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCT 5

Stating that the Union Territory administration is committed to transparency, the Chief Secretary of J&K Thursday said that over 2.50 Lakh backdoor recruitments were done in the past and nothing such is prevalent now. He was also quick to add that youth need to aim big and not look at daily wage jobs.

Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta was accompanying LG J&K Manoj Sinha alongside other top administrative officials including ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar.

Addressing the gathering, CS as per the news agency said that between 2021- 22 a total of 30,000 employment opportunities were generated and people of Jammu and



Kashmir were recruited. "Record number of engagements have been done. No backdoor entry has indeed been made so far. Nothing much will surface as it used to happen in the past. We aim to provide equal opportunity to each common and poor individual of J&K."

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J&K borrows Rs 31000 cr in last 3 years to pay electricity bills: CS

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 5

Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday said that 24*7 electricity can be ensured only when all the consumers will pay their tariff with subsidy. Addressing a gathering, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta as per the news agency, said that J&K has borrowed Rs 31000 crore in the last three years to pay the electricity bills. "The things cannot change this way, and the situation cannot be improved," he said.

"24*7 electricity can be made possible only when

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With ODI World Cup debut, manufacturers hope for wider adoption of Kashmiri willow bats

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 5

As Kashmiri willow cricket bat is all set to feature in the third world cup, manufacturers hope for the wider adoption of the native cricket bats in international cricket.

As per news agency, after marking its presence in two T20 world cups, Kashmiri cricket bats are all set to debut in the ODI world cup, which is currently being played in India.

As many as 18 cricketers from three international teams including Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are going to use the Kashmiri willow cricket bats in upcoming matches.

As such the manufacturers believe that the ongoing world cup will bring more fame to the industry, thereby motivating other cricketers to choose Kashmir over English willow.

"This is just the beginning. In coming years, you will see more cricketers preferring to play with Kashmir willow cricket bats. We are making them (cricket bats) at par with English willow. Last world cup, Kashmir willow cricket bat hit the longest sixer of the T20 world cup," said Fawzul Kabir, spokesperson of the Kashmir Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association.

Kabir said the cricket bats of Kashmir have

witnessed a progress in the last three years after the Omani cricket team choose to bat with Kashmiri willow.

"Kashmiri willow was confined to the domestic market earlier. Now, in this world cup players of three international teams will use our cricket bats. We want to show the world that our cricket bats are at par with English willow," he said.

Shabir Ahmad, another cricket bat manufacturer, expressed his excitement for the upcoming World Cup. "We are thrilled to see more teams showing interest in using Kashmiri willow bats. It's a testament to the quality and performance

of our bats. We believe that this World Cup will mark our third consecutive victory on the global stage." Pertinently, ahead of the world cup, demand for the Kashmiri willow cricket bats has increased by 10 times.

The demand, as per the manufacturers, for Kashmiri willow cricket bats is emerging from the entire India.

Currently, Kashmir has 400 factories manufacturing cricket bats, with which 1.5 lakh people are directly and indirectly associated. Jammu and Kashmir government is also working hard to get a geographic indication (GI) for Kashmir willow bats. KNO

DGP J&K Interacts with joint party of Police, Army and CAPFs that was part of Kulgam encounter

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 5

Jammu and Kashmir Police in tandem with other security forces are working with great commitment and resolve to demolish the remnants of terrorism in the UT. This was stated by the Director General of Police, J&K, Shri Dilbag Singh during his visit to the High Ground area of Anantnag District today.

The DGP was interacting with the joint party of



Police, Army and CAPFs that was part of yesterday's encounter in Kulgam District in which two ter-

rorists were killed. General Officer Commanding (GOC) Counter Insurgency Victor Force,

Maj General Balbir Singh, YSM, VSM, Brig. Amandeep Malli, VSM Comdr 1 Sector RR, DIG South Kashmir Rage Shri Rayees Mohammad Bhat, Col Vishal Kumar Singh, CO IRR, SSP Anantnag Shri Ashish Kumar Mishra, SSP Kulgam Shri Sahil Sarangal and other senior officers of District Anantnag and Kulgam were present on the occasion.

While interacting with the Jawans and officers

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DSC discusses rollout of revised Skill Dev Plan in Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 5

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Vishesh Mahajan, who is also the Chairman of the District Skill Committee (DSC), led a significant meeting to discuss the rollout of the revised Skill Development Plan in Doda.

Manujinder Singh, the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow (MGNF) for District Doda, presented a comprehensive report on the program's objectives and action plan. Singh detailed various artisan-based schemes and self-help groups related to skills development in the committee meeting for discussion and approval.

During the meeting, expert committee members provided insights into the challenges hindering the implementation of the skills development program and offered valuable suggestions to overcome



these bottlenecks.

DDC Doda emphasized the importance of identifying the right stakeholders to implement the skills development program effectively. He also urged the motivation of women for handicrafts and beauty-related courses and proposed introducing driving

courses, including dumper and JCB driving and operating courses, at ITIs. DDC Doda suggested the introduction of a virtual driving school to offer driving courses online, providing livelihood opportunities for unemployed youth in the district. He instructed

the Deputy Director Employment and the head of the driving institutes to advertise the training courses related to driving. The DDC also highlighted the need for skills development in the agro and tourism sectors to create employment opportunities for unemployed youth. He directed the stakeholder departments to hold weekly review meetings to monitor the progress of the skills development programs in the district. The meeting involved a detailed discussion on the scope of various skills development aspects across departments and identified bottlenecks hindering program implementation. DDC Doda and the members of the skills development committee explored a wide range of training and course opportunities. The meeting highlighted the commitment of Doda's

administration to empower its youth through skill development, offering a path to employment and economic growth in various sectors, including agriculture and tourism. Deputy Director Employment Doda will oversee the skill development plan, and stakeholders will collaborate to plan training programs in agro-based skills, contributing to the district's economic development. Attendees at the meeting included CEO BDA, CPO Doda, Deputy Director of Employment Doda, DSWO Doda, Principal of Polytechnic College Doda, Superintendent of ITI Doda, Assistant Director of Handloom and Handicraft, District Officer JKEDI Doda, Nodal Officer NRLM District Doda, Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow Manjinder Singh, and representatives from Agriculture, Horticulture and other concerned departments.

DC Kathua conducts extensive tour of Bani, peripheral areas

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, OCTOBER 5

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas today conducted an extensive tour of Bani sub-division where he inspected several ongoing projects besides taking stock of the tourism scenario of its peripheral areas.

The DC was accompanied by CEO Basohli Bani Development Authority (BBDA) and SDM Bani. He inspected the assets of the Tourism Department and enquired about the status of acquisition of 450 kanal land where scope of enhancing the amenities vis a vis tourism shall be explored. The DC visited the site for Sports Stadium coming up at Saarthal to be developed by J&K Sports Council and took appraisal of the progress made so far.

While inspecting the Trout Fish Centre of Fisheries Department at Sar-



thal, the DC was apprised by AD Fisheries about the fishery scenario of the area and departmental efforts towards extending proper hand holding to farming community.

The DC also inspected the Potato seed Development Farm established by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare at Bani for which 110 kanal land has been allocated to encourage off season farming in the area. He directed CAO Kathua to take on board the local farming community to augment

their income by adopting off season farming activities.

At village Lowang, the DC listened to the grievances and demands put forth by the PRIs and locals and assured early redressal of the same. While speaking on the occasion, the DC said the initiative of visiting Sarthal area was to get first hand idea of the tourism related infra available and to explore the scope of organising mega events to foster the tourism economy in the picturesque valley and adjoining areas.

DC B'la reviews Healthcare facilities at CHC Sheeri



JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 5

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar today visited the Community Health Centre (CHC) Sheeri to take stock of healthcare facilities being provided to the patients.

Apart from inspecting the various wards and sections of the CHC, Dr. Sehrish enquired about the availability of medicines, diagnostics and other facilities in the hospital.

Interacting with the patients and their attendants, the DC enquired about their wellbeing and the facilities being provided to them and also listened to their issues and demands.

The DC enjoined upon the entire medical and paramedical staff to serve the patients with utmost dedication and sincerity so that they are made feel comfortable while receiving treatment.

Dr Sehrish also reiterated the district administration's commitment to

provide requisite quality healthcare facilities to the people.

Later, the DC also visited ITI Baramulla where she reviewed the progress of Skill development and interacted with youth engaged with Embroidery, Handicrafts and other skills.

On the occasion, the DC stressed on imparting skilled training to the unemployed youth of the district to help them get trained in various trades for becoming self-reliant and self employed.

Reiterating administration's commitment of engaging local potential in Skill Development, the DC said that skilled training shall provide ample opportunities to the unemployed youth in both manufacturing and service sectors and help in tackling the rising graph of unemployment in the district.

The DC was accompanied by Joint Director Planning and other Officers and officials during the visit.

ADDC Bandipora chairs DLTFC meeting, approves 12 cases



JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 5

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Ali Afsar Khan Thursday chaired second District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) meeting for the examination of applications submitted under the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Program.

A total of 19 applications were received for financial assistance to support unemployed youth

in the region. After scrutiny, 12 were approved for financial assistance, however 6 were absent and 1 was disqualified due to pending formalities.

It was given out that the approved applicants will receive the financial support they need to kick-start their entrepreneurial journeys, contributing to the overall economic development of the area.

Among others, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC Bandipora, Lead District Manager Bandipora, Superintendent ITI Bandipora besides other concerned.

Day 2 of Sankalp Saptah: Poshan Nutrition Melas held across 76 AWCs in Marwah Block

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 5

In continued efforts to fortify the impact of the Sankalp Saptah campaign, the Poshan Nutrition Melas were hosted across 76 Anganwadi centers of Aspirational Block Marwah on the second day of the week-long programme.

The activities were held under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner and under the close supervision of PO ICDS, Dr Rishi Kumar Sharma.

These events were focused on the theme "Suposhit Pariwaar-Poshan Mela." Aligned with the Aspirational Block Programme, these activities aimed to promote comprehensive well-being of AWC beneficiaries, through initiatives such as Growth Monitoring of children, Weighing of Pregnant Women, Godh Bharai, and Annaprasan Ceremonies.

Adding vibrancy to the community engagement, "Chaupal pe Baat" sessions were held which emphasized the importance of "Santulit Aaahar" (Balanced Diet) and "Mera Paushtik Bageecha" (My Nutritious Garden), along with insightful discussions on the Best Practices of Kitchen Gardening.

The primary focus of these activities was to address Nutritional Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), ensuring a holistic approach toward achieving optimal nutrition for families within the Aspirational Block Marwah. The Growth Monitoring of children not only tracks their physical development but also ensures early detection of any nutritional concerns, allowing for timely intervention.

Weighing of Pregnant Women is a crucial element to monitor the health of both the expecting mother and the unborn child. The God



Bharai and Annaprasan Ceremonies celebrated the journey of life, placing a spotlight on the significance of nutrition during these milestones.

"Chaupal pe Baat" ses-

sions delved into promoting a balanced diet and cultivating nutritious gardens at the household level, promoting sustainable practices that contribute to the overall

health and well-being of families.

These collective efforts underline ICDS project district Kishtwar's commitment to advancing the objectives of Sankalp Saptah and the Aspirational Block Programme. By addressing the Nutritional KPIs, aim is to lay the foundation for healthier and thriving communities in Marwah Block.

The Enthusiastic Participation of Local PRIs, AWWs, Lactating and pregnant ladies, Adolescent girls, Anganwadi going Children besides locals in these Anganwadi centres make these events a resounding success.

Meanwhile, Swasth Balak Balika Sarpadha was organized at PO ICDS Office Kishtwar to promote child welfare and health.

The event saw the presence of Dr Rishi Kumar Sharma (PO-ICDS), Dr M Y Mir, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kishtwar, Dr

Yudhveer Singh Kotwal (Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Kishtwar), CDDOs, MO RBSK, Supervisors, Anganwari Workers (AWW) and the mothers of Anganwadi-going children. All of them participated in the program with enthusiasm.

The event included a quantitative estimation of hemoglobin levels of all child beneficiaries, coupled with growth monitoring activities involving height and weight measurements. The occasion also recognized and felicitated healthy boys and girls.

In his address, the CMO shed light on nutritional deficiencies among children, emphasizing health interventions, immunization programs for pregnant mothers and newborns.

He provided crucial counseling to participating mothers regarding their diet and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

CBTP on Silk Weaving Technology commences at JKI Silk Weaving factory Rajbagh Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 5

A Capacity Building Training (CBT) programme was started by Silk Technical Service Centre, CSTRI, Central Silk Board, Jammu at JKI Silk Weaving factory Rajbagh Srinagar.

The training program was inaugurated by Dr. Vikas Gupta, Managing Director, Jammu Kashmir Industries Ltd at the conference hall of JKI Weaving Factory, Srinagar.

The Managing Director, JKI interacted with all the weaver trainees and asked them about their introduction, experience and existing problems. He said it is a good initiative of the Central Silk Board for the development of silk business, under which the handloom and power loom weaving work is being improved.

Dr. Gupta said that this is a great opportunity to learn new things as Central Silk Board officers will come here and organize training for all the weavers in the factory campus. All the participants should come forward and suggest taking benefit from textile experts and designers with new technology, so that silk product manufacturing can be upgraded by the Jammu and Kashmir industry.

Scientist-D and Coordinator of the training pro-



gram N. S. Gahlot, Silk Technical Service Centre, CSTRI, Jammu gave a brief of the objective of this training program which is to produce silk fabrics as per the market demand in Jammu and Kashmir.

Apart from 15 visiting officers, 17 men and 3 women participated in the training program on "Silk Weaving Technology". During training

program from 4th to 13th October (10 days) skills of weavers will be enhanced, maintenance of power loom machine parts, reducing defects in silk fabric will be reduced and training course kit, weaving kit/material, will be arranged for all the 20 trainees and each trainee will be given a wage allowance/honorarium of Rs 1500.

Additional Auto stands proposed for Doda town to ease traffic congestion

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 5

To alleviate traffic congestion in Doda Town, Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan today convened a crucial meeting of the designated members of Auto Rickshaw Stands Management Committee headed by ACR Sanjeev Kumar, to identify new feasible auto stands in the Doda Town. The meeting was held in the office chamber of DC Doda. A comprehensive discussion ensued regarding the efficient operation and management of existing auto stands within the town. The Deputy Commissioner proposed the establishment of new auto stands at strategic locations to accommodate the increasing passenger traffic.

DC issued directives to enhance the aesthetics of the primary auto stand near the old bus stand, adjacent to the fountain point. Additionally, he suggested the installation of small vendor carts near the fountain area to accommodate vendors who were displaced. Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the committee to establish electric auto stands near Ganpati Brigade, close to the police Chowki at Ghat



Road and near Bharat Nallah.

To improve the visibility and management, the DC recommended painting yellow lines at all existing auto stands and affixing signboards with unique auto stand numbers. Furthermore, specific number plates, bearing the symbol "D" and sequential numbering (1, 2, 3, etc.), were proposed for auto vehicles. In a bid to monitor their activities, the DC directed the installation of CCTV cameras at all auto stands.

Addressing the needs of hospital-bound passengers, the Deputy Commissioner suggested the establishment of an auto stand near the Associated Hospital of GMC Doda. In a move to ensure accountability, officials were

instructed to issue identity cards to auto drivers, linking them with their respective vehicles.

During the meeting, it was revealed that approximately 225 autos are registered under the Motor Vehicles Department. The DC also advocated for the creation of an auto stand near the Clock Tower on Dossa Road, adjacent to the SSP office complex. Many new auto stand locations were proposed to effectively manage and control congestion arising from heavy traffic.

The meeting saw the attendance of key officials, including ACR Doda, CPO Doda, SP Doda, Accounts Officer DC Office Doda, ARTO Doda, Executive Officer MC Doda, and officers from the Traffic Police Department.

Unit Barber Shop inaugurated at SDRF Bn. HQRS Barzulla Baghat



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 5

In view of the up gradation of infrastructural development drive at Bn. level, a Unit Barber Shop was today inaugurated at

SDRF 1st Bn. HQRS Barzulla Baghat. This facility was created to meet the welfare of Jawans of the Unit. Undersigned along with all ranks of the SDRF 1st Bn. including GOs were present on the occasion.

Sankalp Saptah

RDD, Education department organize cleanliness drives, awareness rallies in ABP, ABDPs



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 5

Rural Development Department, Ramban, on Thursday organised a series of activities dedicated towards maintaining cleanliness and sanitation of residential areas, Government offices, Public places, Schools, Health Institutions, markets, streets and its surrounding areas in block Khari under Aspirational Block Programme (ABP).

On 3rd day of Sankalp Saptah, students from different schools including Government High School, Khari, Government Middle School, Mandakbas, Government Middle School, Nachlana etc participated in the cleanliness drives carried out in their schools and Khari Market besides participating in the awareness rallies organized by the RDD in collaboration with Education Department. Sensitizing the people about the importance of maintaining cleanliness and hygienic conditions in our homes, working places and its surroundings, the students also asked the people, especially shopkeepers

and others working in the market to contribute towards cleanliness and hygiene in and around their shops.

The Departments also organized Painting Competitions on Cleanliness in schools to bring about a behavioural change in the young generation.

The programme was aimed at ensuring that the people take benefits of the essential services and refrain from littering and indiscriminate dumping of the garbage. The establishment of solid waste management and liquid waste management facilities in the Panchayats of Block Kahri was made known to the populace besides generating awareness among masses about Panchayat sanitation.

Similar programmes were also organized on day-3 in block Gundi-Dhram, Ukhral and Gandhri which had been taken up under Aspirational Block Development Programme by the Government.

Later, a Swachhata Hi Seva pledge was also administered to the participants to regularly practice cleanliness and sanitation behaviour.

Phulwari Ramban receives first new-born girl child

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 5

Specialized Adoption Agency (Phulwari) today received the first girl child in its Phulwari Centre Ramban. The girl is tentatively 05 day old and is being taken care of in Phulwari run by the Social Welfare Department, Ramban under Mission Vatsalya.

Deputy Commissioner, Mussarat Islam, along with District Social Welfare Officer, Rahul Gupta, visited the Phulwari centre and took stock of the facilities available for the new member of the home in the Phulwari.

Expressing satisfaction over the facilities available in the Phulwari, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban to ensure regular medical checkup of the girl child and also

ensure timely vaccination of children.

Issuing directions to the staff of Phulwari for taking proper care of the children, Mussarat Islam asked the concerned to monitor and ensure round-the-clock facilities for the girl child. Phulwari centre is for the children in the age group of 0 to 6 years who are surrendered, abandoned or are orphans etc, he added.

The District Social Welfare Officer apprised that the centre is fully equipped with the capacity of 10 baby children having state-of-the-art childcare facilities.

Among others, Chairperson Child Welfare Committee, CWC member Ramban, Manager-cum-Coordinator Phulwari and Superintendent Parisha were present on the occasion.

Shree Anna Mela-Millet Fair Cum Exhibition, Technical Conference organized at IIM Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 5

Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM) in association with Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce (DICCI) and Theta Foundation for Development hosted the Shree Anna Mela (Jammu Millets Mela) and Technical Conference organized by Ministry of Food Processing Industries on 5th Oct 2023 at Radisson Blue, Jammu. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to celebrate the rich biodiversity and agro-ecological practices of the state and explore the potential of millets in transforming the agricultural landscape.

The Chief Guest for the event was Indu Kanwal Chib, JKAS, Mission Director, JKRLM, J & K and Guest of Honor was Arun Manhas, MD, J & K State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd J & K. The event was formally inaugurated in presence of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, Mohammed Farooq Dar, Secretary, Agriculture Production and Family Welfare, Padmashree R.K. Narra, Gaurav Gupta, Theta Foundation for Development, Neha Ganju, Manager, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran (R), Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu, Dr. Vivek Sharma, CIO, IIM Jammu, and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. The event kicked off with a vibrant schedule that included the arrival of dignitaries, the



official inauguration of the exhibition, and a tour of the exhibition stalls by the distinguished guests.

In his special address, Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu credited the Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, and Ministry of Food Processing Industries in popularizing the importance of millets worldwide. He also urged everyone in India to incorporate millets in their daily diet to achieve a healthier lifestyle and abstain from unhealthy food. He reiterated that IIM Jammu promotes increased millet consumption and ensured a full day meal made of millet once a week to help the students and faculty attain a healthier lifestyle. He urged the farmers, academia and the industry people present here to join hands and collaborate with the organizing team and discuss the marketing, branding, and pricing of millet. He also emphasized that IIM Jammu will always be eager to facilitate the interested farmers and industry geeks in their initiatives. Lastly, he urged everyone present to promote millet consumption as it is chemical free and a healthier alternative.

One of the highlights of The Shree Anna Mela is the presentation on the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme by Secretary, Agriculture Production and Family Welfare, Mohammed Farooq Dar, shedding light on how this initiative can benefit local farmers and entrepreneurs. He gave a detailed overview with the statistics putting forward a true picture of

the progress in the agricultural sector in the U.T of J & K. Guest of Honor Arun Manhas, MD, J&K State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. J & K in his special address talked about the various challenges ranging from product packaging, marketing, and making it reach the end users and invited support from the academia, industry for addressing these issues. He also suggested the government incorporate it in the public distribution system which will help to create increased awareness about millets in their daily diet. He also urged and emphasized the need to come together and contribute their part in increased awareness and usage of millets in our daily diet.

Chief Guest Indu Kanwal Chib, Mission Director, JKRLM, J&K in her special address mentioned that The Shree Anna Mela has been a testament to the potential of millets in enhancing food security, improving nutrition, and boosting the income of our farmers. She also spoke about various initiatives taken by JKRLM, J&K for promoting millet

the progress in the agricultural sector in the U.T of J & K.

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Chief Guest Indu Kanwal Chib, Mission Director, JKRLM, J&K in her special address mentioned that The Shree Anna Mela has been a testament to the potential of millets in enhancing food security, improving nutrition, and boosting the income of our farmers. She also spoke about various initiatives taken by JKRLM, J&K for promoting millet

cultivation with women empowerment. She also expressed her gratitude towards all the partnering organizations and all the entrepreneurs, farmer fraternity from J&K for attending the event and making this initiative a huge success.

This inaugural ceremony ended with the vote of thanks by DICCI followed by Millet success stories by Avni Organics, Gian Network, Kishtwar Millets, Horti Producers Cooperative Limited, Krishi Nari Shakti and Sri Millets. Shishram Tudwal, Zonal Manager of Central Bank of India, shared insights into financial assistance for farmers while Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer at IIM Jammu, discussed the adoption of next-generation technologies in millet agriculture. Sessions on AI, e-commerce SAAS platforms, storage technologies were chaired by IITB alumnus & entrepreneur Harish.

Another session on millet production value addition & Millet processing were conducted by Dr. Meenakshi and Dr. Monika Sood, SKUAST respectively. These sessions aimed to equip attendees with the knowledge and tools necessary for the successful cultivation and processing of millets.

The parallelly running industry meet commenced with a presentation and promotional video by Dr. Neha Ganju, Manager, Ministry of Food Processing Industries briefing about the upcoming

ing Food Expo 2023 and plethora of opportunities and schemes for entrepreneurs from the food sector from the U.T of J & K. This was followed by addresses by Prof. B.S. Sahay proposed that the industry, academia come together to create a healthy business ecosystem for millets and he also proposed the concept of having an industry meet at IIM Jammu. This was followed by Shri Arun Manhas, and Shrimati Indu Kanwal Chib, focusing on promoting collaboration and industry growth in the millet sector.

Towards the end there was an open house interaction with industry and experts. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and ended on a positive note. The industry meet featured top-league entrepreneurs, industrialists from the Food sector in J & K. The industry interaction turned out to be a healthy discussion with an outcome to synergize the energies for creating increased awareness about millets, promoting the agro based products from India on a global scale.

The Shree Anna Mela - Millet Fair-cum-Exhibition was a day filled with innovation, learning, and networking opportunities, bringing together farmers, industry representatives, academia, experts, and enthusiasts under one roof. The event in true sense showcased Jammu's agricultural heritage and the potential of millets in shaping the future of food processing.

SPMR College of Commerce felicitates Safai Karamcharis



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 5

Continuing the healthy practice of the college, a felicitation program of Safai Karamcharis was organized today here in Government SPMR College of Commerce.

The program was held to show gratitude towards civic staff for their contribution in keeping the college campus clean. The appreciation was offered as a kind of psychological incentive to all human beings to work better and with dedication.

The Chief Guest, Principal of the college, Dr. Surinder Kumar Sharma expressed his gratitude to the civic workers for keeping the college surroundings neat and hygienic. To provide their services,

they come early and make the campus ready for the start of the day, he said. He further added that they are the real warriors who have given their services even at the tough and deadly times of covid.

All the Safai karamcharis Mr Kabir, Mr. Rinku, Ms Anjelina, Ms Neelam, Ms Hafeeza, Ms Bobby, Mr. Sunny and Ms Raj Begum were garlanded and felicitated with mementos and Gifts.

Prof Savita Jamwal also encouraged the workers to work in unison and irrespective of allotted areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Deepak Pathania said that all the cleanliness staff work as a team and involve themselves in activities such as segregation of waste, compost

making and proper disposal of solid waste. Dr. Pathania further added that all should respect them as they are the indispensable workforce who clean the mess created by others which is indeed a difficult task to do for any human being. The faculty members should cooperate in making things easy and not difficult for them.

Later, the Safai Karamcharis and staff members enjoyed eatables and tea thereafter. Rinku and Sunny made the occasion lively by singing songs. The whole program was coordinated by Prof Savita Jamwal, Dr. Monika Malhotra, Prof. Deepshikha Sharma and Dr. Deepak Pathania. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Prof Apfan Ali.

Advisor Bhatnagar addresses 'Media Sensitization workshop on Tobacco Control'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 5

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today inaugurated the one day 'Media Sensitization workshop on Tobacco control efforts of Government of Jammu and Kashmir' at Banquet Hall here. The workshop, organised by Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, was held with an aim to raise awareness and engage media in support of Tobacco control efforts of Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar; Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather; senior officers of health department, medical professionals and large number of media persons were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the participants in the workshop, Advisor Bhatnagar advocated that better enforcement and coordination among various stakeholders is vital for combating the effects of Tobacco in the society. He added that Tobacco use is gateway to usage of other drugs as well as alcohol, and therefore we need to

employ strict measures to reduce its impact. It is also the cause of most preventable deaths in society. "Addiction is easy to pickup but very hard to give up and therefore prevention is critical to combat it", Bhatnagar said. The Advisor further highlighted that media has a vital role to play in tackling this menace in the society, and their ability as watchdogs of society at large makes them an important stakeholder in mitigating its impact. He called upon the mediapersons to make aware young ones about the ill effects of tobacco on one's health as well as highlight violations as much as possible so that the required corrective action is taken.

Advisor Bhatnagar, on the occasion, called upon the health authorities to coordinate with education department so that



the aspect of ill effects of Tobacco use can be included into school curriculum from middle level.

Addressing the gathering, Bhupinder Kumar said that media is an important stakeholder for fighting this menace and this workshop will help in capacity building of media persons on various aspects of law related to Tobacco control. He added that media has important role in controlling Tobacco as well as drug menace in the society.

In his welcome address, Director Health Services said that this workshop was organised with an aim to create awareness about Tobacco use and its impact on the society. He added that this workshop will also sensitise media persons about Tobacco vendor licensing as well as National Tobacco Control Programme.

92800 street lights installed in Jammu Municipal limits: JMC

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 5

All the 75 wards within the jurisdiction of Jammu Municipal Corporation are being provided with street lights in two phases.

As per the JMC, till date installation of 61300 street lights has been completed under phase-I and the work of installa-

tion of street lights under phase-II is in progress. Out of 35130 street lights in phase-II, about 31500 lights have been installed.

The job of installation and commissioning is going on as per the tripartite agreement among Power Development Department, EESL and Housing & Urban Development Department.



As per the agreement PDD has to make available the whole infrastructure viz. providing of poles, phase wire and allied accessories meant for the installation of these street lights and EESL has to provide street lights of different wattages as per the requirement of the area. The JMC has to supervise and make the payment for

the maintenance of these street lights as per the agreement. As per the tripartite agreement, the EESL has to provide the street lights with necessary accessories and has to maintain these lights for 07 years.

The JMC has to make the payment for the maintenance of street lights as per the agreement and

JMC is doing so for the completed 61300 street lights only. The maintenance part is taken by EESL on regular basis and there are 3 ways in which the complaints can be registered with EESL viz. Toll Free No. 1800-180-3580; JK.LED app for J&K only, whereas another app is available on all India level is EESL SAMPARK app.

EDITORIAL

Clear uncertainty over ULB polls

Jammu and Kashmir government has apparently decided to not hold urban local bodies polls for the time being. The reason is that there is a complete uncertainty over the subject matter. The opposition parties are seething in anger against the, what they call, derailing the electoral exercise for own petty interests by giving lame excuses. There accusations are based on the reports that the UT government is reportedly planning giving reservation to other backward classes (OBCs) in Panchayat and municipal bodies like other states and UTs in the country. It is aimed at countering the opposition which has recently released a caste survey in Bihar to ensure quota for OBCs. The move is widely perceived as a consolation to the purported move to defer ULB polls for unknown reasons. It has been given out that major discrepancy has been detected in some Wards of ULBs especially the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) wherein it has been observed that few wards have nearly four times more electors than the others. If it has really happened, this discrepancy needs to be removed with immediate effect. And this could be done by conducting fresh delimitation of Municipalities. The irony is that such an exercise is not undertaken by the Housing and Urban Development Department before the elections. Even delimitation has also not been done for Sarpanch and Panch segments of Panchayats by the Rural Development Department. The five-year-term of most of the Municipalities including JMC and SMC is likely to end in November while that of Panchayats will end in December and January. Elections to ULBs were held in October 2018 after 13 years while polls to Panchayats were conducted in November-December 2018 after decades. The ULBs and Panchayats are the basic components of any democracy and the government should ensure that these are empowered and strengthened by timely conducting elections to these bodies. Any delay in the exercise would deprive the people of their fundamental rights of electing their own representatives at grassroots level. Secondly, the Government is contemplating to give reservation to OBCs as per their population in both ULBs and Panchayat elections in Jammu and Kashmir on the pattern of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) besides women. Women have been given 33 percent reservation in Municipalities and Panchayats while SCs and STs were given quota based on their population. Within SCs and STs, SC and ST women have also been given reservation. It is a great move that the government has now seriously considering quota to OBCs in Municipal and Panchayat elections and can be given based on their population but this decision at the fag of existing ULBs and just ahead of elections has raised many eyebrows. The grant of reservation to OBCs in ULBs from upcoming elections will only delay the poll process and it will become the sole base of holding these elections after the Lok Sabha polls. The Election Authority had undertaken separate revision for electoral rolls for Municipalities while such an exercise for Panchayat polls is on and the rolls will be published on October 10. Whatever be the circumstances, the government must assure the people that they would not have to wait for long to exercise their right to franchise and elect their grassroots level representatives. What the government of Jammu and Kashmir needs to do is that an assurance must be given to the people over the conduct of these polls. It would bring an end to the prevailing uncertainty and chaos among the voters.

Pardhis: The traditional custodians of Cheetahs

BKP SINHA/ARVIND KUMAR JHA

The introduction of cheetahs into India has indeed sparked intense debate. The cheetahs were introduced in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh marking a significant milestone for the \$5 million project. Authorities maintain that reintroducing a top predator like cheetah can enhance the area's overall biodiversity by restoring the predator-prey balance. The presence of cheetahs can significantly attract tourists, potentially boost the local economy, and increase funds for conservation. On the scientific front, it can provide valuable data on reintroduction methodologies and challenges, which can be applied to similar projects worldwide for this species classified, by the IUCN as "vulnerable". Further, for the local communities, the presence of a historically significant animal can foster a sense of pride, furthering the cause of conservation.

The fate of this esteemed conservation endeavour hangs precariously in the balance. Nine cheetahs, six adults and three out of four cubs born in India, have succumbed to a tragic fate due to a multitude of afflictions. These reportedly include renal failure, physical injury, humidity-related infestations. Three of the first litter of four died apparently due to frailty, malnutrition, and dehydration. Concerns raised by many experts over the labelling of the cheetah's 'introduction' as a 'reintroduction' and

positioning of the translocation as an example of the dilution of scientific rigour need much more serious consideration. Although the concerned international experts do not find the number of deaths alarming, many experts do not consider Kuno, a largely deciduous forest with sparse grasslands, as an ideal habitat for African cheetahs and opine that merely housing a few cheetahs is hardly an answer to the claimed restoration of India's grasslands.

The declared notion of cheetahs filling a unique ecological niche as a predator is also seen as not well-founded, given that Kuno already has a myriad of native predators. They mention that the resident blackbucks vanished when the habitat transitioned into woodlands with isolated tall grass segments. It is feared that with competition and challenges in finding suitable prey, cheetahs could venture beyond their intended territories, causing human-wildlife conflicts. Some international experts have also raised the issue of limited consultation with experts in cheetah ecology before the translocation.

History reveals that the habitat of the Asiatic cheetah in India was spread across scrublands, bushlands, arid and semi-arid terrains, and a mix of low hills and plains interrupted by rocky plateaus. Wildlife hunting, in general, was a specialised profession. Pardhis, a conglomerate of eleven types based on hunting methods and targeting wild animals, largely followed

the geographical spread of relevant ecosystems as they roamed.

A set of astute and occupationally differentiated specialized hunters from amongst them were called 'Cheetah Pardhi' who applied a kind of very strong bird lime to the branches of the trees cheetahs inhabited, or set their snare traps made from deer guts near trees marked and revisited by the cheetahs either for claw sharpening or for relieving themselves. The Cheetah Pardhi community capitalized on this behaviour. They trapped, trained, and deployed cheetahs for hunting; or traded them to the elites, princely states, and zamindaris.

Records show that Akbar had a remarkable assembly of 9,000 cheetahs. His successors Shah Jehan and Aurangzeb were also fond of hunting using trained cheetahs, leopards, and hawks. For this 'pardhis' were highly sought after by the royalty. The cheetah population in the wild faced a severe decline over time due to excessive hunting.

As time passed, the aristocracy's enduring fascination with these creatures prompted them to import African cheetahs, particularly post-1918. The era marked a surge in the import of African cheetahs to India, with previous records indicating just one specimen imported in 1890-91 for Calcutta's Alipore Zoo. With the royals of Baroda, Bhavnagar, and Kolhapur playing pivotal roles, by 1920, African cheetahs had largely supplanted their Asiatic coun-

terparts in Indian captivity. In the late 19th and early 20th century, the use of sophisticated weapons coupled with the British Government's bounty system rewarding the killing of cheetahs, leopards, and other wildlife drastically reduced their numbers. The ancient art of cheetah trapping in India soon faded, and the Asiatic cheetah also, once widespread, left only fleeting footprints around the sal-bearing areas of central India, eventually disappearing entirely.

Anthropological literature indicates the bond between the Pardhis and the animals they trapped and tamed. The process was intricate, requiring immense patience and a deep understanding of the animal's nature. It reflected personal and group qualities such as bravery, stealth, planning for trapping, grit, perseverance, tact, and knowledge of tools and equipment. However, what remains paramount, is the pardhi community's profound understanding of wildlife and ecosystems. The British declared the 'pardhis' as a criminal tribe in 1871. As a community, the 'pardhis' expertise wasn't just for sport; it was an art, a livelihood system, and hunting was bound by customs that sustained their tribe and the resource base. It's a fact that many hunting-related provisions in the wildlife-related rules in India were adopted from the unwritten conservation-oriented rules followed by the 'pardhis'.

Hunting licences were utilised primarily by the influentials till 1991,

after which hunting was banned. Interestingly, hunters became some of the best conservationists. Though the tag of 'criminal tribe' was removed by the Government in 1952 for the Pardhis, the perception of enforcement agencies hardly changed. While the ban on hunting criminalised 'pardhis' livelihood system, they, once integral to India's wildlife and hunting legacy, found themselves completely marginalised. Some of them occasionally succumb to the allure of organised smugglers who exploit their skills to hunt tigers. The Pardhis' transition from admired hunters to those labelled as criminals, and eventually to ecological refugees in their homeland is truly poignant.

The current project dubbed the "world's first intercontinental large wild carnivore translocation project," presents unique challenges. The cheetahs being imported must adjust to an alien ecosystem with a qualitatively different food web and climatic conditions that sharply contrast with their native habitat. The impact of the cheetahs on and their response to the existing biocomplexity and connectance will present new challenges that need to be addressed successfully. To ensure the project's success, we must adopt a purely professional approach, champion collaborative problem-solving over blame games; synergise efforts of all the stakeholders with genuine openness to feedback; prioritise the development of vacated village areas into

grasslands; create conservation breeding enclosures for cheetahs; establish robust healthcare system and engage with locals with appropriate capacity building, awareness. In addition to the above, it's paramount to also source and harness the traditional knowledge of the cheetah 'pardhis' for the purpose. Today, the Forest Department's initiative of employing ex-poachers, sandalwood and rosewood smugglers in Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala and Kabini Wildlife Safari, Karnataka; and locals as guides in Kas plateau in Maharashtra, are a few examples of recognition and utilization of indigenous people and their knowledge. Integrating them into wildlife conservation efforts can be a win-win situation.

The 'pardhis' are not merely a tribe. They are the custodians of centuries of wisdom, their lives intricately woven into the tapestry of local ecosystems and cultures. Yet, they bear the unjust stigma of being a criminal tribe, a label that overshadows their rich heritage and intimate understanding of nature. Once this stigma is removed, the 'pardhis' has the potential to become invaluable allies in our conservation efforts. Their knowledge, honed over generations, could significantly enhance the reach and effectiveness of our current approaches. The choice to harness this wisdom or let it dissipate into oblivion lies with us.

(The writers are former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UP and Maharashtra; views are personal)

Bihar caste data a threat to BJP's social coalitions

SUHIT K SEN

There are three ways in general of looking at caste enumeration: negatively, as an exercise that reinforces the predatory caste system; neutrally, as something that recognises a reality that cannot be ignored; or, positively, as a recognition of a social evil that can be made a tool to root out its injustices.

At the current juncture of Indian history, the lattermost is the most judicious way of viewing caste enumeration. The Bihar government's caste census – we will not quibble over semantics in the manner Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders are doing – and the publication of its results on October 2 is, therefore, a way forward in forging greater social and economic equality in India.

The coalition govern-

ment formed by the Janata Dal (United) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has been working on the caste census for some time. It has been part of their political programme. That it has been published now is partly a result of delays caused by judicial interventions. So, uncomplimented allegations that this is just a political ploy, timed with a view towards the 2024 general elections, don't wash. We'll return to the politics surrounding the census in a bit.

The caste census itself is revealing. Just over 36 per cent of Bihar's population belong to the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs); 27.13 per cent to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs); 19.65 to the Scheduled Castes (SCs); and other groups deserving reservations have a smaller presence. The 'forward castes' constitute only 15.5 per cent of the population.

Adjusting for the total minority segment of the population, this figure is even lower.

This, obviously, has major connotations as Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, and the grizzled and ailing RJD veteran Lalu Prasad (the master strategist of the politics of social equality), have pointed out. The 50 per cent cap on reservations must be revisited. Not only will there be concerted pressure to increase quotas for the deprived, which constitutes such an overwhelming majority, there will also be louder voices calling for more targeted social schemes using the newly available data.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Lalu Prasad, and Bahujan Samaj Party MP Danish Ali have already coined what promises to be the defining slogan of the times: 'Representation

proportional to share in population'. This idea will be difficult to resist. Other states will now be under pressure to execute some credible form of caste enumeration, especially those in the north Indian heartland – Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, and Rajasthan. Locally dominant communities such as the Jats and Gujjars will also seek recognition as backward groups.

Karnataka and Odisha will be under pressure to release the figures of the caste censuses, even if they are not as exhaustive as Bihar's. But the most intense pressure will be piled on the Union government, which has blocked the release of the data collected by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government's 2011 socio-economic caste census, especially because it has refused to conduct the

decennial census of 2011. It will be loath to do so because the BJP thrives on grey areas that confute facticity, which enables it to deploy its weapon of falsehoods most effectively.

But there is a political dimension that creates an imperative. BJP leaders might try to put a brave face and dismiss the Bihar census as flawed or irrelevant, but they will be aware that it changes the political dynamic of the heartland. The BJP has thrived electorally by consolidating the non-Yadav backward castes, in both the 'other' and 'extremely' categories, with its recourse to the toxic rhetoric and practice of exclusivist majoritarianism. If it fails now to confront the politics and materiality of social equality, the social coalitions it has stitched together may well fall apart.

The Karnataka elections have shown that the poli-

tics of welfare is salient and persuasive. The Madhya Pradesh government's scramble to create social schemes given its electoral vulnerabilities, has shown up Prime Minister Narendra Modi's freebie jibes for what they are: puerile and risible. This welfare politics will now have to be inflected to meet the exigencies of the new data on backwardness.

Politically, there is no doubt that the Opposition – the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A) – has scored a goal. The BJP is scrambling. We'll have to see whether its response will be to try and meet social and economic goals, or ratchet up its hatemongering rhetoric and engineer further social division and conflict.

(Suhit K Sen is author of 'The Paradox of Populism: The Indira Gandhi Years, 1966-1977')

God and his many forms

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

God is one and will eternally be so. And He takes many forms and incarnates as decided by Him. We are aware of His incarnations as Lord Ramachandra and Lord Krishna. We, on the other hand, are many souls and take different bodies, as deserved. Lord Krishna has described in some detail what God is like in the Bhagavad-Geeta. This article is about some of His incarnations and forms taken by Him.

Before I take it up, let me address the need for taking up so many forms by Bhagavan, and why we must not differentiate between them. All of us are different packages with specific natures, desires, attachments, etc. There-

fore, it is obvious that we will be attracted to different forms of God. For example, I am helplessly attracted to Lord Krishna. I have a photo of my beloved Lord hanging on the right side of my bed. I routinely look at Him, do 'namaskar', pray to Him for guidance and help, thank Him for his 'kripa', etc. On the other hand, my mother was a staunch devotee of Lord Ramachandra. She read 'Sundar Kand' of the Ramacharita Manas routinely till the very end of her life. Lord Ramachandra's photo dominated her 'poojaghar'. My mother-in-law has taken Mother Durga as her sole shelter. Durgaji's large photo hangs behind her bed, and there is an idol of her beloved mother on the right side

of her bed.

God's different incarnations represent some qualities, which stand out. For example, Lord Ramachandra has been famously called 'Maryada Purushottama', because He upheld 'Maryada' throughout His presence on the planet Earth. Lord Krishna, as His name suggests, attracts. The word 'Krishna' is made from 'dhatu' krish, which means what attracts. I am well and truly attracted to my Lord. Then, there is Lord Narsimha, who incarnated to punish Hiranyakashipu, who was torturing his devotee, Prahlad. God took the form of half man and half lion. The head was that of a lion and had a human torso. This 'avatar' is known to remove all evils against His devotees

and protect them from all harm. I turn to Him when I am fearful and 'tamoguna' has become dominant in me. Is it not wonderful that we have so many forms of God to choose from? These multi-forms help us to worship God anywhere there is a temple of whatever form of God.

Describing some more forms of God, Lord Shiva comes to mind. The literal meaning of the word Shiva is auspicious. Mahadeva is part of the trinity composed of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. He was worshipped most famously by Lord Ramachandra in His incarnation in the 'treta yuga'. And there is the world-famous 'Kashi Vishwanath temple', which is visited by millions every year including many foreigners. I had the good

fortune of having His 'darshan' there many times. Lord Narayana is another form of God. In this form, the Lord has four arms carrying a lotus flower, a conch, a mace and a chakra.

Chanting the holy name Narayana is believed to reinforce the good and annihilate the bad. Mother Kali is another form of God. Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa was her very famous devotee. She is regarded as the ultimate manifestation of 'shakti' (cosmic energy). And we all know why Shakti is so crucial to exist well. I am blessed to have a magnificent Kali temple close to my residence. Lord Ganesh is worshipped by one and all. He is prominently known as the remover of obstacles. It is

no wonder that all auspicious activities are begun with the chant of 'Shri Ganeshaya Namah'. Hanumanji is especially known for His devotion to Lord Ramachandra in His incarnation. Hanumanji carried out many extremely difficult tasks for his beloved Lord. He is here with us on the earth to support/help us.

Lakshmi, who is worshipped in homes all over, especially at the time of 'Deepawali', is God's form of opulence. She brings prosperity, welfare and a good future. We should benefit from worshipping any of the multiple forms of God. They all add up, there is no loss of any kind.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views expressed are personal)

Poor sleep, prior medical conditions may raise long Covid risk by 3x

AGENCIES
TORONTO

The risk of long Covid may be three times higher among people who sleep less than six hours per night and also have pre-existing medical conditions, finds a study.

In contrast, the risk of long Covid in people with pre-existing conditions was only 1.8 times higher among people with an average nightly sleep duration.

These analyses were adjusted for potential confounders including sex, age, body mass index, vaccination status, and ethnicity.

"Habitual short nighttime sleep duration exacerbated the risk of long Covid in individuals with pre-existing conditions," said Frances Chung, Professor in the University of Toronto's Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine.

"Based on its proven



adjunct role in immunity, habitual sleep duration may alter the risk for developing long Covid," he added.

Long Covid was defined as having a history of Covid-19 infection with at least one symptom lasting for more than three months according to the definition of the World Health Organization.

Long Covid symptoms may include tiredness or fatigue, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, sleep problems, and dif-

ficulty thinking or concentrating (sometimes referred to as "brain fog").

The study, published in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine, analysed data from an online survey of 13,461 adults from 16 countries. Participants were categorised as Covid cases if they indicated that they had tested positive for the infectious virus. Participants reported how many hours per night they sleep on average.

Of survey participants, there were 2,508 individu-

als who reported having a Covid infection, and 20 per cent reported at least one long Covid symptom.

Of the 1,505 participants with long Covid who also reported their sleep duration and pre-existing condition status, 945 had pre-existing conditions, and 560 had none; and 121 (8 per cent) were short sleepers, 1,257 (83.5 per cent) had an average sleep duration, and 127 (84 per cent) had a long nightly sleep duration of more than 9 hours.

According to Chung, sleep duration is a target for interventions to reduce the risk of long Covid.

"Restoring nighttime sleep to average duration represents a potentially modifiable behavioural factor to lower the odds of long Covid for at-risk patients," she said.

The team noted that more research is needed to understand the pathophysiology of long Covid.

Microdoses of mushrooms may help fight mental disorders: Study

AGENCIES
LONDON

Researchers have shown the possibility of using psilocybin – the active compound in mushrooms with psychedelic properties – as a therapeutic tool against mental disorders.

Psilocybin has long been recognised as a classic psychedelic substance and has recently been investigated for its potential to assist in the treatment of various psychiatric disorders, primarily depression and addiction, through therapy supplemented with a high dose of psilocybin.

However the new study, published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry, focuses on repeated low doses of psilocybin, which are significantly lower than the doses typically used in therapeutic settings and are commonly referred to as "microdosing."

"Microdosing is a phe-



nomenon popularised within performance culture, notably in areas like Silicon Valley, California, and has subsequently spread through stories and anecdotes on the internet as a form of self-medication for various challenges," explains Mikael Palner, from the University of Southern Denmark in Netherlands.

The study conducted on rats showed that animals tolerated the repeated low doses of psilocybin well and did not exhibit signs of reduced pleasure (anhedonia), anxiety, or altered locomotor activity.

Most notably, repeated low doses of psilocybin increased the rats' resili-

ence to stress, and they displayed fewer compulsive behaviours.

Additionally, an increase in the number of connections to the thalamus region of the brain, which serves as a kind of filter for our decisions and concerns, was observed.

"The change in connectivity to the thalamus may contribute to our enhanced resilience to stress factors and could explain why so many people report positive effects on their well-being from small doses of psychedelic mushrooms," Palner said.

Through the new study, the researchers have established a valid method that

can be utilised for further research into the effects of repeated low doses of psilocybin.

The study also lends support to the numerous anecdotal reports of the benefits of microdosing as a therapeutic intervention.

This paves the way for additional research and potentially entirely new approaches to treating various mental disorders.

"The increased anxiety and stress in society currently have placed a strong focus on microdosing, leading to a surge in the trade of mushrooms. Countries such as the Netherlands, Australia, the US, and Canada have either legalised or are in the process of legalising psilocybin for therapeutic treatment," said Palner.

"It is, therefore, crucial that we understand the effects and side effects of these substances, which are already widely used by people around the world."

Covid infection, vax can't worsen migraines: Study

AGENCIES
LONDON

Covid-19 infection and vaccination have negligible effects on the severity of migraines, finds a study.

People who perceived that their migraines worsened, those who had been infected were 2.5-times more likely to be concerned about migraine worsening.

Patients who had been vaccinated were 17.3-times more likely to have this concern.

The research, published in the 'European Journal of Neurology', was conducted among 550 adults who had received migraine-related care at a Spanish headache clinic.

About 44.9 per cent (247) patients reported Covid at least once and 83.3 per cent (458) had been vaccinated; 24.7 per cent (61) reported their migraine worsening since contracting Covid and 11.4 per cent (52) since vaccination.

When investigators examined patients' e-diary information, they observed no significant difference in headache frequency one month before and after infection or vaccination, even when comparing patients with and without self-reported migraine worsening.

"In the case of Covid-19, we reported previously that indeed headache is a frequent and disabling symptom of the infection; yet, it may not necessarily be linked to an increase in migraine frequency," said the researchers from Vall d'Hebron University Hospital in Barcelona, Spain.

"In light of our results, we believe that clinicians should deliver to patients a more reassuring message that Covid-19 and Covid-19 vaccines may marginally affect migraine course and that probably the impact of the infection and vaccines is less than the individual rhythmicity to have attacks. This information may help minimise their worry," the researchers said.

Chromosomes may explain why men experience severe Covid

AGENCIES
TORONTO

XY chromosomes may be the reason that globally males were more likely than females to be hospitalised or admitted to the ICU or to die from Covid-19 despite having similar infection rates, finds a study.

The pre-clinical research, published in the journal iScience, has yet to be replicated in humans, but points to the ACE2 protein as a key contributor to differences in Covid-19 outcomes between males and females.

"Covid-19 severity and mortality are much higher in males than in females, but the reasons for this remain poorly understood," said Haibo Zhang, a staff scientist at St. Michael's Hospital, and a Professor of anesthesiology and pain medicine, and physiology at the University of Toronto.

Located on the cell's outer surface, ACE2 plays an important role in controlling blood pressure and inflammation and protecting organs from damage caused by excess inflammation.

During a SARS-CoV-2 infection, the coronavirus spike protein locks on to ACE2 to enter the cell. The gene encoding the ACE2 protein is located on the X chromosome, which means that females have two



copies of the gene and males only have one.

In times of health, the extra copy of the gene for ACE2 doesn't appear to make a difference - Zhang and his team found similar levels of ACE2 protein in healthy males and females.

Following a SARS-CoV-2 infection, however, they observed a dramatic decrease in ACE2 in males while levels remained consistent in females, suggesting that the additional copy of the ACE2 gene on the X chromosome is helping to compensate and maintain high protein levels in females, the study showed.

The changes in ACE2 levels were also correlated with a drop in oestrogen hormone signalling in males, which could also contribute to the sex-specific differences in Covid-19 outcomes.

To test whether low levels of ACE2 were responsible for the more severe outcomes seen in males with Covid, the researchers devised a therapeutic approach using an inhaler to deliver lab-made ACE2

proteins directly into the lungs.

Males who received a daily puff of ACE2 after SARS-CoV-2 infection had less virus in their lungs, less lung injury and higher levels of oestrogen signalling.

Together, these results paint a clearer picture of how the extra copy of the ACE2 gene and higher oestrogen levels in females work together to protect them from experiencing more severe Covid, the team said.

"A common misconception is that an increased presence of ACE2 receptors would result in a higher infection rate," Zhang said.

"However, the enhanced activation of ACE2 in females actually serves as a compensatory mechanism during infection that's aimed at safeguarding the lungs and other vital organs from potential damage."

In males who lack the second copy of the gene, much of the existing ACE2 gets co-opted by SARS-CoV-2 during an infection.

As a result, there is not enough of the protein to fulfil its usual functions of tamping down inflammation and preventing organ damage. The extra dose of ACE2 delivered by inhaler serves as a decoy to glom onto the coronavirus, thereby preventing it from entering cells while also keeping the native ACE2 proteins free to exert protective effects.

New robot could help diagnose breast cancer early

AGENCIES
LONDON

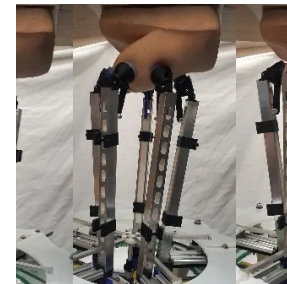
A team of British researchers have developed a novel robot that could revolutionise how women monitor their breast health by giving them access to safe electronic clinical breast examinations (CBE).

The device, designed by a team at the University of Bristol is able to apply very specific forces over a range similar to forces used by human examiners and can detect lumps using sensor technology at larger depths than before.

"There are conflicting ideas about how useful carrying out Clinical Breast Examinations (CBE) are for the health outcomes of the population," said lead author George Jenkinson from the University of Bristol, UK.

"It's generally agreed upon that if it is well performed, then it can be a very useful and low risk diagnostic technique," he added.

Precision, repeatability, and accuracy are of paramount importance



Imperial College London. The simulations allowed the team to perform thousands of palpitations and test lots of hypothetical scenarios such as calculating the difference in efficiency when using two, three, or four sensors at the same time.

In the lab, they were able to carry out the experiments on the silicone breast to demonstrate the simulations were accurate and to experimentally discover the forces for the real equipment. The ultimate goal is that the device and sensors will have the capability to detect lumps more accurately and deeper than it is possible only from applying human touch.

It could also be combined with other existing techniques, such as ultrasound examination.

"We have shown that our robotic system has the dexterity necessary to carry out a clinical breast examination - we hope that in the future this could be a real help in diagnosing cancers early," Jenkinson said.

Moderna's combo vax against flu, Covid shows promise

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Moderna on Thursday announced positive interim results from the Phase 1/2 trial of its investigational combination vaccine against influenza and Covid-19.

Flu and Covid-19 represent a significant seasonal burden for individuals, providers, healthcare systems and economies.

Combination shots aim to target both respiratory viruses that typically surge at the same time of the year.

The Phase 1/2 clinical trial evaluated the safety and immunogenicity of mRNA-1083 compared to a standard dose influenza vaccine Fluarix, in adults 50-64 years of age.

It was also compared against an enhanced influenza vaccine Flu-zone HD in adults 65-79 years of age. For both age groups, mRNA-1083 was compared against the

Spikevax booster.

Antibody titer levels for mRNA-1083 were similar to or greater than both of the flu vaccines.

Also, neutralising antibody titers were similar to the bivalent Spikevax booster.

Local and systemic effects for mRNA-1083 were similar to Moderna's standalone Covid booster. No new safety concerns were noted compared to the Covid vaccine.

"With today's positive results from our combination vaccine against flu and Covid-19, we continue to expand our Phase 3 pipeline," said Stephane Bancel, Chief Executive Officer of Moderna, in a statement.

"Combination vaccines offer an important opportunity to improve consumer and provider experience, increase compliance with public health recommendations, and deliver value for healthcare systems," Bancel

added.

The company now plans to begin a Phase 3 trial of mRNA-1083 in 2023 and is targeting potential regulatory approval for the combination vaccine in 2025.

"We are excited to move combination respiratory vaccines into Phase 3 development and look forward to partnering with public health officials to address the significant seasonal threat posed to people by these viruses," Bancel said.

Influenza epidemics occur seasonally and vary in severity each year. It affects people of all ages, but older adults are disproportionately affected by influenza and its complications.

Worldwide, influenza leads to 3-5 million cases of severe diseases and 290,000-650,000 influenza-related respiratory deaths annually, despite the availability of current influenza vaccines.

Should fathers be screened for postpartum depression?

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Fathers also suffer from postpartum depression, and a new pilot study suggests they can and should be screened for the condition. Given the intertwined effects of mothers' and fathers' physical and mental health, addressing the health of fathers may be a powerful untapped tool in improving the ongoing maternal health crisis, said researchers from the University of Illinois Chicago in the US.

For the study, published in the journal BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, researchers interviewed and screened 24 fathers, 30 per cent of whom turned positive for postpartum depression on the same tool that is commonly used to screen mothers.

Lead author Dr. Sam Wainwright from the varsity said this points to the importance of asking new fathers how they're doing.



"A lot of dads are stressed. They're scared. They're struggling with balancing work and parental and partner responsibilities," he said. "Men are often not doing well, but no one is asking them about it."

Talking to new fathers about their mental health takes on additional importance when considering

how it can impact their partners' health.

"A woman at risk for postpartum depression is much more likely to get postpartum depression if she has a depressed partner," said Wainwright, Assistant Professor of internal medicine and paediatrics.

The medical world struggles to connect with

young men, who often aren't eager to see a doctor, Wainwright said, so reaching them as they enter fatherhood presents an important opportunity.

"How can we show them that it's important to take care of yourself for the sake of your baby, for the sake of your partner and for your own sake?" he said.

Modi Govt committed to serve everyone: Yudhvir Listens to public grievances at Pt Prem Nath Bhawan

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President today reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Modi government to working tirelessly for the betterment of all sections of society.

Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of a grievances redressal camp at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kacchi Chawni Jammu, the senior BJP leader emphasized the government's dedication to ensuring comprehensive development that encompasses every segment of the population. He highlighted the various initiatives and policies implemented by the Modi government that have positively impacted the lives of citizens from diverse backgrounds.

Senior BJP leaders like Ramesh Gupta Spokesman Jammu District, Parveen



Kerni Mandal President and Harvinder Singh were present during the camp.

Sethi underlined the importance of inclusive governance and how the government is focused on addressing the needs and aspirations of every citizen. He stated, "The Modi government firmly believes in 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas,' and this principle guides our every decision and action." He also cited key achievements and initiatives across sectors such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, agriculture, and social welfare that have contributed

to the overall progress of the nation. He highlighted the successful implementation of schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Digital India, which have had a transformative impact on the lives of millions.

The senior BJP leader expressed his gratitude to the people of India for their unwavering support and trust in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He assured the nation that the government remains committed to its mission of inclusive and equitable development, ensuring that every citizen benefits from the

nation's progress.

"The Modi government continues to work tirelessly for the welfare of all sections of society, and the Party remain steadfast in its commitment to build a stronger, prosperous, and inclusive India."

Earlier, various deputations, including individual persons from Ragoora, Sarah, Pargalta, Old City and various parts of East constituency visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues. He resolved most of their issues instantaneously by talking to the authorities concerned on the phone. He assured the public that he will take up the rest of their issues with the concerned authorities and get them resolved soon.

CN&E Society, FM Foundation jointly organize plantation drive at PTTI Vijaypur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Care Nature & Environment Society, in collaboration with the Fahad Mir Foundation, organized a plantation drive at the Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) in Vijaypur today. Sh. Shiv Kumar Sharma, IPS, Director of PTTI, along with his staff officers and trainees, participated in the drive. Director PTTI highlighted the significance of planting trees, as massive destruction of vegetation has occurred during the expansion of highways, widening of roads, and extensive constructions. We are facing challenges of global warming, natural calamities, excessive rains, and extreme climate changes everywhere. He added that the J&K Police has raised a slogan, "One Jawan One Plant," which is being



implemented recently by the DGP of J&K, Sh. Dilbagh Singh Ji, at PTTI Vijaypur.

Speaking on the occasion, Gagan Mahajan, a social activist and entrepreneur, emphasized the need to plant more and more trees and nurture them until the trees survive. Mrs. Ruchi Chouhan, Secretary of the NGO, along with the members and volunteers, conducted the second plantation drive. The NGO has planted more than 100 trees.

The first plantation drive was conducted at IIT Jammu by the NGO. Mrs. Seema Kakryal from the Labour Department also took part in the plantation drive. Social activist Imran Sheikh founder of Dast E Maddadgar, and Shubham Singh founder of ADAPMA, PJNN have joined hands for the initiative, along with young Activist Tanya Sharma. Sabreen Mir, Abhishek Bhadwal, Nitish Sharma, Kuldeep Sharma, and Gourav also joined in.

Monga demands adequate electricity supply in Kashmir province

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR OCT 5

Senior Congress Leader and Former Legislator Ghulam Nabi Monga on Thursday expressed grave concern over the erratic electric supply in Kashmir and demanded that adequate supply should be maintained to meet the requirement.

Monga also took a dig at the installation of smart meters, saying that there was an urgent need to reform the supply especially in winter, but the irony is that supply gets affected badly during winter months every year citing load shedding, etc.

In a statement, Ghulam Nabi Monga lashed out at erratic electricity supply especially on the onset of winter in Kashmir and said that there is no second thought about the intensity of cold in winter months, which always remain terrible during the peak of winter and requires uninterrupted power supply for survival.

There are reports of regular power cuts not only in Srinagar, but across Kashmir despite installation of Smart Meters in various areas. Smart meters means regular electricity supply wherever these are installed, but there is absolutely a different situation, as that both metered and non-metered areas are equally confronted with uninterrupted power cuts, but the irony is that LG administration has not fixed responsibility as yet, which shows how present J&K dispensation and PDD are serious about this urgent public issue.

A workshop on "Importance of IPR in Academic Research" held at Aryans

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 5

Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh organised a workshop on "Importance of IPR in Academic Research". Mrs Pooja Kumar, Women Entrepreneur, Founder Director; Innove Intellects, Patent agent, Govt. of India interacted with the faculty members & Aryans students of Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy, Law, Management, Education and Agriculture.

Pooja educated the students on the importance of intellectual property management in academic and research institutes. They described different types of IPRs, trademarks, copyrights, designs, patents and trade secrets. She exhorted young researchers to apply for the patent registration of their research innovations before publishing it in any research journal.

Pooja said, "Patents not only provide legal protection to researcher's innovation but also give an opportunity for exclusive commercial use of that innovation for a limited time period. It is important to use the right language and full disclosure of information while filing a patent and other IPRs."

BJP to launch "Jan Sampark Abhiyan" to reach every booth of the UT: Dr Manyal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State General Secretary Dr. Devinder Manyal, today convened the meeting of District Jammu South in connection with "Jan Sampark Abhiyan" and "Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyan" in the presence of Senior leader and former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta, BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan, State Secretary and District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, Dy Mayor Baldev Singh Bilawaria, DDC Prof Garuram Bhagat, Former MLCs Vikram Randhawa and S. Charanjeet Singh Khalsa, DDC Vidhya Mottan here at party headquarters, Triku-

ta Nagar Jammu. The main agenda of the meeting was "verification of the District team" and to review and examine the future course of forthcoming agendas to boost the party workers on the ground level.

Former Minister and BJP State General Secretary, Dr Devinder Manyal held an interactive session with the District Jammu South team including District office bearers, District General Secretaries Akash Chopra and Pushpinder Singh besides Mandal Presidents, Councilors, Morcha Presidents, and other party workers in a cordial atmosphere. Speaking on occasion Dr Manyal asserted the main purpose of the meeting is to explore the party



activities according to Sangathan (Org) J&K, on the ground level and prompted the BJP cadres in the presence of senior leaders to launch the "Jansampark Abhiyan" (Public outreach program) and "Meri Mati Mera Desh" Campaign in every corner of J&K including District level, Mandals as well as at Booth level and highlighted nine

triumphant years of Modi led government schemes in a public friendly environment for all segments of society in all corners of District Jammu South.

Dr. Manyal hailed the efforts and developments in context with recent public relations programs held on the ground level of the District Jammu South team under the leader-

ship of its President Rekha Mahajan. Dr Manyal held threadbare discussions with party cadres hoping that the workers would do the task effectively in a time-bound manner. He also prompted all party representatives to work with full enthusiasm with the familiar masses.

Kavinder Gupta lauds the endeavors of Karyakartas of Jammu South in the presence of party leaders and boosts their morale with his supernatural mastery and vast proficiency and experience in the J&K political arena. Gupta complimented the efforts in accomplishing all the goals set by the party and for always giving their best for all the programs given by the Party High

Command. Kavinder furthermore emphasized the significant role of District Jammu South, by various Mandals, Morchas, Booths, and Shakti Kendra parmuks in the growth of the party. He said that the BJP has a history and tradition of putting forward the voice of the common masses.

While coordinating the meeting, Rekha Mahajan, interacted with the karyakartas and sought first-hand information about various organizational activities. Rekha also stressed taking the public-friendly policies and programs of the party and PM Narendra Modi-led Union Government to every nook and corner of the Jammu district South.

BJP govt has no control over rising inflation: Malik

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Women Wing of Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) today held meeting under leadership of Rafiq Malik State President JkUT, Neha Bhagat State President Mahilla Wing JkUT, Nirmal State General Secretary JkUT, Sheela Devi Vice President Prem Nagar Ward, Neena Devi, Rimpi Devi Ward President 19 Qasim Nagar, Rekha Devi Rural President, Anjali Youth Gen Secy RS Pura, Shindo Devi, Santosh Devi, Sunita Devi, Jyoti Devi, Vishali, Bachno Devi.

Speaking on the occasion, Malik said that BJP-led central government had failed to rein in the surging inflation. The prices of essential commodities in daily life had skyrocketed, making them unaffordable for the common man, he said. He maintained that LG Administration and Centre have failed to reach out to



the people to address their concerns. He held BJP government responsible for the deteriorating situation in J&K, saying that due to the wrong policies of the government, "people are passing through a very difficult situation. He also lashed out at state government for "failing to curb unemployment". There were announcements and official press releases regarding employment avenues for the youth but in reality state government has done nothing so far, he said.

Malik said that on one hand, India is witnessing systematic erosion of jobs, wages and household income, the middle class and those at the margins of our society are struggling. These challenges have been compounded by runaway inflation and an unprecedented rise in price of almost all household items and essential commodities. "Sadly, in these distressing times, the government has chosen to profiteer off people's misery and suffering," he said. He said that it is

a solution. "The increase in additional taxes, by the Centre and states is resulting in sky-rocketing prices, and the burden is increasing almost every day on crores of poor and unemployed people. The BJP leaders who used to protest over public issues have kept mum now. He said the people of the country had "chosen PM Narendra Modi on the promise of good day, now he has broken the trust of the people."

Neha Bhagat State President Mahilla Wing

speaking on the occasion voiced the frustration of many by stating, "People of Jammu have been diligently paying their electricity bills, but suddenly they appeared out of nowhere, cutting off the power supply and installing smart meters. They are not financially capable of paying the tariffs based on meter readings. She claimed that people from the unprivileged section wouldn't be able to make their both ends meet if they spend their earnings on power bills. She condemned the move as "sheer injustice" inflicted upon the people. "This is nothing short of high-handedness. They are already grappling with numerous challenges, and this will only make their lives more difficult," she remarked. "The Government is making them face hardships. The installation of smart meters is nothing short of a catastrophe for them," asserted Neha.

Airtel announces special plans for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

As the cricket frenzy sweeps the country from today, Airtel announces special cricket plans with extended benefits for its customers. For all prepaid customers, Airtel has launched a special data pack for customers to stay connected and not run out of data while streaming the matches.

- Rs 99 will now get unlimited data for 2 days
- Rs 49 offers 6GB data for 1 day

Airtel DTH is collaborating with Star for special recharge offers. It has also simplified the process for customers to choose to add channels from the Start Sports portfolio. On the Airtel Xstream box, Airtel is running a quick-access promo-rail, for customers to quickly

navigate to the cricket match broadcast in their preferred language. Social Campaign: To celebrate the cricket frenzy, Airtel is launching a social media campaign and activating different platforms targeting all the cricket buffs.

Bharti Airtel users enjoy the brilliant network experience and fastest upload speeds across International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup 2023 stadiums, according to an Opensignal report. Ahead of the ICC World Cup which has commenced on October 05, 2023, Opensignal examined mobile network experience across all the stadiums to assess the performance of Indian mobile operators. On the 5G network specifically, Airtel delivered the best experience with voice apps across all the stadiums.

DC reviews functioning of Tehsil Office Sunderbani

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 5

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Tehsil Office Sunderbani. He was accompanied by ADC Sunderbani, Vinod Kumar Behnal. The visit was a significant step towards ensuring efficient governance and aligning the administration with the needs and expectations of the general public.

During the inspection, Deputy Commissioner



Vikas Kundal meticulously reviewed the functioning of the Tehsil Office. He emphasized the importance of dedication and added enthusiasm among officers and officials to provide exceptional and hassle-free services to the residents of the region.

efficient service delivery, recognizing it as the cornerstone of a responsive and accountable governance system.

The visit to the Tehsil Office Sunderbani serves as a tangible demonstration of the dedication of the administration to

principles of transparency, accountability, and public service. It sends a resounding message that the authorities are resolute in their mission to streamline operations, improve service quality, and ensure that the needs of the public are addressed promptly and efficiently.

This reflects a strong determination to create an administration that is not only efficient but also responsive to the citizens it serves, ultimately contributing to the betterment of the region and its people.

DC Budgam inspects shifting of PHC Pahroo to new permanent building

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, OCTOBER 5

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo today inspected the shifting of PHC Pahroo to a new permanent building at Pahroo village in Chadoora. Consequently, a new PHC building has been made functional at Pahroo. While taking stock of healthcare facilities, the DC inspected different facilities including dental section, lab, OPD, general wards and registration section.



Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the new building for healthcare facilities has been made functional now to ensure better patient care to the local population.

He said that, "the LG administration has a straight objective to ensure all approved and

sanctioned projects are completed in a stipulated time frame and dedicated to the general public at the earliest."

He said in the previous few weeks, various other health centres including NTPHCs at Kaniham, Magam have been made functional and dedicated

to cater better healthcare to patients in Budgam district.

He directed concerned to ensure robust functioning of the health centre and better health services to patients.

On the occasion, the DC listened to the local deputations and assured them that all their other genuine demands shall be taken up with the relevant quarters for prompt redressal.

Among others, SDM Chadoora, CMO Budgam, Tehildar BK Pora, BMO Chattergam were also present on the occasion.

KVK Kishtwar conducts Field Day on Paddy

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kishtwar SKUAST Jammu today conducted field day under Front Line Demonstrations on scientific cultivation and management of paddy crop at villages Pranzil and Sigdi of Tehsil Mugal Maidan of the district. The programmes were conducted in the farmers' fields under the guidance of Dr SK Gupta Director Extension SKUAST Jammu.

Dr Narinder Paul Incharge KVK Kishtwar conducted the programmes which were attended by 80 farmers, farm women and rural youth. During the programme the technologies on scientific paddy cultivation demonstrated by KVK during Kharif 2023 were discussed and their



potential recorded from the participant farmers. The farmers expressed great satisfaction over the production potential of the paddy production, protection and management technologies.

Mohd. Ayub, a demonstrator farmer from Village Sigdi while speaking on the occasion expressed that the farmers have

obtained increased production in paddy this year due to adoption of technologies promoted under the demonstrations. Vidhya Lal, Suresh Kumar, Ashwani Kumar, Nath Ram, Mohd Iqbal Khandey, Sharda Devi, Bimla Devi, Lal Chand, Suresh Kumar, Atta Mohd and others participated in the programme.

Pargotra leads strong protest against unlawful arrest of AAP MP Sanjay Singh



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Aam Admi Party of Jammu and Kashmir protested strongly at Maharaja Hari Singh memorial Park Jammu, showing his anger against the dictatorial arrest of Sanjay Singh MP of AAP.

Speaking on the occasion Rajesh Pargotra Provincial Vice President Jammu of AAP declared that the ED has arrested him on the gesture of BJP and has implicated him in a false and frivolous

excise case. Pargotra further explained that 48 dignitaries including BJP and the dignitaries of other like minded parties, have been residing in the government Bungalows when they have no political status and are the only pitty workers of political parties.

Pargotra also strongly and vehemently explained and enunciated that MP Brij Bushan Sharan Singh, of BJP, who committed culpable crime as per the version of Female wrestlers, has been exonerated

(freed) by BJP. "The BJP is in emotional fear and consternation to be defeated and banquished by AAP in the ongoing Assembly poll in 5 states as well as 2024 Parliamentary poll that's why it has arrested Sanjay Singh MP," Pargotra added. Others who participated in the protest are S.Parmveer Singh, Harpreet Singh, Amrik Singh, Amit Langar, Agya kour, Dixit Gupta, Bodh Raj Sharma, Karan Attri, Surjeet Kumar, Ashu Jangral, Jogindar Bhagat, Subash Khullar beside Others.

DPAP Jammu Urban district committee meeting held at Bakshi Nagar



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

A meeting of District Committee Jammu Urban of DPAP held at Bakshi Nagar under the leadership of Gourav Chopra, District President.

Presidents of ward numbers 07, 27, 28, 37 and 53 with thier office bearers were present in this meeting.

Sh. Chopra lous the vision of Democratic Progressive Azad Party and

asks the party workers to work hard to make DPAP a strong political party.

Anil Kohli Vice president District Jammu urban also spoke over the dreams and designs of DPAP.

PaviterJot President, Ward-53, John Paul President, ward-07, Akshay Tak President, ward-37, Pardeep Gupta president, ward-27, Davinder Singh vice-president ward 27, Rajesh Gupta general secretary ward 27, Kuldeep

Kumar Secretary ward-27, Palvi Kour mahila president ward 27, Pardeep Jolly ward 28, Davinder Khajuria ward 28, Sonu ji ward 28, Pawan Kumar ward 53, Nirmal Singh ward 53,

Bharat Bhushan Sharma, General Secretary District. Rajesh Gupta General Secretary Distt, Parkash Chand Digra Secretary Distt., Yaseen Khan Secretary Distt. Yuvraj Singh and others were present.

Krantitirtha program organized in memory of martyrs of Indian Independence Movement



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a Kabaddi match and cultural program was organized by the Center for Advanced Research on Development and Change (CARD), Was done in collaboration with Government School Tandar Zone Chenani on Thursday in memory of the martyrs of the Indian Independence Movement. The program was inaugurated by Indian Army veteran Jagdish Singh (Chief Guest) and Kali Das (Guest of Honor).

Students of Government School Tandhar

played Kabaddi match and presented cultural programs dedicated to the revolutionaries. The program was very impressive and colorful, which was greatly appreciated by the distinguished guests and spectators present there. Local people and employees were also present in the program. Surjit Singh Thakur (teacher) highlighted the important role of Swami Vivekananda ji in the freedom movement. He said that many freedom fighters were inspired and influenced by Swamiji and his teachings. He also asked the students to adopt Swamiji's teachings in their lives. Others who addressed the gathering included Subhash

Kumar (headmaster of the school).

At the end, medals were distributed among the winners of the Kabaddi match by the chief guests and other dignitaries. Angrez Singh (teacher) presented the formal vote of thanks and apprised the audience about the various activities undertaken by the school. Parents of school children and many other people from the surrounding area were also present in the ceremony. The cultural program was conducted by Neena Rajput and Jagdish Chandra Sharma (in-charge cultural cell). The Kabaddi match was officiated by Mukesh Chandra (Physical Education Teacher).

DoC, GCW Gandhi Nagar, Jammu organizes "Career Guidance Seminar"

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Department of Commerce, Govt. College for Women Gandhi Nagar, Jammu organised an "Career Guidance Seminar" on October 4, 2023. The program was held under the patronage of worthy Principal, Prof. Minu Mahajan. She commended the meticulous planning and execution of this event by the organizing members. Resource Person, Mandeep Singh, the Director of Chitkara University, conducted an inspiring power point presentation which covered topics such as optimism, career options in commerce after graduation, and interactive games related to fostering hope. He stressed the importance of being optimistic and hopeful in one's career journey. He discussed the power of a positive mindset in overcoming chal-



enges and achieving success. The seminar provided valuable insights into the diverse career opportunities that await graduates in the field of commerce. He emphasized the need for continuous learning and skill development to stay competitive in today's dynamic job market. Students gained knowledge about various career paths, including finance, accounting, marketing, and entrepreneurship. To engage the audience and reinforce the theme of hope, the seminar featured interactive games related to hope. These activities encour-

aged participants to think positively and explore innovative solutions to challenges. It served as a valuable resource for students seeking guidance and direction in their post-graduation journey. A total of 180 students attended the informative lecture. HOD, Prof. Mamta Gupta, Stressed upon the students to participate in such programmes which will lead to their career development. The whole event was organised by the Committee which includes Prof. Mamta Gupta (Convener), Prof. Mamta Kundal, Prof. Rashmi and Dr. Vaishali.

Ola launches its ride-hailing services in Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Ola, India's largest ride-hailing platform, has further expanded its footprint and launched its operations in Jammu starting today. With a commitment to provide accessible, reliable, and affordable mobility solutions, Ola has rolled out its ride hailing services within several categories including 4W, 3W and 2W to enable easy urban commute.

Ola spokesperson said, "With continuous support from the government, we are thrilled to be the first to introduce our ride-hailing services in Jammu, marking a major transformation in the way people commute in the city. Our aim is to provide accessible, affordable, and convenient mobility for all. As a market leader, we continue to expand our footprint as well as our bouquet of services to match the evolving needs



of customers across the country."

Recently, Ola has introduced a new lineup of services on their platform including E-bike and Prime Plus to cater to a wider range of mobility needs. Launched as a pilot in Bengaluru, Ola E-bikes aims to make ride-hailing services accessible, affordable, and sustainable for masses. The E-Bikes services are set to be operational Pan-India in the coming months.

Additionally, Ola's new premium service, Prime Plus, ensures a seamless ride-hailing experience for customers with professional drivers and

complete ride assurance. Currently, Prime Plus service is available across key metros cities including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai. The service will soon be rolled out in cities across the country.

Besides being the market leader, Ola is one of the few profitable consumer internet companies in the country. The company is committed to passenger safety and follows stringent safety protocols, including driver background checks, vehicle quality standards, and in-app emergency features amongst others.

Jagjit Club Uplina beats Badal Club 6-3



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR OCTOBER 5

Kashmir Hockey J&K organized Guru Hargobind Hockey tournament 2023 at the Polo ground in Srinagar on Thursday.

Twenty hockey teams participated in the said tournament and Jagjit Club Uplina finally beat Badal Club 6-3 in a tough contest.

Jenab. Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani presided over the tournament as the chief guest and encouraged all the players with his eloquent speech during the introduction. He has been a national hockey player and former captain of the J&K hockey team.

Addressing the players, he said that that it is a great pleasure that this tournament has been organized in the name of the 6th Guru of Sikhs Sri Hargobind Sahib Ji who is the founder of Miri Piri conceptual principles of

the Sikhs. "We all should follow the theoretical teachings of Guru Sahib in our real life as well," said he.

Congratulating the winners, Mr. Wani appreciated the children lauding that they are all performing very well at the school level and the same way, they are supposed to continue at inter-college level. He said that in future, "they will all get to see the competition at the Polo Ground at the international level too".

Mr. Wani further expressed his great satisfaction that the children are performing the hockey tournament in their complete 'Sikhi Saroop' which is the real identity of Sikhs.

J&K Sports Council has also in-collaborated with J&K Hockey in conducting this hockey tournament.

On this occasion, Raviraj Singh, RP Singh, Shaker Ahmed, Avtar Singh and other prominent personalities were present.

Modi Govt committed to provide "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal": Sat Sharma



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

In a major push concerning basic amenities for the residents of Ward No-40, Today Former Minister Sat Sharma CA accompanying Municipal Councillor Neelam Nargotra and Mandal President BJP Talab Tillo Keshav Chopra inaugurated the work of laying fresh water pipes, The works will be done under the supervision of the PHE department at an estimated cost of around 9 lacs.

Speaking on the Occasion Sat Sharma said the BJP led Government at the Centre is implementing the "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal" mission to ensure every house-

hold has functional tap connection for drinking water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis, Sat said that with the collective effort by the

common masses and the inspiration of PM Modi our dedicated JMC Councillors ensured the quality work.

Speaking on the Occasion Neelam Nargotra stated that areas where problems including shortage of water supply and other issues are coming will be dealt on priority and we are committed to work for the common masses. Speaking on the Occasion Keshav Chopra appreciated the efforts of the councillor and said that it was a long pending demand of the residents of the area which was under process today this demand of the locals has been fulfilled.

Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha President Krishan Lal, Puran Chand, Satish Master, Rahul Nargotra, Abhishek Sharma, Vikas Kumar, Jaipal Sharma and locals of the ward were present.

Power woes end in J&K as Govt procures additional 400 MWs from UP Govt, GoI

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 5

In a major relief to the power crisis that had gripped J&K since the past few days, the UT administration Thursday claimed to have procured 400 MWs of electricity from Uttar Pradesh government and the Centre. An additional 150 MWs are likely to be procured by October 9.

Principal Secretary to the Government, Power Development Department (PDD), H Rajesh Prasad while speaking exclusively to the news agency said that the department has been able to resolve the issue by 90 per cent so far.

"We have procured 150 MWs from the UP govern-

ment and 250 MWs from the Central government. So a total 400 MWs of extra power has been managed so far," Prasad said. He said that from 09 October onwards, the department will be able to get additional 150 MWs."With additional 150 MWs of power, we will have a total of 550 MWs of additional electricity and I believe that will suffice the demand," Prasad said.

He said: "We have got the additional electricity from the UP government, which will be returned to them in summers when the power generation in Kashmir remains high," he said, adding that the situation has been brought under control by procuring additional electricity.

Modi Govt steered Bharat to pinnacle of progress: Kavinder

Kick-start devp work at Cantonment area

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, today underscored the remarkable progress and development achieved by Bharat under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in just nine years.

The senior BJP leader was speaking after commencing the development project for lanes and drains in Ward No. 5, Cantonment Area, Raipur Satwari. He was accompanied by party leaders, including Bharat Bhushan, Vice Chairman of Cantonment Board, Vinay Gupta, Narinder Koki, Avtar Singh, Naib Sarpanch Hans Raj, Bharat Bhushan, Amrik Singh, and Ashu Gupta.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder emphasized that the last nine years have been a journey marked by unwavering



commitment, dedication, and tireless efforts towards the welfare and advancement of the nation. He lauded the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi, whose steadfast resolve has propelled the country to the pinnacle of progress.

Kavinder highlighted the government's significant achievements across various sectors, citing milestones in economic growth, infrastructure development, healthcare, education, and social welfare. He commended ini-

tiatives such as "Make in India," "Digital India," and "Startup India," which have not only empowered the Indian economy but also generated employment opportunities for millions.

Kavinder also commended the Modi government for the successful implementation of flagship schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Jan Dhan Yojana, which have improved the lives of citizens and prioritized healthcare, sanitation,

and financial inclusion.

The senior BJP leader stressed that addressing the concerns of the common people of Jammu and Kashmir has always been the top priority of the Bharatiya Janata Party government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He reiterated the government's commitment to serving the people of the nation, emphasizing that development is at the core of BJP's ideology.

Gupta also expressed appreciation for the efforts of Bharat Bhushan Vice Chairman of the Cantonment Board, in addressing the issues of the general public. He credited these achievements to Bharat Bhushan's dedicated efforts and his commitment to serving the people of the cantonment area. He expressed hope that Bharat Bhushan will continue to drive development initiatives for the welfare of the common masses.

Free, fair recruitment process is right of each and every student of J&K: Pushvinder



J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 5

Jammu Joint students' Federation (JJSF) organized an impressive joining programme at SPMR College of Commerce Jammu. The programme was organized under the leadership of Keshav Malhotra (Jammu District President JJSF) where Advocate Pushvinder Singh Manhas State President JJSF was the Chief Guest of the programme who was accompanied by Atul State Vice President JJSF, Raghu Nandan, Opinder Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Abhishek Sharma, Sagar Sudan, Amit Verma, Nishakar Sharma, Lucky Pardhan, Ritik Verma and other office bearers of JJSF. A huge rally was taken out from college premises to Shaheedi Sthal outside GGM Science College Jammu.

Delivering the welcome address on the occasion Keshav Malhotra, Jammu District President, JJSF said that JJSF has a history that it has led various agitations against

the successive governments for discriminating Jammu province. He said that JJSF always stood against injustice with the Jammu region in general and student community in particular. He assured all the students of the college that JJSF will work shoulder to shoulder with them for the welfare of the students' community. He said it is our prime duty to remember the students martyr of the 1966 agitation who laid their lives for the student communities.

Addressing the students Pushvinder Singh Manhas (State President JJSF) said that JJSF will raise all students concerned issues and will do their best to get them all addressed. He said that today there are many students and youth related issues which need to be raised and addressed. He expressed faith that the newly announced college unit will raise all such issues and will fight for rights and justice of youth and students of Jammu. He lambasted

JKUT Administration and JKSSB for exploiting the youth of Jammu Kashmir on the name of recruitments conducted by private firms. He said that the free and fair recruitment process is right for each and every student of J&K. He appealed to the Lieutenant Governor administration to take measures to ensure transparency in the recruitment process. He further asked LG Administration to complete the infrastructure of newly established degree colleges all over Jammu Kashmir so that students should not suffer.

Meanwhile, Adv. Pushvinder Singh Manhas, State President JJSF announced the college unit in which Raghav Singh was nominated President, Vishal Kumar as Working President, Himanshu Samyals as Sr. Vice President, Ashmeet Singh and Uday as Vice Presidents, Samaksh Sharma and Tanisha as General Secretaries, Nitin Talwaria, Kartik Miniya, Muskaan Bagal, Rupal Salathia as Secretaries, Arun as Cashier, Namita Raina,

Palak Bhat, Neeraj Thakur, Abhishek Choudhary as Spokespersons, Udhay as Incharge 1st Sem, Udhay Kotwal as Incharge 3rd Semester, Abhi Sharma Incharge 5th Incharge. Tarun Sharma, Bhavishya, Mehak Bhagat, Sharik Dogra, Ankush Karloopia as Executive members.

Newly nominated members of the unit headed by Raghav Singh while addressing the students said that JJSF is the only non-political student's organization which always fought for the cause of Jammu and had fought many historical agitations for the people of Jammu and this was the only reason that they decided to join JJSF. They further assured the JJSF leaders that they shall leave no stone unturned in fighting against the injustice with students and youth of Jammu and under the banner of JJSF. Kannu, Tushar Verma, Aman Verma, Bharat Verma, Abhishek Rana, Vikrant Bassan and Aryan Sharma were others present during the programme.

Opposition unity is only to gain power, it has nothing to do with public interest issues: Amit Kapoor

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

President of Dogra Welfare Organization, Amit Kapoor, who is leading the movement on prepaid meters, property tax, old age pension and other public interest issues including cutting electricity connections of houses of more than a hundred people in the new plot area, today attacked the opposition. He said that the opposition parties have come together only to save their seats and not on issues of public interest. He said that he has postponed the fast which was to start on October 6 regarding various issues and he will now sit on the fast after October 10.

He said that he would have seen the performance of the opposition parties on October 10 to see whether they raised issues of public interest or only those related to saving their seats. Only after that they will announce the date of the meeting on fast.

Amit Kapoor said this while addressing a press conference in Jammu.



He said that everyone knows that statehood has to be given because the Central Government has promised for it, but why did the opposition parties not unite on the issues of prepaid meters, property tax, old age pension, unemployment and other public interest issues and listen to the voice of the people. Why are you not picking it up?

He said that if BJP is silent on issues of public interest then why are opposition parties also silent on these issues. He said that these are all spent cartridges and called upon the people to reject the spent cartridges and support new faces in the upcoming elections and

bring them forward so that they can effectively raise the voice of the people.

Whereas Amit Kapoor strongly attacked the LG administration for failing to solve the problems of the people and said that hooliganism will not continue in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that in New Plot, power supply to a hundred houses from street number 1 to street number 6 was cut off and the wires were also taken away with them. He said that he was going to sit on fast unto death from October 6 on issues like prepaid meters and property tax, old age pension, huge electricity bills, waiver of old bills, power cuts and other issues but now he will sit

after October 10 because he let us see whether the opposition parties raise issues of public interest in the protest on October 10 or not.

He said that all these issues are household issues across Jammu and Kashmir and their agitation will continue until prepaid meters are removed and other issues are resolved. He said that people are being given huge bills as soon as these meters are installed, so what will be the condition of the people when electricity becomes private. He also raised the demand for waiving off the old electricity bills of the people and handing over the power projects of Jammu and Kashmir back to Jammu and Kashmir.

Kapoor said that currently people are being given electricity at Rs 4 per unit but when it will be privatized, people will get it at Rs 9.50 per unit. Therefore, he asked the people to give their full support to the movement started against prepaid meters and actively participate in the protests against it.

Awareness only way to prevent complications of cancer: Ritika Trehan

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Continuing their serious endeavours to add smiles to the faces of the little angels, Sparkle Women's Club today visited Oncology ward, SMGS Hospital, Jammu. The event was sponsored by joint collection of Sparklers for all the children of oncology ward. The children were swaying on the songs and also had hearty laughter when their favourite cartoon characters showed. They also enjoyed the cake cutting and the toys that were given as gifts.

On this occasion, monthly Ration and healthy eatables a monthly event which has been going on for the last three years was also provided besides financial help was also provided so that needy lacking resources can undergo necessary tests. Dr. Sanjeev k. Digma



(Professor & HoD) and Child Specialist, Dr GS Saini Pediatrician and HoD, Dr Suruchi along with nurses of the ward attended the program. Sparklers thanked the team of doctors who have been a great support in this project.

Speaking on the occasion, Sparkler and Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan said that they are making serious efforts to bring happiness and add colour to the already

painful journey of these children. In this respect Oncology ward at SMGS Hospital is adopted by Sparkle and is regularly visited with toys and healthy eatables. Sparkle has also been instrumental in getting some pet scans and providing medicines for these patients, added Ritika.

Ritika further said that Sparkle was born with a motive to spread happiness and is ever moving forward towards its goal. Sparkle women's club

has been organizing free Cancer Screening & General Awareness Camp from time to time. Ritika said, "there was a time when if a serious ailment struck a poor person, he had to sell his entire property and land to get the treatment.

Ritika said our government has given thrust on several such aspects to provide healthcare for the poor at doorstep and at cheap rates under the flagship scheme Aayushman Bharat. She also appreciated the Modi government for establishing two Cancer institute's in the Union Territory one each in Jammu region and Kashmir region. She applauded the efforts put by Sparkle women's club by adopting Pediatrics oncology ward at SMGS hospital and said that the club is working hand in hand with the government.

New policy on Disability Pension: Another blow to Armed Forces, post OROP, Agniveers, NFFU: SSP

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

Col SS Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party JKUT, expressed his anguish and concern over the new policy on disability pension and invalidating out of, issued on 21 September 2023, superseding the policy issued in 2008. Expressing his dismay, Pathania said that successive governments have never respected the sacrifices and valour of Armed Forces, and instead appreciating and showing gratitude, they always marginalized them. Post historic win of 1971, when Pakistan was cut in two parts and more than 90000 Pakistan's soldiers were taken prisoner, Congress government brought down pension of soldiers



from existing 70 percent and increase pension of civilians from existing 30 percent to 50 percent. It is pertinent to mention, that 25 percent of defence civilians are taking home 40 percent of pension budget, as they retire at the age of 60 years. Present government, too is in same mode and supporting IAS, IPS and CAPF at the cost of armed forces. Non function-

al financial upgradation has been given to bureaucrats, IPS, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), MES and others, whereas government is contesting against Armed Forces in Supreme court, to deny NFFU to armed forces. A truncated OROP, can be called One rank, Five pension as equalisation is taking place after five years, instead of every year. New policy on disability pension, is bound to adversely affect the morale and motivation level of armed forces, as it is not pragmatic and away from the reality. A meagre saving of Rs. 4000 crores may happen by implementing this scheme, whereas union government and state governments have spent thousands of crores rupees on advertisements

in print and electronic media. Soldiers, being invalidated out of services on their own request or going to hit hard financially and other incentives, which were given earlier. Replacing disability pension by impairment relief, may be the first step to take away existing tax exemption. Sadly and surprisingly only armed forces have been affected by the new policy, whereas civilian defence employees and CAPF have been kept out of preview and continue enjoying the privileges. Pathania urged the union government to acknowledge the sacrifices and contribution of armed forces, towards safeguarding the security and sovereignty of the nation and roll back this new policy at the earliest.

Sham Sharma, Chander Mohan listen public grievances

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 5

BJP Vice-President & former Minister Sham Lal Sharma, alongwith Vice-President & former Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta, Secretary Vikas Choudhary and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Incharge Dil Bahadur Singh Jawmal, during weekly Public darbar at party headquarter, Jammu, listened to the grievances of a large number of people from different areas of the UT. The BJP leaders gave them patient hearings and took up every issue with the senior officials of the concerned departments for



early disposals. Sham Lal Sharma, while expressing satisfaction that the people are conveying their thanks for extending them help in getting their problems solved, said that every day large numbers of people throng the party office with their grievanc-

es and every effort is made to get respite to them at the earliest. He said that the party's public darbar is proving a big boon to the suffering people, which is a matter for the BJP.

Chander Mohan Gupta said that the BJP believes in practical work and does

not mislead the public on mere sloganeering, every leader and activists of the party is at the back and call of the people.

Vikas Choudhary said that people from all the sections are being benefited by public darbar hearings and there is a perception that the BJP is in real sense the guardian of the people.

Dilbahadur Singh Jawmal said that the people have found a platform in the form of BJP's public darbar and are visiting party office daily with their problems, most of which are solved instantly, thus providing big relief to the sufferers.

Jammu administration ready to facilitate devotees during Navratras, Ram Navami



REFUGEE MESSAGE BUREAU
JAMMU, OCTOBER 5

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh, chaired a meeting to review preparations for the upcoming Mela Bahu Fort during Navratras festival, as well as the Ram Navami and Dussehra celebrations in the city. The discussions in the meeting revolved around the roles and responsibilities assigned to various departments and organisations to ensure the smooth execution of these events.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation has been entrusted with the vital responsibility of maintaining cleanliness in and around temples and the city. This includes regular

cleaning and fumigation of public areas. Additionally, arrangements for water tanks and mobile toilets near prominent temples and public places have been made. The Public Works Department has been given the task of ensuring that the roads leading to significant locations, particularly the one leading to Bagh e Bahu temple from Bikram Chowk, are in optimal condition. The Jal Shakti Department has been directed to guarantee regular drinking water supply to the prominent temples. They are also responsible for creating contingency plans and have appointed a Nodal Officer for round-the-clock duty. The Power Development Department

has been told for ensuring an uninterrupted electricity supply to prominent temples during the festivities.

Medical facilities, including ambulance services, will be available at Bahu Fort. The Red Cross and Chief Medical Officer Jammu are also involved in this aspect. Paramedical staff are to remain at standby near Bagh e Bahu and along the jhanki routes. Fire and Emergency services have been told to remain available at vital spots for emergencies during the festivals.

Similarly responsibilities for Traffic management was given to respective department while the Transport Department has been told to increase

transportation services to Bahu Fort. The Food Safety and Legal Metrology Departments have been asked to ready their flying squads to monitor the quality of food and essential supplies.

Representatives from religious organisations and temple authorities also contributed valuable inputs during the meeting. They emphasised the importance of security, well-lit surroundings and ambulance services during the Navratras festival and Dussehra celebrations at Parade Ground and other locations.

The meeting was attended by various district officers besides representatives from social and religious organisations.

District Advisory Committee reviews implementation of PC & PNDT Act in Udhampur

REFUGEE MESSAGE BUREAU
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 5

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai on Thursday presided over the District Advisory Committee meeting to assess the implementation of the PC & PNDT Act and the Clinical Establishment, Registration & Regulation Act, 2010.

The meeting took place in the Mini Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, Udhampur, and was attended by several key officials including Senior Superintendent of Police, Dr. Vinod Kumar; Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Sham Singh; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Anil Manhas and other committee members.

The meeting delved into numerous critical issues, encompassing the registration and renewal of ultrasound center certificates, enforcement of the Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques



Act, Labs, and Clinics, as well as the associated offenses and penalties. Discussions also revolved around the Clinical Establishment Act, provisions for registration, inspection procedures, and mechanisms for monitoring and implementing the PC & PNDT Act, IEC activities etc. During the meeting, it was emphasized that responsible authorities should conduct frequent inspections of ultrasound clinics, especially those located in remote areas, to ensure compliance with central Act regulations.

Strict action should be taken against any defaulters found.

Additionally, proper record-keeping of antenatal cases at all ultrasound centers in the district was emphasized. The Deputy Commissioner asked for close check on illegal prenatal sex selection practices and called for advocacy and communication efforts to promote gender equality.

The committee members discussed ways to enhance Act implementation, such as organizing awareness programs in

collaboration with NGOs and conducting workshops for ground-level staff at ultrasound clinics to educate them about the Act's provisions.

The CMO was instructed to grant provisional registration to clinical establishments upon fulfilling necessary formalities. Furthermore, the CMO was tasked with conducting inspections of both registered and unregistered clinical establishments, and imposing fines and penalties on any defaulters as outlined in the Clinical Establishment Act.

'Meri Mati, Mera Desh' campaign spreads patriotic fervor across Awantipora & Block Litter

REFUGEE MESSAGE BUREAU
PULWAMA, OCTOBER 5

'Meri Maati Mera Desh' was today organized with fervor by the Block Development Office Litter Laspora and the Block Development Office Awantipora in collaboration with the District Administration Pulwama.

The event stood as a heartfelt tribute to the local heroes and martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. A poignant highlight was the collection of mitti (soil) from every household in the villages, a symbolic act of unity that resonated deeply with all in attendance. The soil was reverently placed into a large Kalash, sparking an atmosphere of jubilation during the mixing ceremony.

Local PRIs and prominent figures addressed the gathering in both locations, fervently rallying for active participation in the forthcoming fortnight-long campaign—a tribute to those valiant souls who, through their sacrifices, have safeguarded our security and peace.

Adding to the vibrancy of the event, vibrant cultural programs captivat-

ed the audience in both Awantipora and Block Litter. Talented performers from various groups and communities delivered moving patriotic songs and captivating cultural performances to honor the courageous hearts.

Volunteers from NCC, Anganwadi Workers, and other youth groups, with a special emphasis on women's participation, paid their heartfelt respects to Martyrs, thereby emphasizing the timeless values of patriotism and love for Nation.

The culmination of this event was marked by the presentation of mementos to the families of the brave hearts in both Awantipora and Block Litter. These mementos, a joint symbol of the community's profound gratitude and respect, were handed over by officers from District Administration and Police.

With profound significance, the program reached its conclusion in both locations as the large Amrit Kalash was ceremoniously sealed, gracefully draped in saffron-colored cloth—a poignant and enduring symbol of unity and reverence.

Srinagar Admin conducts anti-encroachment drive in all Tehsils of the District

REFUGEE MESSAGE BUREAU
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 5

The District Administration Srinagar on Thursday undertook major anti-encroachment operations across the District to retrieve Government Land from the illegal occupants and reclaimed over 71 kanals of prime State/Kacharie land worth crores from the land grabbers.

The Anti-encroachment operation was launched in all 7 Tehsils of the District including, Eidgah, North Srinagar, Panthachowk, Khanyar, South Srinagar, Central Shalteng and Chanapora Tehsil.

The special anti-encroachment Squads constituted by District Administration Srinagar headed by respective Tehsildars conducted massive anti-encroachment drives while taking assistance of Police and other Departments. A team of Revenue and Police Officers/Officials headed by Tehsildar North, Kaiser Mahmood launched a massive anti-encroachment drive in Batpora, Shalimar and Syedpora Bala villages and retrieved 14 kanals and 5 marlas of State/Kacharie land from the land grabbers under survey no. 1604, 1605, 76 min and 37



min.

Similarly, in a major anti-encroachment drive launched at In Khanyar Tehsil 35 kanals and 9 marlas of State land was also retrieved in Brane villages under survey no. 4929/399/2744 under the supervision of Tehsildar Khanyar, Aailya Tabasum.

In Lasjan village under the supervision of Tehsildar Pantha Chowk, Rakib

Ahmad as many as 5 kanals and 5 marlas of land was retrieved under survey no 27/1 and 142 min at Zawoor and Lasjan areas of the Tehsil.

Likewise, in Zoonimar village in Eidgah Tehsil, a Revenue Team headed by Tehsildar, Ishfaq Ahmad Khan retrieved 08 kanals of State land under survey no. 1266 Minworth Rs 40.74 crore from the ille-

gal occupants. In South Tehsil of the District, a team headed by Tehsildar, Moean Azhar conducted an anti-encroachment drive in Shivpora area retrieved 27 marlas of land under survey no. 168 min and 169 min from the encroachers.

Similarly, in Gund Hassi Bhat and Khushipora villages of Central Shalteng Tehsil 02 kanals and 09 marlas of State Land has been evicted under the supervision of Tehsildar Kaser Ahmad from the land grabbers under survey no. 156min and 895/281.

In Chanapora Tehsil as many as 05 kanals of State land was also evicted from land grabbers in Rawalpora village under survey no. 1959 and 1960 under the supervision of Tehsildar Chanpora, Saqib Saleem.

With regard to anti-encroachment drives undertaken in Srinagar District today, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar applauded the efforts of the Anti-encroachment squads and has asked them to continue the anti-encroachment drives in their respective jurisdictions to retrieve the encroached land which in normal course is to be utilised for public purpose.

Mental Health Awareness Week-2023 kick-starts at Amar Singh College

REFUGEE MESSAGE BUREAU
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 5

The Department of Psychology and Psychological Counselling Cell Amar Singh College today kick-started week-long programmes for observing 'Mental Health Awareness Week' focusing on this year's theme 'Mental Health is a Universal Human Right'.

Dr. Ulfat Jan, Head Department of Psychology emphasized the need to acknowledge mental health issues as human rights issues and contend that all general human rights treaties apply to people with mental illness.

A lecture on Mental Health and Drug Abuse was delivered by Dr. Mehvish Registrar Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) and the expert was invited for the occasion.

Dr. Mehvish deliberated on the issue of substance use and its repercussions for mental health. She argued that the co-occurring disorders may further deteriorate the situation of the sufferer. She stressed the need to take substantive measures to ensure the

eradication of concurrent disorders.

The Open Mike Session followed the lecture in which students participated with enthusiasm and shared the details of their personal battle with mental health issues. The open mike session was appreciated by the students, experts and guests alike. Speaking at the event, Prof. (Dr) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Principal Amar Singh College and Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges appreciated the efforts put in by the Department of Psychology and Psychological Counselling Cell for organizing a productive event and wished them the best for the upcoming programmes.

The principal also brought up the curtain on board of gratitude for students, guests and faculties to share what they are thankful for. He also launched the pledge campaign to learn about mental illness to talk about it and to contribute to fostering mental health and well-being for all.

The participants at the event also included the officials of Mission Youth Initiative an NGO working for mental well-being.

DC Srinagar inaugurates Silk Carpet Centre under Karkhandar Scheme at Rathpora Eidgah

REFUGEE MESSAGE BUREAU
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 5

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today inaugurated a Centre of Silk Carpet here at Eidgah in Shahr-e Khaas of the District under Karkhandar Scheme of Handicraft and Handloom Department.

On the occasion, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Assistant Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Mohsina Irshad, Tehsildar Eidgah, Ishfaq Ahmad Khan other senior officers along with the team of one District one product and large number of Artisans were present.

Speaking on the occasion Deputy Commissioner congratulated the Karkhandar Unit Holder, Rafiq Ahmad Sofi of Rathpora, Eidgah of the Dis-



trict and emphasized on the hard work that goes in every single knot of carpet weaving. He appreciated the new technology in the form of iron looms and GI tagging mechanism that confers legal protection to the products, prevents unauthorized use of a GI tag products and helps consumers to get quality products of desired traits besides assures the

authenticity of the products.

While appreciating the contribution of Artisans and their magical hard work in revival, preservation and promotion of Traditional Art and crafts, the DC assured the Artisans that all support required by the local Artisans will be provided by the Government in order to boost their manufacturing and

exports with impetus on supporting the industry from the production stage to the exporting stage. He emphasized on the role of the Handicraft sector in generating employment in Kashmir Division and supporting the economy and making the women as well as men community self-independent.

DC also emphasised on incorporating IT inter-



ventions in the handicraft craft sector to encourage younger generations to carry forward the rich heritage of world famous crafts and industries associated with Carpet weaving and other Handloom/Handicraft products thereby generating employment avenues.

Highlighting the objectives of the Karkhandar Scheme, the DC said

Karkhandar scheme has been launched with an aim to upscale the learning techniques of craftsmen and to improve their wage earnings and create linkages with producer organizations i.e Karkhandar to inculcate entrepreneurship qualities in them. He said Karkhandar Scheme has been also envisaged to promote sustainable livelihoods as the artisans

can gain direct access to customized production, new design development, technology related modifications and above all can have the pulse of market demands.

The DC further said under One District One Product (ODOP) initiative Silk carpet has been chosen with a vision to revive the languishing Art for overall socio-economic

upliftment of the associated Artisans. He also mentioned that the District Export Hub is also being made functional soon to invite foreign buyers.

He said the District Export Hub" under the ODOP initiative is being established soon at Kashmir Haat with an aim to boost the Export of Goods from Srinagar District with adequate market linkage to the Industry, provide guidance regarding exports, consultancy, IT solutions, data management etc under one umbrella, besides strengthen support at embassy level to facilitate exporters and importers.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the various units of the Silk Carpet Centre set up under the Karkhandar scheme and held a detailed interaction with the Artisans.