

Distribution of Aids, Appliances to Divyangjan held in Udhampur

J I NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 13

District Administration and Social Welfare Department Udhampur in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) and NHPC organized a free distribution camp for Divyangjan at Subash Stadium Udhampur.

The event witnessed the presence of District Development Council Chairperson, Lal Chand, Deputy Commissioner, Saloni Rai, General Manager NHPC, District Social Welfare Officer Kanika Gupta, DDC member Panchari Jasvir Singh and representatives of ALIMCO.

During the camp, the DDC Chairperson and DC also interacted with the beneficiaries.

They commended the joint efforts of the Social Welfare Department and ALIMCO in organizing this distribution camp. They emphasized the responsible use of the distrib-



uted aids and appliances, highlighting the significant public investment involved in their procurement. The event's primary objective was to raise awareness about the department's various schemes and ensure that the benefits reach the deserving individuals.

The DDC Chairperson and Deputy Commissioner also encouraged ALIMCO to conduct more assessment camps across different parts of the district in the future to

expand the reach to more beneficiaries.

In total, 292 different aids and appliances, such as motorized wheelchairs, battery-operated tricycles, wheelchairs, crutches, artificial limbs, and hearing aids, with a total value of Rs. 20 lakh, were distributed free of cost to 145 beneficiaries.

DSWO Udhampur, in her introductory remarks, highlighted the scheme's main objective, which is to assist disabled individuals by providing them

with durable, sophisticated, and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances. These aids aim to promote physical, social, and psychological rehabilitation while enhancing the economic potential of persons with disabilities. She also provided an overview of various departmental schemes and called upon PRI members and the general public to extend their support and take advantage of these beneficial initiatives.

DC discusses proposed site plan for construction of Mini Secretariat Building in Rajouri

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 13

In a major development for Rajouri district, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a key meeting to discuss the site plan for the Mini Secretariat building.

The meeting focused on the detailed planning and execution of the construction project. The proposed site for the Mini Secretariat spans an impressive 88 kanals and 14 marlas of land, underlining the significance of this project in terms of infrastructural development for the district.

Deputy Commissioner opened the meeting by highlighting the importance of the Mini Secretariat in enhancing the administrative capabilities of Rajouri. He emphasized



the need for a facility that will serve as a central hub for various government departments, thereby streamlining administrative processes and improving public service delivery.

He along with the other officers, reviewed the proposed site plan in detail,

considering factors such as accessibility, environmental impact, and future expansion possibilities.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid and Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department (R&B) Rajouri, Sardar Khan.

Power shutdown

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 13

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Macheedi, Malhar, Sukrala, Kudethar, Tandri, Baggan, Dhar, Dugnoo, Malad, Marhoon and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 14 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Bishnah, Kotli, Deoli, Treva and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 14 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Purkhoo, Bhalwal, Gharota, Bantalab, Jagti, Nagrota and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 14 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Battal Ballian and Air Force will remain affected on October 14 from 9 am to 2 pm.

DC Doda reviews Revenue Department's Progress and Initiatives



J I NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 13

Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, chaired a meeting with revenue officers of the department in Conference Hall of the DC office complex in Doda. The purpose was to assess the progress in terms of various priority areas within the department.

During the meeting, a thorough discussion regarding PSGA took place. The DC stressed the importance of strict adherence to PSGA timeline. He also stressed on complete shift to the online mode and e-office.

He emphasized the timely handling of applications related to online services for land records, Change of Land Use (CLU), and all services covered under PSGA. Directions have been issued not to revert/send back applications within 72 hours from the last date prescribed for the service under PSGA. The meeting also included discussions about the state land allotment to the land less Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) beneficiaries.

It was decided that a mega Lumbardar, Chowkidar Conference shall be held on 28th of October 2023 in Doda to sensitise them of their legitimate duties for making revenue service delivery mechanism more efficient and effective. The meeting also addressed concerns related to Lamberdars and Chowkidars.

The DC instructed revenue officers to closely monitor documents related to revenue matters, and he encouraged the introduction of Geo-

tagging of relief and other developmental cases.

The meeting delved into the State land matters and the Roshni land issues, with the DC directing the officers/officials to undergo anti encroachment drives and retrieve major chunks of encroached state land.

The meeting discussed in detail the progress and performance under CLU cases, Revenue Court Cases, SVAMITVA, Audit Paras, Administrative Inspections, Attestation of mutation, Status of domicile/ other certificates, and other related related issues.

DC urged the revenue officers to ensure their availability and assessability for the public, embrace zero tolerance for corruption of any kind at any level, and ensure prompt paperwork/ replies. DC has exhorted to follow proper norms and procedures during Girdawri, and Court cases. He has issued clear directions not to send communications directly to Deputy Commissioner and follow the proper route. He impressed upon officers to remain vigilant of any kind of situation, disturbing peace and harmony. DC has once again reiterated the revenue officers to pay frequent visits/ inspections in the Health and Educational institutions of their areas and report for any dereliction of legitimate duties or slow performance.

The meeting was attended by ADC Doda ADC Bhaaderwah, ACR Doda, SDMs, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Accounts Officer, and other concerned officials of Revenue Department.

DC Rajouri chairs meeting on Revision of District Environment Plan to Strengthen Conservation Measures

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 13

Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal, presided over a crucial meeting aimed at revising the district environment plan to bolster conservation measures.

The meeting covered a wide range of issues including the current status and action plan for solid waste management, plastic waste collection centers, construction and demolition waste, biomedical waste management, implementation of barcodes on biomedical waste, wastewater treatment, hazardous waste management, e-waste management, water quality management plans, and the identification of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs).

The meeting commenced with an in-depth discussion on the current status of solid waste management in the district. Deputy Commissioner Rajouri underscored the significance of effective



waste management strategies in maintaining a clean and sustainable environment. He emphasized the need for comprehensive waste segregation, efficient waste collection systems, and the establishment of waste processing and disposal facilities.

Another critical point of discussion was the establishment of plastic waste collection centers. Recognizing the severe environmental impact of plastic waste, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas kundal stressed the urgent need for dedicated collection centers. These centers would facilitate the proper collection, segregation, and recycling of plastic waste, thereby mitigating

its detrimental effects on the ecosystem.

The meeting also addressed the issue of construction and demolition waste management. Deputy Commissioner Rajouri emphasized the importance of responsible construction practices and the need for effective measures to manage construction and demolition waste.

Biomedical waste management emerged as another significant point of discussion during the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas kundal emphasized the necessity of strictly adhering to proper protocols for the disposal and treatment of biomedical waste. The implementation of bar-

codes on biomedical waste containers was discussed as an effective measure to enhance tracking, monitoring, and management of such waste. This step would ensure the safe and environmentally friendly handling of biomedical waste within the district.

Water quality management plans were also a focal point of the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas kundal emphasized the importance of monitoring and maintaining the quality of water sources in the district. He stressed the need for regular testing, analysis, and implementation of measures to ensure the availability of clean and safe drinking water for the

residents.

Regarding the regular monitoring of the mining activities and in a resolute effort to uphold the sanctity of the natural resources of the district and protect the environment from the perils of illegal mining, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, has called for heightened vigilance and enforcement measures.

Deputy Commissioner expressed his unwavering commitment to strengthening conservation measures in the district and promoting sustainable development. He emphasized the collective responsibility of government departments, local communities, and other

stakeholders in prioritizing environmental conservation and implementing effective measures for waste management, wastewater treatment, and other environmental initiatives.

"The revision of the district environment plan marks a significant milestone in our journey towards creating a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable Rajouri. It is imperative that we work together to implement robust environmental conservation measures and ensure a better future for our district," said Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal.

The meeting was attended by DFO Nowshera; ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; GM DIC, Ashwini Sharma; ACD, Vijay Kumar; CMO Rajouri Dr. Rajinder Kumar; ACP, Sheraz Chohan; DPO, Auqil Nuvaid; DMO, Naseeb Bajrang; DO PCB, Anupam Koul; CEO Education, Sultana Kouser; MS DH, Dr Mehmoode Bajar; EOs Municipalities and other concerned officers.

EMPOWERING ARTISANS

DIC Kishtwar organises awareness program on PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana at ITI Kishtwar



J I NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 13

In a dedicated effort to empower traditional artisans and craftspeople, a special awareness program on the newly launched PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana was held today at ITI Kishtwar, under the astute guidance of GM DIC Kishtwar, Dr. Mohamed Ashraf.

The program was strategically crafted to enlighten the targeted beneficiaries about the nuances of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, a fully funded initiative by the Government of India. This visionary scheme seeks to

provide recognition and comprehensive support to artisans and craftspeople utilizing their hands and tools.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme aims to elevate the quality, scale, and market reach of traditional products, integrating artisans seamlessly into the MSME value chains.

The session involved an in-depth discussion to formulate a holistic approach for identifying eligible beneficiaries. Representatives from various departments graced the occasion, delivering insightful speeches on the scheme.

Key attendees included Inam ul Haq, I.C Supervisor

ITI; Rajnee Sharma, COPA Instructor; Lead District Manager (Banks); Pankaj Bhandari; Vijay Yadav, Young Professional from the Employment department; and representatives from Handicraft and Handloom departments.

General Manager District Industries Centre, Dr. Mohamed Ashraf, elucidated the procedural intricacies of the scheme, ensuring clarity for all participants.

Expressing gratitude, participants extended their thanks to the government and district administration for the proactive initiatives benefiting the Vishwakarma community.

DC Rajouri selects 28 beneficiaries under HADP for Sheep Husbandry Sector



J I NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 13

Rajouri DC Vikas Kundal selected 28 beneficiaries for Commercial Sheep/Goat units under HADP. This was done through a transparent draw and lots process.

The selection was made during a comprehensive meeting of the District Implementation Committee (DLIC), which was attended by the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Mohammad Khurshid, General Manager of the District Industries Center (DIC) Ashwini Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Sheraz Chohan, Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Sohan Singh, District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO) P.P. Sajotra, Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO) Madan Lal Tak, Chief Animal Husbandry

Officer (CAHO) Dr. Khalid Hussain, Lead District Manager (LDM) Sanjeev Bhasin, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies Adnan Rather and other concerned officers.

One of the focal points of this meeting was to meticulously assess the progress made in achieving the targeted objectives of HADP, as well as to sensitize farmers about the innovative interventions approved under the program. The resolute commitment of the district administration to ensuring that the benefits of HADP reach the intended beneficiaries was evident throughout the meeting.

The Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) is indeed a groundbreaking initiative designed to create a sustainable and lucrative agricultural ecosystem

in Rajouri. Deputy Commissioner underscored the overarching goal of the program, which is to empower local farmers with knowledge and tools that can significantly boost their productivity and profitability, while concurrently bolstering the overall growth of the agricultural sector.

Furthermore, the program functions as an invaluable platform for farmers to engage with experts from the Agricultural and allied departments. This engagement allows farmers to seek expert guidance on various facets of farming. Through this multifaceted approach, the HADP aspires to enhance agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, and contribute substantially to the broader economic growth of the region.

MC Bhaderwah organises “Amrit Kalash Yatra”



JI NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, OCTOBER 13

The Municipal Committee of Bhaderwah organised a grand “Amrit Kalash Yatra” as part of the ‘Meri Maati Mera Desh’ campaign, celebrating India’s 75th year of Independence.

President Municipal Committee Bhaderwah, Dr. Shahid Rehman Mughal led the “Amrit Kalash Yatra” with the participation of councillors, citizens and other stakeholders. Amid drum beats and patriotic enthusiasm, the Yatra passed through all 13 wards of the Municipal Committee Bhaderwah and culmi-

nated at Community Hall Bhaderwah.

Dr. Shahid Rehman Mughal highlighted the significance of campaigns like “Meri Mati-Mera Desh” in setting the stage for enduring peace and prosperity. He further urged ward members, students and other stakeholders to take an active role in transforming Bhaderwah into a garbage-free zone. Pertinently, cultural programmes and debate competition were also held in which students of Model Secular High school and Govt Higher secondary school Boys Bhaderwah also participated. Refreshment was distributed among the students.

DC Doda reviews achievements under developmental deliverables



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 13

An exhaustive list of deliverables have been assigned to all the departments in the UT to ensure greater efficiency in the overall governance, and has laid down monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly targets for the departments.

These developmental contours not only define the quality and quantity of departmental services to be ensured in a time-bound manner, but also envision enhanced efficiency and productivity through greater inter-departmental convergence and coordination.

Deputy Commissioner about the progress made so far and future action plan.

The DC urged the officers to put in extra efforts to improve the Ranking of District Doda on the performance index.

He asked the departments to think innovative, highlight their achievements and best practices in delivering their services. The DC also exhorted the departments to submit the issues hampering the achievements in developmental deliverables for timely intervention from the authorised person to achieve the desired results in time.

To review the action taken on deliverables for the year 2023-24, by various departments in the district, the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan today convened a meeting of the officers, here in the Conference Hall of DC office Complex.

The DC took a comprehensive review of all the 310 Developmental Deliverables under implementation by various Departments and directed the officers to submit the updated achievements regularly and focus on adherence to the timeline set by the government.

CPO Doda, Suresh Kumar apprised the

He impressed upon the officers to improve monitoring and assessment of performance at different levels. The meeting was attended by ADDC Doda Pran Singh, ADC Doda Dr R K Bharti, CPO Doda Suresh Kumar, SE PWD RP Gupta, SE Hydraulic Circle Doda Anil Gupta, ACR Doda Sanjeev Kumar, GM DIC Doda Idrees Lone, DIO Doda, DSWO, AD FCS&CA, CHO, CAHO, DSHO, CAO, Dy Director Sericulture, AD Floriculture, District Officer Legal Metrology, District Officer AYUSH, Executive Engineers of PWD/JSD/JPDCL/Mechanical and other concerned officers.

Chairperson DDC Ramban kick-starts blacktopping work

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 13

Chairperson, District Development Council, Ramban, Dr Shamshad Shan today kick-started black-topping of PMGSY III up-gradation of road from Kantha Morh to Mahakund in SubDivision Gool of Ramban District.

The construction work on the 8.0 km stretch will be completed with an allotted amount of Rs. 716.78 lakh.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairperson said that with the completion of the project, a long pending demand of the

area will be fulfilled.

The Chairperson directed the concerned to ensure quality and timely completion of construction work which will benefit hundreds of souls of the area.

Among others, AEE, Naveed Khan, AE, Muthair Bandyaj, JE Waked Rumiya, PRIs and locals were present on the occasion.

The Chairperson also interacted with the people and listened to their issues of developmental concerns. She issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned for their early redressal.

DC Rajouri reviews Dengue Control Measures in the District

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 13

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, led a comprehensive review of the dengue control measures underway in the district, highlighting the commitment of the administration to combatting the dengue outbreak and ensuring the well-being of the residents of Rajouri.

The meeting was convened to assess the current situation and ensuring the implementation of effective strategies to combat the spread of dengue fever.

Executive Officers of the municipalities informed the meeting that fogging and spraying activities have been implemented across all municipalities in the district. These measures are aimed at eliminating mosquito breeding sites and reducing the mosquito population responsible for the transmission of dengue.

Recognizing the importance of spreading awareness about dengue pre-



vention, the Chief Education Officer was directed to educate students about precautionary measures during morning assemblies in schools. By targeting the younger generation, the district administration aims to instill a sense of responsibility and ensure that students are well-informed about the necessary precautions to avoid dengue.

Assistant Commissioner Panchayat has been entrusted with the task of disseminating advisories to all panchayats in the district. This grassroots approach aims to raise awareness at the local community level and empower individuals to take proactive measures to prevent dengue.

To further strengthen the healthcare infrastructure and control the spread of dengue, the Chief Medical Officer of Rajouri has been directed to enhance testing facili-

ties in the district. Early detection of dengue cases is crucial in providing prompt medical intervention and minimizing the impact of the disease.

Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of a coordinated effort involving stakeholders, including government departments, educational institutions and the general public. He urged everyone in the district to take the necessary precautions to prevent dengue, emphasizing the importance of eliminating mosquito breeding sites and maintaining a clean and hygienic environment.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; CMO Rajouri Dr. Rajinder kumar; ACP, Sheraz Chohan; DPO, Auqil Nuvaid; CEO Education, Sultana Kouser; MS DH, Dr Mehmood Bajar; EOs Municipalities and other concerned officers.

DC Doda discusses winter preparedness in the district

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 13

To address the problems faced during the winter season by public, especially in far-flung, snow bound areas and other natural factors hamper the normal life, the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan convened a meeting of all the stakeholders to discuss preparedness of upcoming winter season. The Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned stakeholders to ensure same vibrancy during the winter, by managing all the roads to remain open, ensuring water and power supply, snow clearance, availability of food grains, LPG and other essential commodities across the district.

The DC instructed concerned officers to keep their men and machinery ready to deal with any kind of situation and ensure smooth service delivery across all areas of the district.

PDD was asked to issue the curtailment schedule and ensure uninterrupted



power supply in the district. The engineers were instructed to keep sufficient buffer stock of Transformers, poles, and other equipments to restore power supply within 24 hours in any part of the district. DC urged to ensure that the banned heating gadgets are not used and sold in the district. SE PWD was asked to maintain all the roads and ensure they remain open during the winter. Jal Shakti department was directed to maintain water supply to every household in the district.

Regarding healthcare facilities, the health officials were asked to ensure sufficient stock of medicines in all health institutions across the district, besides availability of doctors and paramedics

in the remotest corner of the district.

DC stressed on coordination among all stakeholders in making a viable snow clearance plan and restoration of essential services in the district. He asked for keeping machinery available and stationed at the strategic locations to clear and make functional all the roads during snow-fall and slides.

DC also asked for advance avalanche warning for hilly areas to avoid damage to property and loss of lives.

He urged the concerned departments to review their earlier performance, identify the shortcomings so that a comprehensive plan is made and winter preparedness is full and the district remains vibrant.

MC Doda celebrates Amrit Kalash Yatra in tribute to Martyrs

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 13

In a remarkable event organized by the district administration in Doda, under the leadership of District Development Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, and with the energetic coordination of Executive Officer Yousaf Ul Umar, the Municipal Council Doda celebrated an Amrit Kalash Yatra at Town Hall Doda. This yatra served as a heartfelt tribute to the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice for our motherland. The initiative, held under the “Meri Maati Mera Desh” campaign, symbolized unity and reverence.

Amrit Kalash, containing soil gathered from various wards of MC Doda, was collected and artfully placed in a beautifully decorated urn. The event was graced by the presence of the Additional District Development Commissioner Doda, Shri Pran Singh, who served as the chief guest. This yatra is part of a prestigious nationwide initiative launched by the Union Home Minister of India to honour the memory of those who laid down their lives for the nation.



As part of the second phase of the “Meri Maati-Mera Desh” campaign in the district, public from different communities actively participated in the Amrit Kalash Ytras. They collected soil from their respective wards, filled Amrit Kalash urns, and sent them to the Municipal Council head office at Town Hall Doda. These Amrit Kalashs will ultimately journey to the District Headquarters, leading up to a grand event planned for October 22, 2023. On this date, all the Amrit Kalashs from various blocks and Municipalities will converge in Doda before making their way to the capital city of Jammu and then to the national capital.

During this festive occa-

sion, a vibrant cultural program was presented by students from the Higher Secondary School for Boys and Girls in Doda. The guidance and mentorship for these colourful cultural activities were provided by Om Prakash Bhagat, a teacher from the Girls’ Higher Secondary School in Doda.

The Chairman Municipal Council Doda, Ved Prakash Gupta, extended a warm welcome to the chief guest, ADDC Doda Pran Singh at the outset of the event.

Ward Members, Councillors, the Chief Account Officer Municipal Council Doda and officials of MC Doda were also in attendance, making the Amrit Kalash Yatra a prestigious and memorable occasion.

Amrit Kalash Yatra honours martyrs at Marmat Higher Secondary School Goha

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 13

Under the banner of the “Meri Maati-Mera Desh” campaign, the district administration in Doda, led by District Development Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, organized the Amrit Kalash Yatra at the Government Higher Secondary School Goha (Marmat).

The event was graced by the presence of Idress Lone, Deputy Director Employment, District Employment and Counselling Centre Doda, who served as the chief guest.

As part of the second phase of the “Meri Maati-Mera Desh” campaign in the district, public from each community were encouraged to participate in Amrit Kalash Ytras. They collected soil from their respective villages, placing it in Amrit Kalash (urns) and sending them to the block offices from October 1st to 13th. These Amrit Kalashs will subsequently journey to the



District Headquarters, leading up to a grand event planned for October 22, 2023, when all the Amrit Kalashs from various blocks will converge in Doda. Subsequently, they will travel to the capital city of Jammu before being transported to the national capital, Delhi, from October 22 to 27.

During the Kalash Yatra, Tehsildar Marmat, BDO Marmat, Sarpanches,

a significant number of students, officers, and officials, were present. The colorful, soil-filled Kalash urns, collected from diverse regions, were prominently displayed during the event. The program garnered participation from the Block Development Officer of Marmaat, sarpanchs, panches, members of Panchayati Raj Institutions, and students.

DC Rajouri meets public deputation from Sunderbani

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 13

In a proactive move aimed at fostering strong community engagement and addressing the concerns of the people, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, met with a public deputation from Sunderbani. The delegation, led by District Development Council Member, Rajinder Sharma, brought to light a range of issues and demands pertaining to their respective areas.

Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid was also present during the meeting. One of the primary issues raised during this meeting was the proposed shifting of the tehsil headquarter from Beripatan to Bajnova.

Deputy Commissioner



Vikas Kundal attentively listened to all the concerns and demands presented by the delegation. He assures the deputation that the District Administration is unwavering in its commitment to addressing the genuine problems faced by the community.

The DC underscored the pivotal role played by community participation in the develop-

ment process. He urged the residents to closely collaborate with the District Administration and keep a vigilant eye on the ongoing developmental activities within their areas. Such active involvement from the public, he noted, is instrumental in driving positive change and achieving the shared vision of progress and prosperity.

Farmers’ awareness program promotes strawberry cultivation at Garkhal

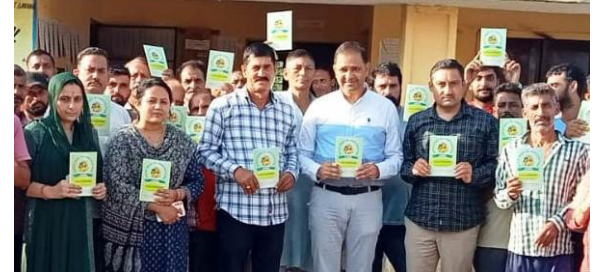
JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 13

Department of Horticulture hosted a one-day Farmers’ Awareness-cum-Interaction Program with a significant focus on plantation schemes, particularly Strawberry Cultivation, at Garkhal, Block Akhnoor today.

The event was graced by the presence of District Level Subject Matter Specialist (Pomology), Sandeep Gupta, who led the discussions.

Accompanied by Horticulture Development Officer Akhnoor, Virender Sharma, and esteemed Sarpanch Garkhal, Kashmir Singh, a multitude of local farmers actively participated in this engaging program.

Sandeep Gupta, in his address, provided valuable insights into various Departmental schemes and programs currently underway in the district. He emphasized key initiatives such as the Revised Modified High Density Plantation Scheme, Holis-



tic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), CAPEX, and SMAM.

Furthermore, he delivered an in-depth presentation on Strawberry Cultivation, highlighting its remarkable potential as a highly remunerative cash crop. He also brought to light an enticing incentive of Rs. 13,000 per Kanal available for those venturing into Strawberry cultivation. Mr. Gupta urged the farmers to maintain close communication with Horticulture Department field functionaries to fully capitalize on these beneficial schemes.

Virender Sharma, while addressing the audience, expounded on the various plantation schemes accessible to the farming

community. He offered guidance on applying for incentives through online portals, such as Jansugam (jansugam.jk.gov.in) and HADP (hadp.jk.gov.in). Moreover, he encouraged the farmers to tap into the incentives available for establishing Custom Hiring Centers and Farm Machinery Banks under centrally sponsored Schemes SMAM, promoting employment generation and increased income.

Sarpanch, Kashmir Singh, expressed his gratitude to the Department for organizing this highly beneficial camp. He also extended a heartfelt request for the continuation of such informative programs in the future.

EDITORIAL

Take holistic review of J&K security

The recent statement of J&K police chief Dilbagh Singh that the Union territory witnessed the lowest number of terror incidents and civilian deaths in over three decades and hinted towards return of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir has given fodder to the opposition parties to take on the BJP and its government at the Centre for delaying assembly polls on the pretext of security concerns. On Thursday, the Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh claimed that Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a significant milestone in the fight against terrorism this year and the security situation has drastically improved in Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, the best year in terms of security was 2013. There was the lowest level (of militancy) in 2013. However, subsequent years saw an increase in militant activities, with intent to incite emotions to revive the dying militancy but Pakistan tried to revive the militancy and it succeeded in it. They lured more people into terrorism. The militancy related incidents and number of terrorists increased. It was the peak of militancy in 2017. The statistics presented by the J-K police chief while expressing satisfaction at the current trajectory shows that the graph depicting militant activity now lies below both the level of 2013 and the zenith of 2017. In a remarkable statistical shift, the number of terror-related cases plummeted from 113 in 2013 to a mere 42 in 2023 so far. In 2022, a historical low of 26 law and order incidents was recorded in J-K, and this year (till date), there have been only three such incidents, none of which was linked to terrorism. All these figures indicate that the situation has returned to normal in large parts of Jammu and Kashmir and there should be no problem in holding Assembly polls in the Union Territory—an argument being repeatedly given by the opposition parties. These groups are up in arms against the Centre for abrogation Article 370, bifurcation of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs—J&K and Ladakh, restoration of full-fledged status of statehood and conduct of early assembly polls in the Union Territory. Recently, the Election Commission of India while announcing assembly polls in five states of the country had said that elections to J&K assembly would be held at appropriate time while assessing the security scenario. From the statement of DGP, it could be easily implied upon that the security apparatus has improved significantly and proven effective in safeguarding lives besides the comprehensive efforts to bolster security have yielded remarkable results in Jammu and Kashmir. The resolute efforts of the security forces stand as a beacon of hope for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, as they look towards a future marked by peace and stability. In such a situation, the Union Home Ministry and the ECI should take a holistic assessment of the situation and decide about Assembly polls accordingly.

School violence: Causes, extent and prevention

DR. RAJKUMAR SINGH

School violence is violence of any form or threat of violence that occurs within an educational institution. It can manifest in various ways, including physical violence, verbal abuse, bullying, harassment, and even shootings or other extreme incidents. Types of School Violence: a. Physical Violence: Physical aggression or harm directed towards students or staff. b. Verbal Abuse: Harassment, name-calling, or other forms of verbal aggression. c. Bullying: Repeated aggressive behaviour intended to harm others, often involving a power imbalance. d. Cyberbullying: Using electronic communication to harass or intimidate others. e. Weapon Violence: The use of weapons on school grounds, which can result in serious harm or fatalities. f. Gang Violence: Some schools may face issues related to gang activities, however, its causes include: a. Bullying and Peer Pressure: Students may engage in violence due to peer pressure or as a response to bullying. b. Family Issues: Problems at home, including domestic violence or neglect, can contribute to violent behaviour. c. Mental Health Issues: Untreated mental health conditions may lead to violent outbursts. d. Access to Weapons: Easy access to weapons, either at home or in the community, can escalate violence. e.

Socioeconomic Factors: Schools in economically disadvantaged areas may face higher rates of violence. Consequences and Impact: a. Physical Injuries: Violence can lead to injuries and sometimes fatalities. b. Psychological Impact: Students and staff may experience trauma and emotional distress. c. Disruption of Learning Environment: School violence can disrupt the educational process for all students. d. Reporting and Investigation: Schools must have procedures for reporting and investigating incidents of violence. In a nutshell, addressing school violence requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach that involves the collaboration of educators, parents, law enforcement, and the community.

BACKGROUND OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE

The background of school violence is complex and multifaceted, influenced by various social, cultural, economic, and individual factors which include: a. Social and Cultural Factors: Media Influence: Exposure to violence in the media, including movies, video games, and online content, can desensitize individuals to violence. Cultural Norms: Societal attitudes towards aggression, conflict resolution, and the acceptance of violence as a means of solving problems can influence behaviour. b. Individual Factors: Mental Health Issues: Individuals

with untreated mental health conditions, such as depression, anxiety, or conduct disorders, may be more prone to violent behaviour. Bullying and Victimization: Students who are victims of bullying or who engage in bullying behaviour may be at a higher risk of violence. Substance Abuse: Drug and alcohol abuse can contribute to impulsive and aggressive behaviour. Past Trauma: Individuals who have experienced trauma, abuse, or neglect may be more prone to violent behaviour. c. Family Environment: Parental Influence: The behaviour and parenting style of caregivers can significantly impact a child's propensity for violence. Domestic Violence: Exposure to domestic violence at home can contribute to aggressive behaviour in children. Family Structure: Issues related to family structure, such as divorce or family instability, can influence a child's behaviour. d. Community Factors: Community Violence: High rates of violence in the community can spill over into schools. Socioeconomic Issues: Communities facing economic challenges may have higher rates of school violence. f. Political and Policy Factors: Education Policies: The presence or absence of effective policies addressing bullying, conflict resolution, and student behaviour can impact school violence. Resource Allocation: Adequate resources, including

funding for education and support services, can contribute to a safer school environment. Addressing school violence requires a holistic approach that considers these various factors. Strategies should include promoting a positive school culture, implementing effective anti-bullying programs, providing mental health support, and fostering strong connections between schools, families, and communities.

PREVENTION OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE

Preventing school violence requires a comprehensive approach that involves the collaboration of educators, parents, students, law enforcement, and the community. They are a. Promoting a Positive School Climate: Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports (PBIS): Implementing a system that focuses on reinforcing positive behaviours and creating a supportive school environment. Character Education: Integrating character traits, empathy, and respect. b. Anti-Bullying Programs: Establishing Policies: Implementing and enforcing clear anti-bullying policies with consequences for offenders. Educational Programs: Providing students with education on the impacts of bullying and strategies to prevent and report it. c. Mental Health Support: Counselling Services: Offering accessible

and confidential counselling services for students facing emotional or mental health challenges. Mental Health Education: Incorporating mental health education into the curriculum to reduce stigma and promote understanding. d. Conflict Resolution Programs: Teaching Conflict Resolution Skills: Providing students with skills to resolve conflicts peacefully and constructively. Peer Mediation Programs: Training students to mediate conflicts among their peers with the guidance of adults. e. Community Involvement: Parental Engagement: Encouraging parents to actively participate in their child's education and fostering open communication between parents and school staff. Community Partnerships: Collaborating with local community organizations, law enforcement, and mental health agencies to provide additional support. f. Security Measures: School Resource Officers (SROs): Placing trained law enforcement officers within schools to enhance security and build positive relationships with students. Surveillance Systems: Implementing security measures such as surveillance cameras to deter potential threats and provide evidence if an incident occurs. g. Early Intervention: Threat Assessment Teams: Establishing teams to assess and respond to potential threats of violence early on. Behavioural Intervention Plans: Develop-

ing plans to address the behaviour of students who may be at risk of engaging in violence. h. Education on Responsible Media Use: Media Literacy Programs: Educating students about responsible media consumption and critical thinking to discern between fiction and reality in media portrayals of violence. i. Promoting Inclusivity and Diversity: Cultural Competency Training: Providing staff with training on cultural sensitivity and inclusivity to create a welcoming environment for all students. Celebrating Diversity: Incorporating diverse perspectives and cultures into the curriculum and school activities. j. Regular School Safety Drills: Emergency Preparedness: Conducting regular drills for various emergency scenarios, including lockdowns and evacuations. Monitoring Online Activities: Cybersecurity Measures: Monitoring and addressing online activities to prevent cyberbullying and identify potential threats. Regular evaluation and adjustment of prevention programs based on the evolving needs of the school community are essential for creating a safe and supportive learning environment.

The author is a Youth Motivator, presently a Professor of Political Science along with Dean, Student's Welfare (DSW), at B.N. Mandal University, Madhepura (Bihar), India.

P20 Summit: India's Parliament to foster global cooperation on key issues

OM BIRLA

The unprecedented success of the G20 summit chaired by India has been praised all over the world. It is a matter of pride that this Summit concluded with a Joint Declaration strengthening our concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" - One Earth, One Family, One Future". G20 also underlined India's growing global influence, as it successfully played the role of a consensus builder.

Coming on the heels of the G20 Summit, the Parliament of India is getting ready to host another important congregation, i.e. the P20 or the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit on the 13th and 14th of October in New Delhi. P20 brings together the Speakers or the Presiding Officers of Parliaments of G20 and invitee nations. Parliament is the supreme legislative body of every nation, through which public representatives present aspirations and expectations of the people in the Houses and formulate laws and policies.

India is one of those ancient civilizations of the world with a rich cultural

heritage. Democracy has been an ingrained concept in India for ages. Even in our ancient texts, there is mention of participatory institutions like Sabha and Samiti, which existed as public representative institutions in the Vedic age.

Democracy, diversity and demography have been our strengths during the 75-year journey since independence. With the power of democracy, we have created harmony among all sections of society and ensured social and economic development for all. It must be said that people-centric development and inclusive development are at the centre of our democratic journey.

Even in our Parliament, public representatives form a collective view on issues after extensive discussion. This helps us find collective solutions to challenges. Therefore, in the P20 conference, the Parliament of India will try to develop a common vision to address the important contemporary issues facing the world and humanity. The importance of organizing the P20 Conclave in India increases because the consensus on global issues is related to the common future of humanity. The focus of the

P20 conference will be on Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, women-led development and the shared future of humanity. It will also discuss topics related to the Lifestyle of the Environment i.e. Mission LiFE.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have certainly given impetus to efforts to realize the concept of holistic human development in the world. As we approach the year 2030, it becomes even more important to assess the achievements made under this initiative and accelerate efforts to realize them. Among the SDGs, there are many whose impact is universal. There is a need to discuss and dialogue on these issues in the parliaments and reach a consensus to eliminate all contradictions. Policy consensus needs to be developed while maintaining the sovereignty of nations.

Sustainable Energy: Towards a Green Future

India has attempted to adapt its development process to the needs of a green future even while facing the challenges of

a huge population and maintaining the aspiration of becoming a developed nation. Today, India is in a leadership role in the field of alternative energy. Policy initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, and International Bio Fuel Alliance championed by India have received wide global support. Environment-related issues have also been discussed continuously in our Parliament. Through this dialogue, a consensus has been formed in the country on policy-making for renewable energy beyond political differences.

From Women Empowerment to Women-led Development

Women have been considered the embodiment of power and devotion in India's ancient culture. Women have proved their capability and strength in all fields, be it science and technology, defence, space science or in the field of sports. Our Constitution has empowered women by giving them equal rights in all spheres, including voting rights. As our journey of democracy progressed, policy decisions were taken to provide political and economic empowerment to women and to give them

leadership opportunities. Initially, laws were made for reservation for women in Gram Panchayat and municipal-level elections. Taking this forward, laws have since been made for reservation for them in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. There has been a consensus on this law among every political party in the entire country. We will share our positive experiences on this topic at the P20 conference and strive to make women-led development a global movement.

Transforming people's lives through public digital platforms

India has been at the forefront of digital transformation, leveraging technology to improve the lives of its citizens. Initiatives like Aadhaar, the world's largest biometric identification system, have streamlined access to government services. UPI (Unified Payments Interface) has become one of the largest financial inclusion tools that brought digital banking to the masses. The Digital India programme aims to provide digital access to all citizens and is revolutionizing governance at the grassroots level. The lives

of millions of Indians have been transformed with the adoption of digital technology across various sectors like education, agriculture, finance, etc. At the P20 summit, we will share this landmark achievement with the parliaments of the world so that India's success in digital transformation becomes a model for the entire world.

India's Parliament has played a big role in shaping the destiny of the world's largest democracy. Our Parliament has made public welfare laws after extensive discussion always keeping the interests of the public in mind. Despite having a multi-party system, we have reached a consensus on issues. In this way, our Parliament has presented a model of meaningful discussion and dialogue to the world.

I am confident that just as the G20 summit achieved consensus on global challenges, the P20 summit will also underline the essential role of parliaments in addressing contemporary challenges and usher in a new era of cooperation between parliaments on global issues.

The author is the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Deadly effect of internet media

VIJAY GARG

A recent report related to the new generation is very worrying. A report by Gallup and Walton Family Foundation says that 'Jane G' is going through a terrible period of loneliness and is feeling alone. Those born between 1997 and 2012 are called the Gen Z generation. This trend raises further concerns because this is a generation that is far more privileged than previous generations. Despite this, she is immersed in stress, anxiety and depression. Other studies around the world also These trends tell us about the generation. The sad aspect

is that despite such trends and warnings from psychologists, necessary thinking is not taking place on this subject. Mental pain does not easily attract anyone's attention. Especially if we talk about India in this context, here 'mental pain' is considered to be a momentary impulse of stress and depression, whereas it is such a feeling that if it is not understood and treated in time, it can also be fatal. Could. The above study of Gallup and Walton Family Foundation has been prevalent in the society for a long time. It also breaks the myth that prosperity is synonymous with happiness and satisfaction. The reality is that

society has covered itself with the cloak of materialism in such a way that nothing else is left within it except loneliness. He himself does not realize when the desire for maximum in a short time turns a human being into a mechanized structure. The calculation of earning money using that period in proportion to the time spent in maintaining relationships amid the endless race drives the youth to choose loneliness. That too without the fact that ultimately human relationships are essential for communicating emotions. Ignoring this truth ultimately leads to loneliness on the part of the youth, where there are

no relationships left to witness their defeat, frustration and disappointment. This pain pushes them towards depression. Behind the youth, there is also a crowd of teenagers who, though they have not yet joined the race of earning money, but words like 'friendship and kinship' are disappearing from their vocabulary. In the Department of Psychology at Princeton University, Data scientist Chris Syed says that 'Internet media is like an atomic bomb attack on the social life of teenagers.' Syed's statement cannot be dismissed as an exaggeration, because the mass communication revolution that took place in the last decades

did not have the same impact on social relations as the Internet media has. In relation to the way this affects the mental health of teenagers, media psychologist Don Grant has used the term 'compare and despair'. Grant says the Internet/Teens spend most of their time on media watching the lives and images of their peers and observing themselves. In this process, if they find their personality, external appearance and economic status inferior, then their self-esteem gets hurt and it creates inferiority complex within them to such an extent that sometimes they decide to end their life. Also bring thoughts to mind.

'Associations between screen time and lower psychological well-being among children and adolescents: evidence from a population base' Research titled 'The Study' shows that teenagers who spend more than seven hours a day on Internet media are twice as likely to suffer from depression as those who spend less time on Internet media. Is. According to studies conducted in America, as soon as Internet media started gaining popularity after 2000, the mental health of teenagers and young adults there started deteriorating continuously. Studies also show that after that period, suicidal tendencies among

youth also increased. Increase was observed. These statistics and trends not only reveal the reality of America's 'Gen G' generation, but they also reflect the state of mind of teenagers around the world. In such a situation, it becomes necessary to return the teenagers to the flow of social relations. It will not be easy to do this. The pseudo world away from the real world is like a utopia for teenagers, where they not only find their happiness but also struggle to make their place in it. This world of fantasy is very dangerous, but no effort is made to consider that we are also the ones pushing them towards this. Amidst

our busyness, aspirations and storms, we are the ones who put smartphones in the hands of small children and we never know when these smartphones become a substitute for the loving touch of their parents. Therefore, it is important that we consider this issue seriously and give up our aspirations and give time to our children. A strong link of emotional support has to be added to their feelings, confusions and frustrations, otherwise they will just remain in disguise. You will continue to get trapped in the clutches of the world.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist
Malout Punjab

Delay in holding Assembly Elections in J&K generates feeling of hopelessness: Manjit Singh

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, OCTOBER 13

Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has expressed his concern over delay in holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir as it has generated a feeling of hopelessness among the masses.

"The restoration of democratic system in Jammu and Kashmir has been delayed for one reason or another although the situation is peaceful and conducive to hold Assembly Elections in the erstwhile State," said the Former Minister.

He was speaking at a meeting cum joining program that was organized by Provincial President Women Wing Jammu, Pavneet Kour, and Dalbir Singh, Apni Party leader here.

In this program, BJP's ward president, Ravinder Kour along with dozens of her supporters joined Apni Party in presence of S. Manjit Singh. While welcoming the new entrants into the party, Manjit Singh hoped that their joining would strengthen the party at the grass root level. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are feeling disappointed regarding authorities' ignorance to their genuine demands. Referring to the issues being confronted in Jammu plains, he said



that the shabby condition of Jammu-Pathankot and Jammu-Srinagar highway has affected the business, commuters and transporters.

He said that the compensation cases whose land was acquired by NHAI have accused authorities for discriminating with the land owners/businessmen whose land /shops were acquired but the compensation was not given as per the market value.

"The people have lost their source of earning yet the authorities seem unconcerned. Similarly, the Sarore Toll plaza issue was not addressed despite a team of NHAI being sent to Samba from Delhi and its outcome remained under the carpet. The decision as per the wishes of the people of Jammu plains was not made public," he said.

He said that the issues of recruitment scams, increasing unemployment, power crises and

the installation of the smart meters have added more problems in Jammu that should have been addressed. However, it appears the authorities are unconcerned about the public issues.

In these circumstances, he said that it becomes important to hold Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir as soon as possible in a bid to restore democratic system. "The babus have no connection with the people, and it is important that the present form of Govt should be replaced by an elected Govt in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He said that the feeling of alienation has detached them from the Govt and its schemes that could have benefited the people at ground level if implemented in a proper manner with the consultation of public representatives.

However, the public representatives appear to have been ignored and

the babus taking decisions from the comfortable office rooms without going into the fields, he added while complaining about the poor development, and incomplete developmental projects.

He also referred to the smart city project that is being implemented in a half hearted manner by the Jammu Municipal Corporation. "The heaps of garbage can be seen scattered in many wards of Jammu and the dengue cases are increasing in the populated residential areas. But the JMC has yet to intensify the fogging in the dengue affected areas," he said, and criticized authorities for failing to educate about the dengue spread and measures to control its spread.

He also expressed concern over delay in scheduled elections of PRI and ULBs in J&K that were announced.

Meanwhile, he said that if the Apni Party forms the next Govt in Jammu and

Kashmir, it will enhance pension from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 and marriage assistance for the girls of economically poor sections of society would also be enhanced from Rs 50000 to Rs 1 lakhs.

He said that the Apni Party is committed to provide a Govt that would work as per the aspiration of the people and there would be no place for any kind of discrimination. "We are committed to provide equitable development, protection of rights of J&K residents, resources, and provide employment to the educated youth," he added.

The meeting cum joining program was also attended by Spokesperson and State General Secretary, Youth Wing, Abhay Bakaya; Provincial President Youth Wing Jammu, Vipul Bali; Provincial President Transport Union, Tirath Singh; Provincial Vice President Transport Union, Yash Khajuria; Provincial General Secretary Legal Cell, Kuldeep Sudan; Provincial Secretary Women Wing, Shikha Bardwaj; Provincial Secretary Women Wing, Shivani Koul; District General Secretary, Deepak Bradoo; District Vice President Youth Wing, Abhinav Gupta; Farooq Chauhan, Monika, Neelum Gupta, Shewata Kumari and others.

NC District Coordination Committee meeting held

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, OCT 13

A meeting was organized by the Coordination Committee Jammu District (Urban), Central Zone JKNC at Jammu Club, Zonal President and Former Minister Babu Ram Paul, was the Chief Guest, whereas, Provincial Joint Secretary Ankush Abrol was presided over the meeting and Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District Urban and Zonal Secretary was guest of honour.

The meeting was organized by Rahul Mahajan, Member Coordination Committee Jammu District (Urban) and Vice-President Central Zone at Jammu Club which was attended by numbers of people.

During the meeting Babu Rampaul deliberated in detail the various aspects imperative to strengthen the party at the grass root level. He opined emphasizing on the office bearers to disseminate the information amongst general masses about the good work and achievements made by National Conference Party in Jammu and Kashmir.

While speaking on the occasion Babu Rampaul



said that the National Conference is committed to fighting for the rights of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that few forces are working to divide people on the communal and regional lines which will be given a befitting reply. "The country is presently going through a state of crisis. The graph of inflation is constantly on rise, the prices of essential commodities are skyrocketing and still BJP is claiming good governance" he added. He said that unemployment is at an all time high in the present scenario which is the root cause of depression and resentment among the young generation following which they are getting deviated and

becoming drug addicts. Rampaul urged the people to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Jenab Omar Abdullah so that NC could once again form a popular government in J&K and mitigate the sufferings of poor masses. Former Minister further said that after August 5, 2019, the situation has grown from bad to worse to jeopardize the living of people by first imposing property tax, smart meters installation and now prepaid meters with inflated power bills coming in thousands but the administration is not ready to pay heed to the grievances of people.

Besides, Ankush Abrol alleged that the political

party in power has totally

spoiled the earning pattern of locals of Jammu as all the Govt works including contracts of sand, bajri, wine shops, and parking spots have been allotted to the people from outside JK UT jeopardizing the living standard of general public Jammu and Kashmir and drastically dwindling their livelihood. He further said that all the important positions in the UT Govt sector and universities have deliberately been given and occupied by officers from outside JKUT under a well knit conspiracy to make the lives of people here quite miserable with none to listen to their genuine grievances, he added.

Dr Vikas Sharma said

people are being cheated under Smart City narrative and the condition of Jammu city is bad. There are potholes all over the streets, drains are broken and when it rains, the entire city turns into flood hitting the normal life of commoners. Is this what Smart City is like, he asked, adding that Smart City is not made by installing Signs Boards, but by providing all kinds of facilities to the people, he said.

Rahul Mahajan reiterated his resolve to continue making efforts to consolidate the party in his area of operation. He also said, "We have to take the vision of our party leadership to every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir for its development and benefit of people."

The others who spoke on the occasion include Nirmal Singh, Sandesh Shan, Surjit Singh Sassan, BD Dalotra, Adv. Aslam Choudhary, Narinder Bhagat, Navid Raja, Dharminder Sharma, and Sahil Kerni.

Others who were present in the meeting included Som Raj, Rahul Gupta, Amar Nath, Surinder Kumar, Vikram Gupta, Chetan Singh, Vinod Kumar and others.

GDCW, Kathua organizes one day lecture on "Educational Awareness"

J I NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, OCT 13

The Career Counselling and Placement Cell in collaboration with IQAC, Govt. Degree College for Women, Kathua organized one day lecture on "Educational Awareness about Competitive Examinations" on 13th of October 2023 under the valuable guidance of worthy Principal Dr. Savi Behl. Mr. M.D. Sharma, Managing Director, Vision Academy Kathua and Mr. Ashutosh were the resource person for the lecture. The function began with the wel-



come address by Ms. Romika Basin, convener Career Counseling and Placement Cell GDCW, Kathua. In her welcome address she outlined the purpose of the programme.

The lecture was focus-

ing on the awareness of the students of the college regarding the preparation of several competitive examinations such as UPSC/JKAS, SSC, Banking and JKSSB. The proceeding of the seminar included valuable insights, guid-

ance, motivational and career-oriented information to the students, by the resource persons of Vision Academy Kathua. Mr. M. D. Sharma very impressively shared his experiences with the students and motivated them to prepare for the competitive examinations, without thinking that such examinations are meant for a particular subject or stream. Next resource person Mr. Ashutosh explained how proper guidance, consistent and motivation helps the students to achieve their goals. The speakers

further motivated the college students about the significance of clearing such examinations and attaining a respectable position in the society and helping in women empowerment. Eighty students from all the streams and semesters participated in the seminar. The occasion was also graced by the presence of other faculty members, Ms. Ravinder Kour, Ms. Usha Devi, Mr. Barun Bhatti, Mr. Vijay Kumar, Ms. Anu Radha, Dr. Vaishno Devi and Dr. Rajni Khajuria. The program ended with the vote of thanks by Ms. Pallavi.

Nitish seeks LG's intervention over poor power scenario in Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, OCT 13

Nitish Mahajan, Co Incharge BJP Social Media Department, J&K, has voiced his deep concerns about the deteriorating power supply situation in Jammu City.

In a press statement released today, the senior BJP leader appealed to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to intervene and provide necessary directions to the concerned authorities to address the ongoing issues with interrupted power supply.

Jammu City, known for its historical and economic significance, has been grappling with a persistent power crisis. He emphasized that the citizens of Jammu City deserve reliable and uninterrupted

power supply to meet their daily needs and contribute to the growth of the region.

In his appeal to LG Sinha, Mahajan underscored the importance of swift and effective action to rectify the current power scenario. He stated that consistent power supply is vital for households, businesses, and industries, ensuring that daily life and economic activities can function smoothly.

He specifically urged LG Sinha to give necessary directions to the concerned authorities to ensure interrupted power supply to the industrial areas of Jammu. He emphasized that a stable power supply is crucial for industrial growth, attracting investments, and promoting economic development in the region.

Nitish Mahajan also

called for the prioritized provision of uninterrupted power supply to areas where Smart Meters have been installed. These advanced meters play a key role in modernizing the power distribution system, optimizing energy consumption, and enhancing billing accuracy. However, their full potential can only be harnessed with a consistent power supply, he added.

Nitish expressed his confidence that LG Sinha and the concerned authorities would take immediate action to alleviate the ongoing power woes of Jammu City. He called upon them to ensure that the citizens of Jammu can enjoy a better quality of life, and the region remains conducive for business and industrial growth.

SMVDU Scholar bags Best Oral Presentation Award at International Conference

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, OCT 13

Chitrakshi Chopra, Scholar at the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), received the best oral presentation award at the International Conference on Recent Trends in Biomedical Sciences (RTBS-2023), organized by the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Lovely Professional University, Punjab. The conference aimed to promote, encourage, and bring together researchers, scientists, pathologists, and medical service providers to share knowledge and recent advances made in



their respective fields. Ms. Chopra, working under the supervision of Dr. Indu Bhushan, Faculty, SMVDU presented a paper titled "Microbial Communities in Women's Reproductive Health: Insights into Vaginal Microbiota and Implications for Well-being," co-

authored by Ms. Malvika Mehta, Mr. Pankaj Suden, and Dr. Indu Bhushan. The research aimed to provide insight into the role of vaginal microbiome in various stages of life in females. The study also emphasized the significance of microbiota-targeted interventions that aim to optimize the composition of the healthy microbiome and shed light on the importance of translational investigations in this field. The experts at the conference appreciated the work carried out by Ms. Chopra. More than 200 papers were presented by the participants coming from different countries.

PDP, NC, Cong looted J&K: Kavinder

Entire team of PDP Kathua joins BJP

**J I NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU, OCT 13

Decimating the entire PDP unit in Kathua, PDP Kathua President along with team, including Presidents of SC, ST, Mahila, Youth, and Labour wings and hundreds of their supporters joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Senior BJP leader & former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, BJP spokesperson Abhijeet Jasrotia and Minority Morcha President Ranjodh Singh Nalwa welcomed the new entrants in the party fold.

Those who joined on the occasion included PDP District President Jagdip Singh (JD), District General Secretary Vinod Gupta, Vice-President Gurdeep Singh Rishi, Treasurer Hans Raj Sharma, Secretary Jatinder Singh, District President Youth Dinesh Khajuria, District President ST wing Attar Din, District President SC wing Mangal Das, District President Labour wing Mohd. Rouf,

District President Mahila wing Jyoti Devi, General Secretary Mahila wing Rani Devi and others.

Kavinder Gupta, while welcoming the new entrants, said that the parties like PDP has nothing except bluff to offer to the masses He said that these parties looted the resources of J&K and devastated the socio-economic structure of the erstwhile state pushing the youth into the state of total dismay and dark. He said that the BJP has kept progressing with its agenda of nation-building and perfect synchronization between its words and actions. By taking the decisive actions to help every person from every region and every community, we have delivered on what we promised.

Abhijeet Jasrotia said that the Modi government has framed its policies with a vision to give the maximum benefits to the underprivileged and the neglected sections of the society, while making the nation strong on national and international fronts. These developments, he

said, has forced the prominent people to join BJP in large numbers.

Ranjodh Nalwa said that the public is fed up with the misgovernance of the parties like PDP, NC, and Congress and are looking towards the BJP with hopes of bright future for young generations and development oriented government.

Former PDP leaders accused the party of nepotism and narrow mindset. They said that PDP entertained zero internal democracy and failed to reach to all the sections of the society. They said that they all are highly impressed by the policies and commitment of the Modi government and its efforts towards the empowerment of weaker and neglected sections in the society.

BJP Minority Morcha Vice-President Balwinder Singh, spokesperson Fani and others were also present on the occasion.

Minority Morcha Vice-President Jasmeet Kour Pandey conducted the proceedings of the joining programme.

Shubman Gill named ICC Men's Player of Month for September

AGENCIES
DUBAI, OCT 13

India rising star Shubman Gill is the ICC Men's Player of the Month for September 2023 after dominating a stretch of ODI's ahead of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.



The opener made the most runs at the Asia Cup with 302 at an average of 75.5, including an unbeaten 27 not out as India crushed Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the final. Gill backed up his strong tournament form with 178 runs in two

innings against Australia as India fine-tuned for the Cricket World Cup on home soil, an ICC report said. The right-hander smashed a century against Australia (104) in the second of those ODIs, after reaching three figures against Bangladesh (121) during the Asia Cup for two tons in September. Gill also scored three half-centuries last month and was only dismissed for less than fifty on two occasions from eight innings in that time. The 24-year-old has an incredible record in ODIs with 1917 runs in 35 matches at an average of 66.1 and at a strike rate of 102.84, and is No.2 in the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings.

Gill has missed India's opening matches of the Cricket World Cup due to illness but looms as pivotal to the hosts' chances of lifting the trophy for the first time since 2011. The Sri Lanka Women's captain starred as her side claimed their first-ever series win over England in any format when coming out on top in two of their three Women's T20I clashes. Athapaththu was named player of the series

Athapaththu named ICC Women's Player of Month for September

AGENCIES
DUBAI, OCT 13

Chamari Athapaththu is the ICC Women's Player of the Month for September 2023 after inspiring Sri Lanka to a historic series triumph over England. The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday revealed the ICC Women's Player of the Month award recipient for September 2023 following an action-packed month of cricket. Athapaththu beat out South Africa pair Laura Wolvaardt and Nadine de Klerk to earn the award after an outstanding month that included leading Sri Lanka to a stunning series victory.



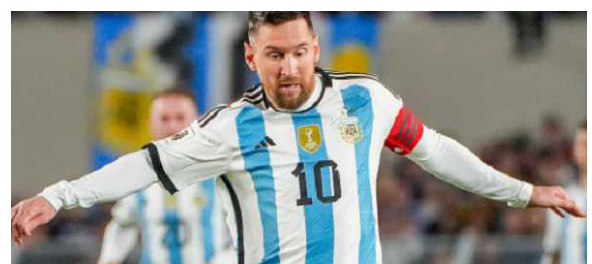
for compiling 114 runs and taking five wickets as Sri Lanka started the month with the two critical Women's T20I wins against England, an ICC report said. The all-rounder was pivotal to the pair of victories with scores of 55 and 44 against England, along

with bowling figures of 1/11 and 3/21.

Athapaththu was also among the runs at the Women's Asia Cup later in September as Sri Lanka faced Thailand, Pakistan and India. In total the 33-year-old amassed 208 runs at an average of 26 across five WT20I innings and three WODIs in September. The off-spinner also took five wickets for the month at an average of 26.6 across the white-ball formats.

The left-handed batter is currently No.3 in the ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings, and No.7 in the Women's T20I Batting Rankings.

Messi eases injury worries as Argentina stay hungry



AGENCIES
BUENOS AIRES, OCT 13

Lionel Messi allayed concerns about his fitness after an impressive second-half cameo in Argentina's 1-0 home win over Paraguay in their World Cup qualifier on Thursday. Messi, who has struggled to overcome a muscle problem in recent weeks, made an immediate impact after replacing Julian Alvarez in the 53rd minute at Estadio Monumental. The 36-year-old Inter Miami forward instantly gave the Albiceleste more fluency in attack and he was twice denied by the woodwork in the last 20 minutes. "I felt good. I was able to add minutes which is important after such a long time off," said Messi, who missed four games for Inter Miami before returning to play 35 minutes in a 1-0 loss to Cincinnati last Saturday. "I was unable to play for a long time so it was difficult. But I will take a lot of positives out of tonight. I want to train as much as possible to continue feeling this way." Thursday's result means Argentina now has three wins from as many games this qualifying campaign.

The reigning world champions will now turn their focus to their next qualifier against Peru in Lima on Tuesday. "It was a very difficult qualifier," the former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain star said. "Paraguay are always tough because they find spaces and move the ball quickly. "Even so, we had a lot of chances and, fortunately, the goal came in the end. We'll leave here with the three points and that's the most important thing."

Continental gladiators get ready for battle royale at the Colosseum

BD NARAAYANAKAR
AHMEDABAD, OCT 13



Due to the longstanding political tensions, both India and Pakistan play each other only at international tournaments, and hence the craze among the fans blow out of the roof, a testimony to it is the heavy hospital bookings, instead of booking 10-fold pricey hotel rooms for tomorrow's match. Battered of India-Pakistan bilateral matches, the craze among the fans only gets manifold out of desperation, and it only gets the nod of the people if they do something unheard of. If tomorrow's match is a humdinger, and the weak hearted are at the Narendra Modi Stadium, rest be sure, they would be the most lucky ones to get the treatment in their reserved hospitals if any one of them suffers a stroke. And for those, who are strong hearted would go any distance to bear the brunt as India would go full steam to deny Pakistan their first-ever World Cup win against them in

Saturday's blockbuster encounter. Since 1992, Pakistan has not won any game at World Cup, but walk on to the field, taking a cue out of their record World Cup chase of 345 against Sri Lanka to make amends. India are fresh from their eight-wicket thrashing of Afghanistan after skipper Rohit Sharma smashed a record seventh World Cup century on Wednesday. In the opener, India lived up to the billing of tournament favourites with a six-wicket win over five-time winners Australia, riding high on Virat Kohli and KL Rahul's match-winning partnership after India were in doldrums at 2/3. Top-ranked ODI batsman Azam has had poor

outings in the tournament, scoring 5 and 10 in Pakistan's two victories. Whereas, Mohammad Rizwan and Abdullah Shafique scripted a brilliant partnership against Sri Lanka in Hyderabad, and Pakistani spinners and batsman Saud Shakeel orchestrated a win against Netherlands. On the other hand, top Indian batsmen have been on song with Kohli getting 85 and unbeaten 55 against Australia and Afghanistan, and Rahul belted an unconquered 97 against Australia. Jasprit Bumrah's 4-39 in the last match and Ravindra Jadeja demolishing Australia in the opener, must give the much-needed filip for the Indian bowling lineup.

Kuldeep Yadav has been in good form, picking up three wickets so far, and the onus will be on him if Ravichandran Ashwin is omitted and Shardul Thakur preferred. Shubman Gill's availability is yet to be determined as he joined the team yesterday after a bout of dengue. But one thing is determined. A roller-coaster match is in the offing with over 1,30,000 spectators shouting at top of their voices at The Colosseum, where the sub-continental gladiators would banter about and snarl at each other in the heat of the match. Predicted Playing XI India: Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma (c), Virat Kohli, Ishan Kishan, KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah

Pakistan: Abdullah Shafique, Imam ul Haq, Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan, Saud Shakeel, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf. Indian senior women's team to train in Saudi Arabia ahead of Olympic Qualifiers

Basketball players from Philippines & Jordan test positive at Asiad

AGENCIES
BEIJING, OCT 13

Asian Games men's basketball final contenders, Filipino player Justin Brownlee and Jordanian player Sami Bzai, failed doping tests during the tournament, the International Testing Agency (ITA) reported on Friday. The Philippines defeated Jordan for the men's basketball title at the Asian Games which concluded last Sunday. According to ITA, a sample collected from Brownlee has returned an adverse analytical finding for Carboxy-THC, while a sample of Sami Bzai from Jordan tested returned positive for dehydrochloromethyl-testosterone metabolite. Both samples were collected during an in-competition anti-doping control performed on October 7. Both athletes have been informed of the cases, and they have the right to request the analysis of the B-samples, the ITA said. The ITA was mandated by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) to independently handle areas of the anti-doping program at the Hangzhou Asian Games. A total of 10 doping cases have been reported at the Hangzhou Asian Games by now.

Indian senior women's team to train in Saudi Arabia ahead of Olympic Qualifiers

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 13

The Indian senior women's team is leaving for Saudi Arabia on October 14 for a training-cum-exposure tour on the eve of the AFC Women's Olympic Qualifiers to be played in Uzbekistan later this month. The team, who will play a few friendly matches in Saudi Arabia, will leave for Uzbekistan on October 23, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) sources on Friday said. Indian senior women's squad for Saudi Arabia tour: Goalkeepers: Sowmya Narayanasamy, Shreya Hooda, Elangbam Panthoi Chanu, Anisha. Defenders: Ashalata Devi Loitongbam, Sweetey Devi Nangbam, Ritu Rani, Ranjana Chanu, Shikha Devi Hemam, Juli Kishan, Astam Oraon. Midfielders: Priyangka Devi Naorem, Anju Tamang, Indumathi Kathiresan, Sangita Basfore, Aveka Singh. Forwards: Grace Dangmei, Soumya Guguloth, Renu, Sandhya Ranganathan, Bala Devi Nangom, Sanju, Pyari Xaxa. Head coach: Thomas Lennart Dennerby.

WC: Rohit gives big hint on Gill's playing chances against Pak

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, OCT 13

Giving a big update on Shubman Gill, Team India captain Rohit Sharma on Friday said 99 per cent he will play against Pakistan on Saturday. "99 per cent he (Gill) will play. We'll see tomorrow (Saturday) about that," Rohit told reporters on the eve of the mega clash of the ICC Men's World Cup. Gill has reportedly been recovered from dengue and joined the Team India yesterday at Ahmedabad, and was seen doing batting practice in the nets today. If he is picked up for tomorrow's match, it would be his debut in the World Cup. Gill has missed the first two matches against Australia and Afghanistan due to illness. He has been in awesome form, scoring big in all formats of the game last year. Gill has amassed 1,230 runs at an average of 72.35 and a strike rate of just above 105 in as many as 20 ODIs this year. He also smashed five hundreds and as many fifties, with 208 being his highest.

No time to sulk as Labuschagne seeks answers for Australia

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, OCT 13

Australia batter Marnus Labuschagne has urged his teammates not to dwell on his side's winless start to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and believes there is still time for the five-time champions to regain their best form and qualify for the knockout stages. The Aussies were sloppy in the field and failed to gain much momentum with the bat as they fell to a second consecutive loss at the event when defeated by South Africa at Atal Behari Vajpayee Cricket Stadium on Thursday. Consecutive losses to start the tournament leaves Australia in a situation where they can afford very few slip ups over their remaining seven group matches. While New Zealand qualified for the semi-final stage of the most recent World Cup in 2019 with five wins and one no result, Australia are now likely to need to win at least six of their final seven group matches in India to have any chance of claiming an unprecedented sixth title, an ICC report said. Their quest to do that will begin when they take on Sri Lanka in Lucknow on Monday and Labuschagne is confident his team can quickly turn around their fortunes. "We can be disappointed about this performance, we can be disappointed about lots of things... but the reality is you can't sit and sulk in the changing room," Labuschagne said after Australia's 134-run loss to South Africa. "We've got to take action and we've got to get our tournament underway and in three days time we've got Sri Lanka here and I don't know how,



immediate response in is their fielding after a host of chances went begging against the Proteas. All-rounder Marcus Stoinis put down a sitter later in South Africa's innings, skipper Pat Cummins grassed a gettable return catch off his own bowling, while Mitchell Starc, Josh Inglis and sub-fielder Sean Abbott were other culprits that missed chances. Labuschagne made no excuses for Australia's poor performance in the field and expects his side to execute better in this discipline as the tournament progresses. "I'm not here to sit and make excuses," he said. "We're playing the World Cup for Australia and we have to be ready and we have to be better than that," Labuschagne said. "It's hard to put your finger on it. We're one of the best fielding sides in the world - we pride ourselves on that and we just didn't seem to get it right today," he said. "We created opportunities and just didn't take them and it just wasn't a great performance from us. But we have to bounce back and get this train rolling," Labuschagne added.

Will try to break WC jinx against India: Babar Azam



AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, OCT 13

Captain Babar Azam here on Friday said records are meant to be broken, and he would try to break them, including breaking the jinx haunting Pakistan at the World Cup. "I don't focus on the past; I try to focus on the future. Such records are made to be broken and I try to break them. I will try to give a good performance on Saturday. It depends on the day how you play. I believe my team did well in the first two matches and will do well in the next matches as well," he told reporters on the eve of the mega match against India. Pakistan have never beaten India at the World Cup since 1992, and would be extremely keen to make amends by pulling off the first ever at Motera's Narendra Modi Stadium on Saturday. Babar said the India and Pakistan match is a big game, and he has told his teammates to give their best by seizing the opportunity coming their way. "Ahmedabad is a big stadium and a lot of fans are coming. So, this is a golden opportunity for us to perform well in front of the fans and become heroes," he said. Asked about pacer Naseem Shah's absence, Babar said the team misses him a lot. "First of all, we will miss Naseem Shah a lot. The way he was bowling in the Asia Cup, it was very impressive bowling - and as a youngster, the way he was improving day by day, we miss him a lot as a team, as a captain," he said.