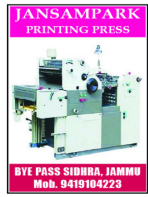




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PM Modi says natural to hold G20 event in every part of Country; dismisses China's objections over Kashmir, Arunachal

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said it is natural for India to hold G20 meetings in every part of its territory as he dismissed Chinese objections over some of the events being organised in Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh.

As part of its efforts to showcase India's cultural and regional diversity at a global stage, the Modi government has hosted G20 events across the country's length and breadth.

China, a G20 member, and Pakistan, which is not a member of the bloc, had objected to the decision to hold one of the events in Kashmir, which they call "disputed". China



also disputes India's sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh. India has already dismissed claims by China and Pakistan.

"Such a question would be valid if we had refrained from conducting meetings in those venues. Ours is such a vast, beautiful and diverse nation. When G20 meetings are happening, isn't it natural that meetings will be held in every part of our country," Modi said in an inclusive interview to news agency late last week. India held the

third G20 working group meeting on tourism for three days from May 22 in Srinagar. Delegates of all G20 countries, barring China, visited the picturesque Valley for the event.

A large number of delegates had also visited Arunachal Pradesh in March for a G20 event.

Dismissing Chinese claims, India had then said that it is free to hold meetings on its own territory.

By the time India's G20 presidency term ends, Modi said, over 220 meetings would have taken place across 60 cities in all 28 states and eight union territories, and added that over one lakh participants from around 125 nationalities would witness the skills of Indians.

Operation Posts being set up in border area to augment anti-terror grid: DGP

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 3

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Sunday said that operation posts are being set up in border areas to augment the anti-terror grid.

"Operation posts are being established by J&K Police alongwith Army in border area to further augment the anti-terror grid and block the evil attempts being attempted from across the border," the J&K Police Chief said chairing the joint review meetings at B G Brigade Headquarters at Mendhar, Poonch and at Kalakote in Rajouri.

Singh visited Poonch and Rajouri, the twin frontier districts of Jammu and State where he chaired security review meetings



with officers of Police and Army.

He was accompanied by AIG (Training/Policy) PHQ J S Johar.

He directed for intensified manhunt against drug peddlers saying that agencies from across the border are using it against youth.

"J&K Police and other security forces are working shoulder to shoulder against the terrorism and

other jurisdictional officers.

DGP took stock of the prevailing security situation of these districts particularly the infiltration attempts, narco trade and drone activities from across the border.

He directed for strengthening the security grid by activating Naka checking points on different routes to keep check on the terror activities. He also stressed strengthening the area domination plan.

He emphasized on utilizing modern technology and human intelligence to monitor the movement on borders and as also in the hinterland to prevent anti-national activities and incidents thereof.

Appreciating the joint efforts of Police and other security forces, the

Major tragedy averted with timely detection of IED in Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JAMMU, SEP 3

A major tragedy was averted with timely detection of a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Sunday, officials said.

The IED, planted inside a tiffin box, was found lying on the roadside near a culvert by the army's road opening party at Sangpur village along the Jammu-Poonch National Highway around 4.45 am, they said.

Jammu-based defence PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said three teams from the nearest Army camp moved to the location and established a motor vehicle check post at Kallar and Balavenu following the detection of the IED.



Simultaneously, police were informed and integrated into the operation, he said, adding that a bomb disposal team moved to the location and successfully identified and neutralised the IED around 8.15 am.

The officials said the traffic on the busy highway remained suspended for over three hours following

the detection of the IED, which was later destroyed in a controlled explosion without any damage.

Police have registered a case and further investigation is on to identify and arrest the suspected terrorists who planted the IED on the highway with the intention to trigger an explosion, the officials added.

CRPF Jawan shoots himself dead in Ramban

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 3

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan allegedly shot himself dead with his service rifle in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

Bashit Narayan Yadav, a resident of Bihar, was on duty near Banihal-Qazigund Tunnel along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway when he shot himself around 11.45 pm on Saturday, they said.

They said the body of the deceased was shifted to sub-district hospital Banihal for postmortem and other legal formalities.

The motive behind his taking such an extreme step was not known immediately, the officials said.

Meanwhile, a police personnel was injured when his service rifle went off accidentally during an operation in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir late Saturday evening.

"During a routine operation task

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Khellani tunnel to be upgraded to 2-lanes in J&K: Nitin Gadkari

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 3

Union Minister for Road Transport and National Highways, Nitin Gadkari on Sunday informed that the Khellani tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda is getting upgraded to two lanes.

In a post on X, in Jammu & Kashmir, we are upgrading the Uni-Directional Khellani Tunnel into a 2-lane structure, incorporating a paved shoulder and improving its approach road on NH-244.

The entire length of this project spans 2.419 kilometers and falls within Package 3. The upgraded tunnel is set to ensure year-round accessibility,



a development that will significantly benefit the local economy and the residents of the region.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji, this

ambitious project is dedicated to achieving expeditious, trouble-free, and environmentally conscious mobility in the Jammu & Kashmir region.

Top law ministry officials brief panel chairman Ram Nath Kovind on simultaneous polls

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 3

Top officials of the Union Law Ministry on September 3 held a preparatory briefing for former President Ram Nath Kovind who heads the high-level committee to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies.



"The government had on September 2 notified the eight-member committee. People aware of the development said, Law Secretary Niten Chan-

dra, Legislative Secretary Reeta Vasishtha and others met Mr. Kovind this afternoon to understand how he would like to go about the agenda before the committee.

While Mr. Chandra is also the Secretary to the high-level committee, Ms. Vasishtha's Department deals with the issue of elections, the Representation of the People Act and related rules.

Soldier electrocuted to death in Samba

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 3

An Army personnel was electrocuted to death when he came in contact with a live wire inside a camp in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

Deepak Pandey (25) of engineering squadron was electrocuted late Sunday night while working on

some product, the officials said.

They said the soldier hailing from Uttarakhand was rushed to the military hospital where he breathed his last.

Police have started inquest proceedings in connection with the death of the soldier, the officials said, adding the body of the deceased would

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

J&K govt, revokes suspension of lecturer senior Zahoor Ahmad

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPT 3

Jammu and Kashmir government has revoked the suspension of Senior Lecturer Zahoor Ahmad, who was suspended a day after he argued on Article 370 in Supreme Court.

Zahoor Ahmad Bhat senior Lecturer was suspended on August 25, 2023, As per the latest order,

Zahoor Ahmad is directed to report his original place of posting for further duties

Supreme Court on August 28 asked the country's top law officer, the Attorney General (AG) R Venkataramani, to talk to the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, and find out the reasons for

the suspension of Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, a teacher, for appearing in person before the apex court and arguing against the Abrogation of Article 370.

The issue was raised by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who termed the alleged act unfair. "This is not fair. This is not how our democracy should function", Sibal had

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Chandrayaan spearheads India's Amrit Kaal journey over 25 years: Dr Jitendra

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, SEPT 3

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-spearhead India's Amrit Kaal growth journey over the next 25 years.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said this while launching the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign at Tikri-Ban Panchayat in district Udhampur which marks the beginning of the Amrit Kalash Yatra starting all



over the country which includes collection of miti and rice from every household symbolising the participation of the people in the prosperity of the motherland.

During the inauguration, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, India's recent Space

marvels have only been possible under PM Narendra Modi who has opened up new vistas for India's space sector through public private partnership model and now the 'sky is not the limit' dictum has become true for

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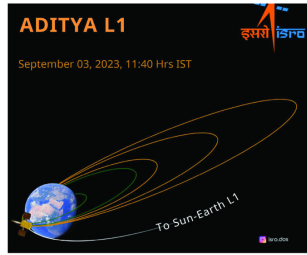
First earth-bound manoeuvre of Aditya L1 performed successfully, says ISRO

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, SEPT 3

A day after India's first solar observatory mission which was launched, the first Earth-bound firing to raise the orbit of the Aditya-L1, was performed on Sunday.

The ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network Work (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru performed the manoeuvre.

The space agency said the satellite is healthy and operating nominally. "The first Earth-bound manoeuvre (EBN#1) is performed successfully from ISTRAC, Bengaluru. The new orbit



attained is 245km x 22459 km. The next manoeuvre (EBN#2) is scheduled for September 5, 2023,

around 03:00 Hrs. IST," ISRO posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Aditya-L1 Mission:

The satellite is healthy and operating nominally.

The first Earth-bound manoeuvre (EBN#1) is performed successfully from ISTRAC, Bengaluru. The new orbit attained is 245km x 22459 km.

Post its successful launch ISRO said that the Aditya-L1 started generating the power and that the solar panels are deployed.

Following the launch Aditya-L1 stays Earth-bound orbits for 16 days, during which it undergoes 5 manoeuvres to gain the necessary velocity for its journey. Subsequently, Aditya-L1 undergoes

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Leopard mauls four-year-old girl to death in Udhampur

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, SEPT 3

A four-year-old girl was killed by a leopard after she was taken away from her house in Udhampur district, a senior forest officer said.

The locals recovered her mangled body two kilometres away from her house in Upper Banjala village of Panchari tehsil in the district, said Rakesh Sharma, Range Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department in Udhampur said.

After getting information, the Jammu and Kashmir Police

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Defence correspondents course - 2023 arrives Jammu for forward area tour

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: The 2023 edition of Defence Correspondents Course (DCC), a three weeks course conducted by the Ministry of Defence for select journalists from regional and national media houses, arrived at Jammu on 03 Sep 2023 for their most exciting part Forward Area Tour. The DCC headed by Col Amitabh Sharma, PRO (Defence) Jaipur and Nodal Officer of the course were received by Tiger Division and PRO Jammu. The aim of DCC tour in Army leg is to build a pool of journalists at all levels who understand the Armed Forces and are cognizant of the domain when reporting on stories relating to the Army and



CI/CT environment. During the one week Forward Area attachment, the participants will be addressed by subject matter experts from within the Army. They will acquaint the journalists with various aspects of the Indian Army including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and the organisational structure of the Army. The participants will also visit Line of

Control. Today they visited Balidan Stambh at Jammu. The visit was conducted under aegis of Tiger Division. The primary objective of the DCC is to foster a stronger connection between the media and the military, equipping journalists with an understanding of the Armed Forces. This understanding is crucial when reporting on

stories related to the defence environment, ensuring accurate and informed coverage. The Defence Correspondents Course plays a role in fostering transparency, cooperation, and mutual understanding between the military and the media, ensuring that accurate and responsible reporting continues to be a hallmark of Defence Journalism in India.

Tanveer Ahmed: From adversity to adventure, A story of inspiration

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: Tanveer Ahmed's life is a testament to the indomitable spirit of human determination and resilience. Hailing from the breathtaking yet remote Mahu-Mangat bowl, Tanveer's journey is a source of inspiration to all who hear it. Born into a humble farmer's family, his early life was marred by the tragic loss of both parents at a tender age. Despite facing formidable challenges, including his brother's involvement in troubled paths, Tanveer's unwavering determination and an insatiable thirst for adventure have propelled him to achieve the extraordinary.



found love for the mountains and the uncharted territories they held.

In addition to conquering the heights, Tanveer ventured into the exhilarating world of winter sports. He chose Pahalgam as his playground, where he threw himself into the adventure of skiing. Completing a skiing course in the famed destination of Gulmarg, he emerged not only as a skilled skier but also as a unique talent in the world of winter sports.

An innate adventurer at heart, Tanveer spent five transformative years exploring the enchanting Mohu-Mangat valley. This deep connection with the region and its natural beauty would eventually lead him to a destiny intertwined with adventure and discovery.

Tanveer's journey took a momentous turn when he decided to participate in the winter festival organized by the Indian Army in the Mohu valley.

It was here that he etched his name into the annals of history. As the first individual from Ramban district to lead trekking, camping, and skiing activities alongside the Indian Army, Tanveer became a trailblazer in the trust sense. His collaborative efforts with the army not only enthralled tourists but also shone a spotlight on the Mohu valley's pristine natural beauty. This event was a turning point, signaling the untapped potential for adventure tourism in the region. Inspired by the Indian Army's support and encouragement, Tanveer now harbors ambitious plans to carve out a virgin trekking route. This route, which he envisions will stretch from Mohu to Chisrar and Bramsar lakes in Kulgam District, promises breathtaking vistas that everyone should have the opportunity to experience. It's a testament to his unwavering commitment to showcasing the hidden gems of his homeland to the world.

Today, Tanveer Ahmed stands as a beacon of hope and a role model for the youth of the region. His story demonstrates that with unwavering determination, an unquenchable thirst for adventure, and an unyielding love for one's homeland, it is possible to overcome adversity and create a brighter future. In a world often defined by hardships and uncertainties, Tanveer Ahmed's journey serves as a powerful reminder that adversity can indeed be the springboard to a remarkable adventure, one that redefines the boundaries of human potential. It's a story that resonates with anyone who dares to dream and persevere, offering a glimpse into the extraordinary heights that can be reached through sheer determination and an unwavering spirit.

NC committed to peace, prosperity & equality in J&K: Babu Rampaul

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: National Conference is committed to ensure peace, progress, prosperity, stability and equality among all the sections of the society in Jammu and Kashmir, said former Minister and President Central Zone (Jammu, Samba, Kathua) Babu Rampaul while addressing a meeting at Old City. The meeting was organized by Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) Dr Vikas Sharma.

While speaking on the occasion, Babu Rampaul urged upon the youth to get ready for playing a vital role to bring change. He said that the present scenario of J&K has pushed the youth towards depression and anxiety as they are worried about their future presently looming in darkness.

"Unemployment among youth has also impacted the life of the educated youth who are concerned about their career for which their parents are in a doldrums and deeply worried about their children", he added.

Former Minister criticised the stoppage of 'Darbar Move' practice as immoral by the government because it has adversely affected the business community. "The business community, small traders

and commoners are all suffering due to policy paralysis and deep rooted corruption at all levels.

Referring to serious threat to J&K lands from the outsiders with the active patronage of the double engine government, Rampaul recalled the landmark Land Reforms Act brought in by the National Conference under the towering leadership of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, making the poor and landless masters of holdings overnight at the mutation of just rupees two. How can these poor people part with their precious lands, he asked.

Lauding the pro-people work done during the NC rule, he said that his party leadership knew the ground realities and framed the policies in such a way that people of J&K irrespective of region, religion, caste and creed benefited equally. "NC reads the pulse of people in the true sense of the term but the present government took all decisions in a hasty manner just to fulfill their political agenda," he added.

"The law and order situation has deteriorated, the business community is incurring losses, unemployment rate is highest in the country, corruption and scams are happening everywhere, administrators & bureaucrats are not being held accountable.

This is the state of affairs in J&K", Rampaul said.

Ultimately, He asked the party workers of J&K to remain united and work with zeal and dedication for ensuring the welfare of the common masses of J&K and to strengthen the JKNC party at the grass root levels.

Zonal Secretary JKNC, Dr Vikas Sharma while speaking on the occasion said that it was under NC's rule that the erstwhile state was among top states of our country. He said that from unemployment to literacy Jammu and Kashmir was and is in a far better position than other states of India. He lambasted those dividing people in the name of religion and region. He said that the time has come to defeat such forces and strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Jenab Omar Abdullah for lasting peace in the Union Territory.

He reiterated the resolve of the NC party to put in back-breaking painstaking efforts to restore statehood keeping the destructive elements at bay.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Adv. Rajinder Chaturyal, S. Surjit Singh Sassan, Naved Raja, BD Dalotra, Hemraj, Som Raj, Surjit kumar, Sagar Chand, Manohar Raj, Ramesh kumar, Dr Sushil and others.

Natrang presents hilarious play 'Commission' in its Sunday Theatre series

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: Natrang presented a new hilarious play 'Commission' written by Saadat Hasan Manto and directed by Neeraj Kant in its weekly theatre series, 'Sunday Theatre'. This play showcases the magic of satire, that how a modern emperor, living in the era of social media deals with his people, and how an emperor can easily escape from his responsibilities by forming commissions after commissions.

The play opens in the modern court room of a modern emperor along with his two head butlers. The emperor is a satirical being who brags how he has developed a friendly relationship between the goats and lions in his kingdom to erase their hostilities. The play showcases, the emperor doesn't share a good relationship with his empress and is going



through a bad phase in his love life. The plot twist comes when a 'Fariyadi' comes to seek justice for his workers who have been killed by the sevikas of the empress, who were practicing archery in an open place. The emperor promotes his head butlers to ministers and asks them to go through the matter and come up with a proper report. After a two month long process, the newly appointed ministers comes up with a gigantic report of one

lakh words and presents the whole story before the emperor. The emperor on listening about this massive satirical boasts that he is a better emperor than Jahangir and his philosophies doesn't make sense in modern era and asks his ministers to heed all the girls who were involved in the massacre, but before the culprits are executed, a commission needs to be formed to deliver justice. The play is full of humor and satire, and the characters are a caricature of mughal era.

The artists who participated in the play are Palshin Dutta, Chirag Anand, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Chaitanya Shekhar, Sumit Bhandal and Sanket Bhagat. Neeraj Kant executed the lights whereas the music was scored by Mehak Singh. Sushant Singh Charak presented the show before the audience and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

IIPA JKRB organizes 10th Shri Ram Sahai Memorial Lecture



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: Indian Institute of Public Administration, JK Regional Branch, organized 10th Shri Ram Sahai Memorial Lecture on "Revitalizing Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in J&K" by Sh. Vikramjit Singh, Comm. Secy Ind & Com Dept. Govt of J&K.

While delivering the lecture, Sh. Vikramjit Singh said that Government of Jammu & Kashmir is committed to revitalize the entrepreneurial ecosystem through various innovative strategic and policy measures, which will enable the flow of finance for all types of industrial units, and create facilitating conditions for large scale units to come to J&K. Substantiating his arguments with various data-points, he was of the view that agriculture, tourism, power, IT and logistics sector should be exploited

by encouraging the youth to create start-ups. He also said that Lithium "White Gold" Reserve in J&K will be a game changer and bring in new opportunities. B. R. Sharma in his presidential remarks while paying homage to Sh. Ram Sahai said that he was a visionary and a passionate entrepreneur who had the ability to network and negotiate for a larger common good for J&K. While speaking on the theme, he said that the environment in J&K is conducive for entrepreneurs and it is only through the joint effort of government and other stakeholders that the opportunity can be fully leveraged.

He suggested that regular stakeholder consultation workshops should be organized to fine tune the policy.

K. B. Jandial, IAS (Retd.), Director (Seminars), IIPA JKRB paid glowing tributes to Late Sh. Ram Sahai. He said that as a founding member of the branch, Sh. Sahai has made immense contributions towards bringing the issues of trade and commerce to the forefront and this

memorial lecture is organized every year to carry forward his legacy by deliberating on issues of relevance to the industry. Rahul Sahai in his concluding remarks said that J&K has immense potential for socio economic development through entrepreneurship. He laid emphasis on entrepreneurial education and skill development. He further said access to capital, supporting infrastructure, networking opportunity and create conducive environment can surely make J&K an attractive hub of entrepreneurship. He acknowledged IIPA for organizing this memorial lecture in memory of his father every year.

Earlier Prof. Alka Sharma, Secretary, IIPA JKRB delivered the formal welcome address and the proceedings were conducted by Dr. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary. The programme was attended by over 100 eminent citizens, members of IIPA, family members of Late Sh. Ram Sahai including Shri Khalid Jahangir MD JKPTO, Shri Tejwant Singh Reen, Chairman Federation of Industries, Shri Lalit Mahajan, President BBIA, Shri Neeraj Anand, President CTF, Shri Rakesh Gupta, Ex- President CCI Jammu, Shri Manish Gupta, Secretary General CCI Jammu, Shri Rajesh Jain, Shri Parveen Pargal, President Laghu Udyog, Shri Sanjay Bansal, Chairman Federation of All India Vyapar Mandal, Shri Sandeep Jain, General Secretary Jain Sabha, Shri Samar DevCharak, Co-Chair PHD-CCI Jammu.

Asha Kesar's 'Bhaakh' "Dhakki Ballein Ballein Chadeyan" released



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: In an impressive function organised at writers club Acc. of art culture and languages, Jammu, a famous 'Bhaakh' sung by the renowned

folk singer Smt. Asha Kesar was released by the Chief Guest Sh. Gulchain Singh Charak Former Minister and President Dogra Sadar Sabha J&K along with Smt. Asha Kesar in presence of scores of prominent writers, singers and

other personalities of the Duggar Pradesh including Padamshri. Jitendra Udhampuri, Padamshri. Mohan Singh, Padamshri. Balwant Thakur, Er. Ashok Singh President Delphic council, Zorawar Singh, Vijay Verma, J.R Jackson, Randhir Singh Raipuria, Seema Anil Sehgal, Bishan Das, and Dr. Sushma Rajput. "Dhakki Ballein Ballein Chadeyan" poster and audio was also released by Smt. Asha Kesar on the occasion. Sh. Devinder Singh who prepared the audio/video was also honoured. All the speakers speaking on the occasion highly appreciated Smt. Asha Kesar, the queen of Dogri folk for her contribution in the field.

A vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Sushma Rajput who thanked the Audience for their participation on the occasion.

BVP organises Bharat ko jano quiz competition

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: In order to inculcate and to know more about their Culture, Religion, History Geography, Arts, Constitution and other fields related to India, Bharat Vikas Parishad Kathua unit organised BHARAT KO JANU GYAN PRATIYOGITA, a quiz competition in TINY SCHOLARS SCHOOL, LOGATE MORH, KATHUA, today on 02 Sept, 2023.

About 50 students of 12 schools participated in the quiz competition held in two categories. A pair of two students from each school participated in the junior category (class 6th-8th) and senior category class 9th-12th). The Bharat Quiz program was held in three rounds- The Written round, The Visual round and the Current Affairs round. Evaluation of written was done on the spot. Use of Computer technology was introduced for the first time in the competition due to



sternuous efforts of the team of Tiny Scholars' computer wing under the supervision of their Principal Madam Mrs. Reena Khajuria and the Chairperson Madam Manisha Gupta.

Nav Adarsh School, Kathua bagged 1st spot. Dhawani Priya and Anjal Jasrota of Tiny Scholars School, Logate Morh bagged 2nd spot having a tie with MSK Hr. Sec. School while R.S. Golden and Minerva bagged 3rd spot in the senior categories while Spring Dales School, R.S. Golden School secured 1st and 2nd positions, respectively. Rasanpreet and Rijul Sharma of Tiny Scholars School, Logate Morh, Kathua bagged 3rd position in the Junior category.

The vote of thanks was extended by Sh. Kuldeep Goswami, Secretary of BVP, KATHUA. Principal Madam Mrs. Reena Khajuria, of the host institution was instrumental in making the Competition a Gala Success.

The deliberations were witnessed by Sh. Ditt Kumar, Sh. Khem Raj, Sh. Hem Raj, Sh. Pawan Sharma and other members of the organisation, teachers of various participating schools, students, staff and the Principal of the host institution. The programme was initiated with the reciting of Vande Mataram and adorned with the chanting of National Anthem.

and the nation to build confidence among the students to face the future challenges in their lives. Professor Dr. Ram Murti Sharma, the chief patron highlighted the importance of such competitions and threw light upon the motives and objectives of the organisation.

The whole event was hosted by Mrs. Purna Khajuria along with a student Tapasya Gupta from the host institution. Lamp Lighting was enlightened by members of Bharat Vikas parishad, Chairperson Mrs. Manisha Gupta and Principal Mrs. Reena Khajuria. Expressing his views, Mr. Ashok Gupta, President of the organisation, emphasized upon the need of such a competition so as to develop a quest among students to know about the country

Pritam Singh felicitates newly elected President of Auto Union



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: A significant gathering that reverberated with the spirit of community and leadership, Corporator Pritam Singh, a respected representative of Jammu Municipal Corporation's Ward Number 55, took the initiative to organize a special felicitation ceremony. The event was dedicated to honoring Mr. Johnny Chib, a prominent figure who had recently secured a remarkable victory as the President of the Auto Union, serving the region from Kunjwani to Sidhra via Narwal. The Auto Union elec-

tions had been a hotly contested affair, and Mr. Chib's triumph was nothing short of exceptional. His dedication and commitment to the welfare of the Auto Union had clearly resonated with the community, leading to his resounding win.

Corporator Pritam Singh's role in orchestrating this ceremony was emblematic of his sense of unity and appreciation within the community. In response to the outpouring of goodwill, Mr. Johnny Chib expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Corporator Pritam Singh and the entire communi-

ty. He spoke passionately about his commitment to the responsibilities that came with his new role. He pledged unwavering dedication to the welfare and advancement of the Auto Union, promising to address the needs and aspirations of its members with sincerity and diligence.

The ceremony was a symbol of unity, cooperation, and the seamless relationship between the political leadership, embodied by Corporator Pritam Singh, and the transportation sector, represented by the Auto Union. The event resonated not only within the local community but also as a testament to the power of collaboration and the positive impact of committed leaders.

The felicitation ceremony held in Jammu on that memorable day was not merely a ceremonial event; it was a reflection of a community's spirit and the promise of a brighter future under the leadership of individuals like Mr. Johnny Chib, who are dedicated to the betterment of their sectors and the well-being of their communities.

Vibodh calls on youth to work for stronger & prosperous Bharat



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta on Sunday urged the youth to embrace five pledges (Panchpran) with the vision for a stronger and more prosperous Bharat. During the 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' today under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign in RS Pura, Miran Sahib Mandal of District Jammu South.

General Secretary BJP J&K Vibodh Gupta, along with District President Rekha Mahajan, District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, Seh Prabhari, Sarpanch and Spokesperson BJP J&K Adv Devraj Sharma, DDC Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, BDC Vidhya Mottan, District General Secretary Akash Chopra, Mandal Prabhari Vikram

Sharma, Anil Sharma and prominent persons including large number populace of the area were present on the occasion.

Vibodh said that we must dedicate our lives to the following Panchpran, First, we must move forward with grand resolutions and the determination for a 'developed' India; second, we should eliminate all remnants of servitude; third, we must take pride in our heritage; fourth, recognize the strength in our unity, and fifth, fulfill our duties as responsible citizens," stated Vibodh during a party workers' meeting. Vibodh Gupta strongly asserted that Bharat, under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi, is on its way to becoming a Vishva Guru (world leader). He called upon the youth to commit the next 25 years of their lives to

the nation's development and the betterment of humanity as a whole.

During the Meri Maati Mera Desh (Amrit Kalash Yatra) campaign all BJP leaders visited the residence of Shaheed Ravi Kumar, a resident of RS Pura, Mira Sahib. BJP leaders honoured the Parents of Martyr Ravi Kumar and collected Soil in Kumbh from their residence. Pertinent to mention, this Soil will be sent to Delhi and it will be used to Construct Amrit Vatika commemorating Martyrs.

Ayodhya Gupta said, that under the governance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the organization of over 2 lakh programs during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has once again awakened the spirit of patriotism in the entire nation.

Adv Devraj Sharma said, that it is not just a program, but a medium to connect oneself with the future of the country. He said that we are in 'Amrit Kaal' (golden phase) under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and this mega campaign will help us realize our commitment to making India a developed country."

Rekha underlined that under these programs inscriptions have been installed in every village of the country, and crows of citizens of the country have taken the pledge of Panch Pran 'which will pave the way to make India great.

Apni Party reviews grassroots level working

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: Apni Party today reviewed working at grassroots level in Poonch during a meeting that was held at the office premises of the party.

The meeting was organized by District President Poonch, Ex-MLA Shah Mohammed Tantray in which Provincial Secretary Jammu Dr Rohit Gupta also participated. The meeting was attended by large numbers of party district level leaders and



workers. During the meeting, a review of the working of the party was taken by the District President Shah Mohammed Tantray, and Provincial Secretary Dr Rohit Gupta in a threadbare discussion. The

tehsil office bearers assured that they would intensify their public outreach programme across the district and highlight the policy and agenda of Apni Party.

Meanwhile, a membership drive was also launched at the district party office where large numbers of people joined the Apni Party.

Shah Mohammed Tantray, and Dr Rohit Gupta welcomed the new entrants into the party and hoped that their joining would strengthen the party.

Khatana listens to constituents' concerns and promises action

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: several delegations had the opportunity to meet with BJP MP Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, representing various regions and constituencies, including retired SRTC Employees and representatives from districts like Rajouri, Doda, Poonch, and Jammu.

Among these delegations, the retired SRTC Employees conveyed their longstanding grievances to

MP Gulam Ali. Their primary concern revolved around the non-payment of arrears spanning the past decade. The dedicated employees had faithfully served the organization, and their plea for fair compensation was a reflection of their dedication and commitment.

Another delegation, led by Sarpanch Mehri Gujjaran Shazia Tabassum, presented a series of crucial infrastructure demands. They emphasized the necessity of constructing a road that would

connect PMGSY Road Kohri Thekrian to Band Bagla, extending further to Kathrian Mehari Gujjaran in District Rajouri. Additionally, they urged for the construction of a 2-kilometer road from Atka Chaki Thekrian to Bashir Mohalla and a 1.2-kilometer road from Jabrian Morh to Kala Khan Baryal Mohalla, both in Mehari Gujjaran. The delegation also highlighted the importance of installing a 63 KV Transformer at Mohalla Band Bagla in Mehari Gujjaran.

'Freedom Fighters, Martyrs receive due respect under Modi Govt'

Statue of Amar Shaheed Mast Ram, a Hero of the 1965 Indo-Pak War, unveiled

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: A statue paying tribute to Amar Shaheed Mast Ram of Village Mandla, Basohli Rural Panchayat, was jointly unveiled by Major General Shiv Kumar Sharma, AVSM (Retd), President of the Forum for Awareness of National Security, J&K, and Former Board Member of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Commandant EME School Vadodra, along with Dr. Vikrant Sharma, Sang Prant Karwahia J&K.

The ceremony took place in the presence of numerous dignitaries, including Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua, Col Dharam Vir Sharma (Retd), Ajeet Singh ADC Basohli, Darshan Singh BJP Distt President, Shiv Padha renowned Social Activist & Writer, Advocate Kartar Singh Slaria, Capt Des Raj, Capt Yubkaran.

Hundreds of ex-servicemen, Veer Natis, prominent citizens, government employees, local residents, and youth also attended the event, which garnered significant media coverage.

Following the statue's unveiling, wreaths were offered by the dignitaries, and a 'Pushpanjali' (floral tribute) was given to Amar Shaheed Mast Ram by all present at the occasion. Guests planted plants around the memorial site, and the national flag was hoisted, with participants singing the



national anthem. Local musician and singer Lekh Raj Verma along with his troupe performed patriotic songs that moved the audience emotionally. Veer Natis (widows of brave soldiers) were honored by the Chief Guest and Mrs. SK Sharma during the event, which also included a community feast.

Shaheed Mast Ram had made the ultimate sacrifice while courageously fighting the enemy in a fierce battle in the Chhamb Sector of J&K. Addressing the gathering, Gen. Sharma highlighted the camaraderie and patriotism of soldiers in uniform and praised the self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) approach of the Indian Armed Forces. DDC Chairman Col. Mahan Singh (Retd.) extended a warm welcome to the guests and participants, emphasizing the commendable work being carried out by Purab Seva Sainik Prashid (PSSP)

Basohli under its state body's direction. He underlined the commitment of Purab Sainiks (soldiers from the eastern region) to serve society with dignity and honor in the nation-building process. Col. Singh also announced plans for another memorial in the Dhar Mahanpur region by Purab Sainik Seva Prashid.

The DDC Chairman urged the public to actively participate in the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' program proposed by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, emphasizing its significance for the nation. Notably, the statue has been made by a renowned Chandigarh based artist and the front wall has been beautifully painted by a young local Artist Sunita Kumari. The complete program was organized to the perfection by the veterans under the able guidance of Col Mahan Singh.

Ensore massive participation in paying tributes to Martyrs under 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' programme: Bali Bhagat

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: Bali Bhagat, senior BJP leader and former minister has urged the people to ensure massive participation in 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' programmes to pay tributes to martyrs of the world's largest democracy who laid down their lives in defending the nation. He expressed this in his address during a programme held under the auspices of 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' organised at JMC Ward No. 66 of North Assembly Constituency. The programme will continue in J&K till 15th September.



and BJP activists and workers Bali Bhagat informed that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is spearheading the campaign and Mitti (Soil) will be collected from the houses and the grounds near the statues and memorials of the martyrs at various locations across the nation including J&K. This will be

then transported to the National capital where it will contribute in the making of 'Amrit Vatika' in front of 'Rashtra Pati Bhawan' on 'Kartavya Path'.

The senior BJP leader stated that these campaigns will be carried out under the slogan, "Mitti Ko Naman, Veeron Ka Vandan" to celebrate 77

years of Indian Independence.

He said that the Kalash Yatras carrying the soil in 7500 urns will finally reach the nation's capital Delhi by carrying soil in 7500 urns. It is the duty of the people of this nation to join the campaign to honour the ultimate sacrifices made by the Military, Para, Police and other forces in the service to the nation and its people.

He said that the nation has a rich history of culture, valour and sacrifices that needs to be preserved and promoted to remind the future generations about the nation's unique heritage of sacrifices.

Public resentment against BJP gaining momentum: Bhalla

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 3

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla along with Kanta Bhan Yogesh Sawhney, Vijay Sharma today led another protest march from Janipur to New Plot in support of abolishing the toll plaza, installation of smart meters, and the imposition of property tax that have been significantly hampering the daily lives of the people in Jammu and Kashmir. The Congress workers holding party flags and placards with anti-government slogans, strongly condemned BJP Govt over skyrocketing prices of various essential commodities. The protest March was organized by Madhu Secretary DCC Jammu Urban, Ward-16, Block-1. Prominent among those present on occasion include Sonu Dogra, Ashok Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Sikander Khan, Davinder Kumar, Koushalya Devi, Vicky Kumar, Kuldeep Kumar besides others.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that public anger was on the rise against BJP Govt's wrong policies in J&K. He alleged that every section of the society is fed up with this "anti-people" dispensation. He urged the people to get rid of the "anti-people" BJP in the next Assembly elections. He said all sections of the society are suffering because of "anti-people" policies of the BJP Government. He said that the poor-sections of the society are suffering a lot due

to mis-rule of both Central and LG Administration, which are led by BJP. He asked the people that if they want to mitigate their sufferings, they must come under the banner of Congress Party whose leaders have sacrificed their whole life for the upliftment of poor masses of India. Senior Congress leader accused the BJP Government of befooling the people of J&K by its false claims of development.

Bhalla lashed out at BJP for abandoning people with their problems being related to the basic amenities during its nightmarish rule, saying the promises made during 2014 Parliamentary and Assembly elections proved just a hoax. They said BJP did nothing for the people except generating passions on religious and regional lines. The people, however, have not improved. Life during the past more than nine years, with nobody addressing their problems, has only compounded the daily struggles of the people. How can the BJP face those from whom it has taken away sustenance? How can a government that has imposed excessive taxes on the people confront them? Our struggling middle class, Below Poverty Line (BPL) individuals, and other marginalized communities are especially suffering. He continued, "They are unwilling to confront the people and are evading elections using various excuses. They cited constituency

delimitation and electoral roll revisions as reasons, which were completed long ago. They even mentioned unsuitable weather, but they lack justifications for further delaying the polls."



delimitation and electoral roll revisions as reasons, which were completed long ago. They even mentioned unsuitable weather, but they lack justifications for further delaying the polls."

Bhalla affirmed, "Congress is dedicated to uplifting the disadvantaged sections of society. Our history reflects a commitment to pro-poor and pro-marginalized actions. In the future, the Congress will persist in working for the welfare of the poor, working class." He urged upon the administration of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to pay urgent attention as the public is suffering badly. He said that the BJP's claim of providing 'pro-people' governance stand exposed as Central Government has failed miserably to address the issues affecting the general public. He castigated the BJP government, saying that the common man is going through the worst sufferings under the current dispensation, which has sold its soul to few businessmen, ignoring the agonies of the countrymen. The victims of these three issues are the common men, the countrymen who are the true sons of the soil," said the former Minister. "The BJP claims that theirs is a government of the people, for the people. I ask them to explain how it could be a public friendly government when the common man is suffering from these issues for so long now," he asked.

Bhalla observed that BJP are already reeling under severe pressure of economic depression. "Administratively also the people in J&K feel suffocated and are waiting eagerly for a democratically elected government to address their sufferings. But the people at the helm in Delhi seem to be least bothered about these important public issues and are instead adding to their woes by these rushed decisions," he added. Bhalla said lack of will in the government has pushed all Sectors to the extreme levels of insignificance.

Yogesh Sawhney said the present dispensation was working against the interests of the people of J&K and warned BJP not to barter the self-esteem

of the people for few loaves of power. Welcoming pro-active participation of youth in political activities, he said that Congress will continue to provide a vibrant platform to public-spirited activists. Congress will encourage honest and devoted youth to serve the people in best of their capabilities," he added. He decried politics of hate and urged the youth to fight the divisive forces by strengthening the bonds of amity and brotherhood. He said and added that India belonged to all, irrespective of religion or cast. He said disruptive forces were doing a disservice to this great nation by sowing seeds of hatred. He said that Jammu and Kashmir was passing through a most difficult phase with the insensitivity of BJP Govt pursuing anti-poor policies. Sawhney said that Congress is getting open feedback of the people to over nine years of 'mis-governance and maladministration.' BJP should read the writings on the wall on the face of historic public protests, and it should serve as an ultimatum to the government for failing Jammu, Kashmir," he added. He said Congress will continue to vouch for dialogue between India and Pakistan, as he believes this to be the only way forward in heralding lasting peace in the region.

Kanta Bhan claimed that "Youth are worst hit, as their avenues of jobs have been closed and whatsoever openings available

are being filled either through backdoor or by indulging in favouritism", she said, adding that this has blocked the future of unemployed educated. She assailed the present dispensation for lack of transparency and accountability. The government has lost its credibility and the administration its efficacy due to leadership deficit. The end sufferers remain the people, who find themselves at the crossroads," she maintained. She accused BJP of plunging Jammu and Kashmir into uncertainty, saying their inherent contradictions can lead to unprecedented political crisis. "Apart from failing on administrative front, the Govt has not been able to give a matured political leadership to this sensitive state," she said. She said BJP, which publicly takes pride in boasting of solving the problems confronting the state, they are actually playing to galleries and addressing to own political constituencies. She exhorted the party functionaries and the grass root level workers to remain in readiness for any political development in near future. "The unnatural BJP Govt. can't carry the baggage of contradictions anymore," she said, adding that Congress has to gear up for big challenge in the ensuing months. She said power has never been the destination of Congress, which she described as a mass movement.

IIPA JKRB organizes 10th Shri Ram Sahai Memorial Lecture

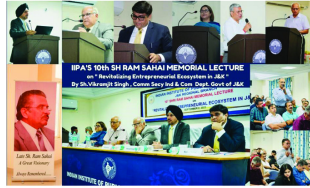
JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 3

Indian Institute of Public Administration, JK Regional Branch organized 10th Shri Ram Sahai Memorial Lecture on "Revitalizing Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in J&K" which was delivered by Sh. Vikramjit Singh, IPS, Commissioner/Secretary to Government Industries & Commerce Department J&K. Sh. B R Sharma, IAS (R), State Election Commissioner and Chairman, IIPA JKRB presided over the function.

While delivering the lecture, Sh. Vikramjit Singh said that Government of Jammu & Kashmir is committed to revitalize the entrepreneurial ecosystem through various innovative strategic and policy measures, which will enable the flow of finance for all types of industrial units, and create facilitating conditions for large

scale units to come to J&K. Substantiating his arguments with various data points, he was of the view that agriculture, tourism, power, IT and logistics sector should be exploited by encouraging the youth to create start-ups. He also said that Lithium "White Gold" Reserve in J&K will be a game changer and bring in new opportunities.

Sh. B R Sharma in his presidential remarks while paying homage to Sh. Ram Sahai said that he was a visionary and a passionate entrepreneur who had the ability to network and negotiate for a larger common good for J&K. While speaking on the theme, he said that the environment in J&K is conducive for entrepreneurs and it is only through the joint effort of government and other stakeholders that the opportunity can be fully leveraged. He suggested that regular stake-



holder consultation workshops should be organized to fine tune the policy.

K B Jandial, IAS (Retd.), Director (Seminars), IIPA JKRB paid glowing tributes to Late Sh. Ram Sahai. He said that as a founding member of the branch, Sh. Sahai has made immense contributions towards bringing the issues of trade and commerce to the forefront and this memorial lecture is organized every year to carry forward his legacy by deliberating on issues of relevance to the industry.

Rahul Sahai in his concluding remarks said that J&K has immense potential for socio economic development through entrepreneurship. He laid emphasis on entrepreneurial education and skill development. He further said access to capital, supporting infrastructure, networking opportunity and create conducive environment can surely make J&K an attractive hub of entrepreneurship. He acknowledged IIPA for organizing this memorial lecture in memory of his

father every year.

Earlier Prof. Alka Sharma, Secretary, IIPA JKRB delivered the formal welcome address and the proceedings were conducted by Dr. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary. The programme was attended by over 100 eminent citizens, members of IIPA, family members of Late Sh. Ram Sahai including Shri Khalid Jahangir MD JKPTO, Shri Tejwant Singh Reen, Chairman Federation of Industries, Shri Lalit Mahajan, President BBIA, Shri Neeraj Anand, President CTF, Shri Rakesh Gupta, Ex-President CCI Jammu, Shri Manish Gupta, Secretary General CCI Jammu, Shri Rajesh Jain, Shri Parveen Pargal, President Laghu Udyog, Shri Sanjay Bansal, Chairman Federation of All India Vyapar Mandal, Shri Sandeep Jain, General Secretary Jain Sabha, Shri Samar Dev Charak, Co-Chair PHDCCI Jammu.

Defence Correspondents Course (DCC) - 2023 Arrives in Jammu for Forward Area Tour

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 3

The 2023 edition of Defence Correspondents Course (DCC), a three weeks course conducted by the Ministry of Defence for select journalists from National and Regional media houses, arrived at Jammu on 03 Sep 2023 for their most exciting part, Forward Area Tour. The DCC headed by Col Amitabh Sharma, PRO (Defence) Jaipur and Nodal Officer of the course were received by Tiger Division and PRO Jammu. The aim of DCC tour in Army leg is to build a pool of journalists at all levels who understand the Armed Forces and are cognizant of the domain when reporting on stories related to the Army and CI/CT environment.

During the one week Forward Area attachment, the participants



will be addressed by subject matter experts from the Army. They will acquaint the journalists with various aspects of the Indian Army including Operations, Training, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and the organisational structure of the Army. The participants will also visit Line of Control during their stay.

The course today visited Balidan Samba at Jammu. The visit was conducted under aegis of Tiger Division, wherein they were briefed about its importance. Wreath laying from two candidates of the course was also organised. The primary objective

of the DCC is to foster a stronger connection between the media and the military, equipping journalists with an understanding of the Armed Forces.

This understanding is crucial when reporting on stories related to the defence environment, ensuring accurate and informed coverage. The Defence Correspondents Course plays a role in fostering transparency, cooperation, and mutual understanding between the military and the media, ensuring that accurate and responsible reporting continues to be a hallmark of Defence Journalism in India.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Operation Posts being...

DGP impressed upon the officers to work in synergy for providing a better security environment to the people especially to the people living in difficult terrains of Rajouri and Poonch areas.

He also discussed an incident wherein members of a particular community were targeted and said that such attempts are made by the anti-nation elements to harm the common harmony.

He directed for strict measures to prevent such incidents. The DGP directed for strengthening the anti-terror grid by enhancing the human intelligence network besides the modern technology.

He applauded the role of local police in recent successes in neutralising terrorists and also appreciated the role of civilians particularly the VDG in anti-terror efforts.

The officers from army and police apprised the DGP regarding the present security scenario and the measure in place on the anti-terror front.

CRPF Jawan shoots...

In Gundha Khawas area, a service weapon of a police personnel went off accidentally due to which the person received injury in his foot," a police official said. On hearing the gunshot, some village defence guards fired some aerial rounds, he said, adding the injured jawan has been evacuated to hospital. (Agencies)

Soldier electrocuted...

be taken to his hometown for last rites after completion of legal formalities. (Agencies)

J&K govt. revokes...

told the Supreme Court.

To this end, the Chief Justice-led bench asked the AG to look into the matter and find out the reasons.

"If there is something else (other grounds) it is a separate thing. AG, you please speak to the LG and see what can be done," the CJI Dr Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, had said.

The Solicitor General (SG), Tushar Mehta, on behalf of the AG, interjected and had said there are other reasons as he continues to appear in court in various matters by taking leave from his teaching job.

"We will look into it. There could be other issues than appearing here in this matter," SG Mehta told the Apex Court during the argument.

An anxious and concerned court also said such close succession to his appearing and getting suspended needed to be examined by Bhat, an Indian police teacher in J&K who had appeared before the Supreme Court in the Article 370 batch of pleas hearing as one of the petitioners.

He had also argued in the case against the scrapping of Article 370 before the Apex Court. Surprisingly, he was later suspended from his post.

The five-judge Constitution bench is hearing a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370

and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories.

Chandrayaan spearheads...

India's Space Sector. The last nine years have witnessed a quantum jump in India's space journey making India standing at par with NASA, Roscosmos etc which are now collaborating with ISRO for space expeditions. Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the supremacy which India has evidently demonstrated before the world in terms of its human resource and human calibre through cost effective means despite constrained resources has put India as a frontline nation and a scientific cum economic force to reckon with.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further said, the whole world gives credit for all this to PM Narendra Modi for having taken several progressive policy decisions like bringing all the stakeholders together to put in a joint effort with a collective contribution.

During the event, Dr. Jitendra Singh also urged people to participate in Amrit Kalash Yatras, take the 'Panch Pran' pledge, commit to India's progress and development as to witness India reaching its zenith in 2047.

Besides PRI representatives of the area, the event was addressed by DDC Chairperson, Lal Chand and Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai.

First earth-bound...

a Trans-Lagrangian insertion manoeuvre, marking the beginning of its 110-day trajectory to the destination around the L1 Lagrange point.

Upon arrival at the L1 point, another manoeuvre binds Aditya-L1 to an orbit around L1, a balanced gravitational location between the Earth and the Sun.

The satellite spends its whole mission life orbiting around L1 in an irregularly shaped orbit in a plane roughly perpendicular to the line joining the Earth and the Sun. (Agencies)

Leopard mauls...

along with senior officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department rushed to the spot. Meanwhile, the search is on to capture the leopard, the Range Officer said.

The deceased child has been identified as Tanu, he added. "After getting information about the leopard taking away a small girl, our teams launched a search operation but unfortunately we found her dead," the officer said.

"We launched a massive search operation to catch the wild leopard and soon we will capture it. We have prepared the file of compensation for the victim's family. Proper compensation should be given to them as soon as possible," he said. (Agencies)

Ashok Koul, Kavinder, Jugal unveil statue of late PM A.B Vajpayee at Atal Ji Chowk

Purnima commits to upholding Vajpayee's vision for a stronger & more prosperous India



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: Ashok Koul, the General Secretary (Org) of the BJP, and Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister, jointly unveiled a statue of the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the Rotary located in Atal Ji Chowk, Jammu.

The event was graced by the presence of Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, Purnima Sharma, Corporator of Ward No. 1 and former Deputy Mayor, Parmod Kapahi, District President, Rajeev Charak, Mandal President Parveen Kerni, and Mandal President Raman.

It's noteworthy that the intersection was previously named Atal Chowk by former Deputy Mayor Purnima Sharma.

Additionally, the construction of this rotary was also accomplished through her determined efforts.

During his address, Kavinder Gupta has

installed many statues during his tenure as Mayor, the prominent ones being two statues of Maharaja Hari Singh, Acharya Chanakya and Jai Prakash Narayan besides constructing Balidan Stambh at Ambphalla, Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan Road and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Chowk.

Speaking on the occasion, Purnima Sharma shed light on Atal Behari Vajpayee's remarkable contributions to the nation and described the installation of his statue as a significant tribute to the great leader.

She extended its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined in this momentous occasion to celebrate the launch of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's statue and vowed to continue working tirelessly to realize his vision for a stronger and more prosperous India.

Purnima Sharma also shared information about several major development projects undertaken in the area, including

the construction of parking facilities, temples, and cultural centers. She highlighted that a parking facility was constructed with Rs 24 crore while Rs 17 lakh was allocated for the development of Sardaron Ka Mandir, Rs 25 lakh for Banwari Mandir, Rs 9 lakh for Chander Guffa, and Rs 37 lakh for Yogi Dhyan Sadhna Kendra.

Additionally, she informed that 2 halls, 1 dispensary, and 1 library are currently under construction at Circular Road with an estimated cost of Rs 8 crore for the welfare of people of East constituency.

Purnima Sharma also shed light on the development works initiated by the Late MLA Rajesh Gupta. She mentioned that the projects left unfinished by Rajesh Gupta were successfully completed by her and her team.

The event concluded with Purnima Sharma participating in the 'Meri Mitti Mera Desh' campaign by collecting soil from the residence of Brigadier Rajinder Singh and Atal Ji Chowk in Ward No. 1, ST Morcha District President Atar Hussain, Abul Hussain, Bajjala Mandal Youth Mandal, Tanda, Panjgrain, Jagti Sarpanches, and Panches were also present at the gathering, along with Parmod Kapahi, District President, and Rajiv Charak, a senior BJP leader.

Pre-LS elections, Democracy Process & Statehood unlikely to be restored in J&K: Shiv Sena



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: There seems to be no possibility of holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir before the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, which is mainly due to the diminishing popularity of the BJP leaders in the state. It is certain that the longer the delay in elections, the bigger the defeat will be.

The slogan of 'One Nation, One Election' is also not likely to be effective in Jammu and Kashmir, said Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena J&K unit.

Addressing a press conference held at Party's state central office today, Sahni said that the central government is not providing any positive indications for the restoration of democratic process and

statehood in Jammu and Kashmir, thus indicating that the restoration of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir does not seem feasible in the near future. The main reason for this is the decreasing popularity of the BJP leaders in the state, he added.

Sahni said that the BJP's 'One Nation, One Election' campaign is not working to eliminate the anger of the people towards the state leaders. He mentioned that even the High Court has taken serious note of the delay in the restoration of democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir and had questioned the central government. In response, the Modi government has shifted all responsibility to the Election Commission. While it is no secret who the Election Commission works under, the cen-

tral government has also not provided any specific timeline for the restoration of full statehood.

Sahni stated the ground reality is that the BJP has lost the trust of the people in Jammu and Kashmir. Since the abrogation of Article 370, there has been no significant improvement in the ground situation, and in such a scenario, the BJP wants to keep its narrative on Article 370 strong until the Lok Sabha elections.

Sahni mentioned that even the municipal elections in Jammu and Kashmir can be postponed along with the Assembly elections. There have been serious discrepancies found in the voter lists of ward-level bodies and panchayat elections in the state. The Election Commission has revised the schedule for the publication of the voters' list in Jammu and Kashmir on November 25 as the final date.

Sahni said that the BJP is trying out new strategies to postpone the elections, sensing the anger of the people, and the longer the delay in elections, the bigger the defeat will be.

On this occasion, the President of the Women's Wing, Meenakshi Chhibbar, chairman Rakesh Gupta, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice Presidents, Sanjeev Kohli, Mamta Devi, Prabhari Ashwani Prabhakar, Sanjeev Sharma were present.

15th International Art Exhibition (Online) in Jammu Honors Late Artist Gobind Kour

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: The 15th International Art Exhibition (Online) organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Centre for Creative Arts (JKCCA), Jammu, opened on a celebratory note with the inauguration ceremony graced by Sh. V S Rabi, a distinguished artist and former Vice-President of the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society (AIFACS), New Delhi. This prestigious exhibition was dedicated to the memory of Late (Smt.) Gobind Kour, hailed as the first Contemporary Woman Sculptor of Jammu.

The exhibition showcased an array of captivating artworks contributed by renowned artists from various countries, alongside emerging talents from India. The curation of this impressive display was entrusted to Sh. O P Sharma, an accomplished artist and Director of JKCCA.

In a heartfelt message, Sh. V S Rabi lauded the artistic prowess of Late (Smt.) Gobind Kour, recognizing her mastery across various mediums such as sculpture (portrait, figurative, and abstract), printmaking, and drawing. He noted that she had received numerous prestigious awards from organizations across the country during her illustrious career.

O P Sharma, Director of JKCCA, conveyed that this International Art Exhibition served as a fitting



tribute to the memory of Late (Smt.) Gobind Kour, honoring her remarkable contributions to the field of visual arts. The exhibition featured artworks from seventy-five artists hailing from diverse corners of the globe, offering viewers a glimpse into the unique styles, mediums, and perspectives of artists working worldwide.

JKCCA, in its commitment to the development, promotion, and propagation of art, culture, and literature in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, has tirelessly organized numerous cultural activities at state, national, and international levels.

The list of participating artists was extensive, encompassing renowned names such as V S Rabi

(Delhi), T S Batra (Jammu), Dr. Nathu Lal Verma (Jaipur), Jang S. Verma (Jammu), Ramesh Bhosale (Pune), K S Gill, and Dharminder Sharma (Amritsar), O P Sharma (Jammu), Dr. Mamta Singh (Dehradun), Pratima Singh (Lucknow), Gaytri (Hoshiarpur), and Dr. A K Dixit (Delhi), among many others.

This international platform not only celebrated the rich tapestry of artistry but also embodied the spirit of cultural exchange, fostering a deeper appreciation for diverse artistic expressions worldwide. The event stood as a testament to the enduring power of art to bridge boundaries and unite creative minds from different corners of the globe.

JPBM urges restoration of Statehood, Land, and Job Guarantees for J&K

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: While demanding restoration of statehood with land and job guarantee to the Jammu & Kashmir, the Jammu Province Bachao Manch (JPBM) urged upon the Government of India to combat corruption, price hike, unprecedented tax imposition, drug abuse, crime, unrest among youth, farmers, workmen, professionals and small traders.

JPBM launched awareness campaign on non-Political levels from Vijaypur Chowk today which shall be taken to the gross root level in all the districts and blocks of the region.

While mentioning about the Permanent Residential Certificate, Mr. Ashok Sharma, Chairman of the Manch said that every citizen of J&K was feeling proud to have PRC as it was once



identity and pride of the people and so the government must restore the PRC system to the people of erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Coming heavily on the government for not removing Saree and Ban Toll Plaza and smart meters beside levying the 'Property tax', Advocate Ashok Sharma said that people are already facing the brunt of soaring prices of commodities and at this juncture burdening the poor people is insane step so it should be rolled back immediately.

Referring to the inhabi-

tants of LoC and IB, the JPBM chairman said that government must provide them 5 marlas of residential plots to the safe places so that they may live their lives without fear psychosis. He exhorted that the 'Trade & Commerce' is being high jacked by the outsiders and the same should be retained with the original residents of J&K, ensuring the locals from job opportunities.

Sr. leaders of JPBM Kuldeep Sharma and Satish pooonchi while expressing serious concern over the menace of drug abuse in the

Jammu, said that government must develop a mechanism to make Jammu region a Drug Free Zone. They further asked the government to immediate release the wages of daily wageers of PHE and other departments, besides regularize all those daily wageers who have completed the seven years in services. They exhorted the government to save the culture of Jammu as outsiders are damaging the culture which is matter of concern. The awareness event was organized by Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma and his team.

Motivational talk on joining Indian Armed Forces held



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 03: Indian Army

conducted a lecture at Government Higher Secondary School Taralla in Rajouri District to encourage stu-

dents to join the Indian Armed Forces.

The students were informed in detail about various entries available to males and females to join as Officers and Other Ranks in the three Services.

They were also explained about the academic and physical requirements for appearing in the entrance examinations and recruitment rallies.

Teachers and other members of the society attending the lecture expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for this positive engagement with the young minds and inspiring them to become ideal members of the society.

J I NEWS SERVICE

REASI, SEPT 03: On the auspicious occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami, Sadhvi Radhika Bharti, a devoted disciple of Shri Ashutosh Maharaj ji, presented the divine pastimes of Lord Shri Krishna during the fourth day of the five-day Shri Hari Katha event held at Sanyog Banquet Hall in Reasi Ghar, organized by the Divya Jyoti Jagruti Sansthan.

This celebration holds profound significance, as it is believed that through his playful act of stealing butter during childhood, Lord Krishna conveys a universal mes-

sage - the quest to attain the essence of God. Just as butter represents the essence of milk, God is considered the essence of the entire world.

Various religious scriptures offer inspiration and guidance on the path to realizing God. Lord Shri Krishna's act of breaking the earthen pot and discarding it symbolizes the abandonment of ego.

It illustrates that human ego often acts as a barrier that separates individuals from God. Lord Krishna's actions emphasize that God yearns for sincere devotion and heartfelt emotions. Renowned saint Tulsiidas ji emphasizes the importance of

knowing God first, as true understanding is the foundation of unwavering faith in God. Faith, in turn, serves as the basis for love towards God, as devotion lacks strength without love.

A genuine Satguru plays a pivotal role in guiding devotees to attain God's vision. It is through the grace of a Satguru that individuals can perceive God within themselves, leading to spiritual enlightenment. The love for God serves as the cornerstone of patriotism. True devotees of God earnestly pray and work for the well-being of their motherland and the entire world.

The event featured beautiful bhajans performed by other Sadhvi sisters participating in the Katha.

The program concluded with a sacred Sri Aarti, attended by esteemed guests including Swami Suchetanand, Swami Haridasanand, Sanatan Dharma Sabha President Nandkishore Sharma, Municipal Committee President Sudeesh Puri, and Dr. Dev Sharma, among others.

“THOUGHT OF THE DAY”
 “An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind.” - Mahatma Gandhi

JINDRAH IMAGES

Much-needed succour

The Union Government has provided the much needed succour to common masses after it slashed the prices of domestic gas cylinder by Rs 200 though the decision has triggered a major debate at national level with opposition parties saying the move is aimed at taking political benefit because of upcoming assembly elections in five states and Lok Sabha elections scheduled to be held early next year. The people are quite happy and expect that the government may announce more measures to take them out of economic morasse. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described the decision as ‘a gift to crores of my sisters of the country on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan’, adding that the government will always do everything possible to improve the people’s quality of life and benefit the poor and the middle class. There is no denial in fact that the populist decision is expected to bring respite to crores of households whose budgets have been under strain in recent years due to the ever-rising LPG prices. The cost of a cooking gas cylinder had crossed the Rs 1,150 mark in March this year. The rates had been upwardly revised almost on a monthly basis during 2021, with February that year witnessing three hikes. With the Congress promising cheaper LPG in poll-bound states, it was expected that the BJP-led NDA would definitely do something to make further connect with the masses as it desperately tried to show that it is not indifferent to the problems being faced by domestic consumers, particularly women. The government, however, has taken too long to rein in LPG prices. Allowing things to drift undermined the success of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, which has played a key role in more than doubling the number of LPG connections in the country in the past nine years — from 14.5 crore in April 2014 to around 33 crore now. If one looks at the financial implications of this populist decision, it will cost the exchequer about Rs 7,680 crore in the current financial year and will help a bit in assuaging public anger over the rising prices of essential commodities. It would be interesting to see whether it would benefit the BJP in this year’s Assembly polls and next year’s General Election next year. In any case, easing the financial burden on citizens should not be a seasonal affair with an eye on their votes. Public welfare should always be a top priority, uninfluenced by political and electoral considerations. Secondly, the opposition parties should not refrain from doubting each and every decision of the government which has a direct impact on the day-to-day affairs of the people. The decision should have been welcomed by one and all for the larger public interest but it again sadly turns into a political debate. The government should take further decisions to ease the financial burden of the common masses to ensure that they are able to live a normal life and sustain their livelihood.

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Bidding goodbye to antiquated legalese

BY ANWESHA SANTRA

It’s time to bid adieu to the antiquated archaisms that have long been entrenched in the corridors of justice. In a landmark move towards fostering gender equality and dismantling deep-seated stereotypes, the Supreme Court of India has taken a decisive step by taking a linguistic leap forward and releasing a handbook that aims to eliminate archaic and discriminatory language from its proceedings. Gone are the days when a ‘career woman’ or a ‘fallen woman’ conjured visions of melodramatic narratives, and a ‘faithful, dutiful or obedient wife’ sounded like an instruction manual for marital conformity. The handbook suggests to simply use the term ‘woman’ in place of the above-mentioned archaic and unjust terms. The legal fraternity must acknowledge that language has power, and the lexicon of law should be a reflection of societal progress rather than a stagnant pool of stereotypes. The Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes is hence a timely intervention, effectively brushing a linguistic mop on terms that have no place in today’s world. While some might argue that these terms are mere semantics, it’s essential to recognise that language shapes perceptions, beliefs and attitudes. Shakespearean English might charm literary enthusiasts, but it is not how we communicate today. Similarly, these gender-just terms belong to a bygone era of thinking. By shedding light on words that perpetuate gender inequality, the apex court has set a precedent for a language evolution that mirrors the broader evolution of social norms.

One of the most significant transformations lies in the replacement of the term ‘eve-teasing’ with ‘street sexual harassment’. By using more accurate and comprehensive language, the court acknowledges the severity of such actions and sets a tone for a society where victims are heard, understood and given justice. This shift also sends a powerful message that trivialising and normalising such behaviour will not be tolerated. The handbook also recommends referring to what is commonly termed as ‘forcible rape’ simply as ‘rape’. The term ‘forcible rape’ is undoubtedly redundant because rape, by its very nature, involves non-consensual sexual intercourse achieved through force, coercion or lack of consent. In most jurisdictions, the absence of consent is a crucial element in defining the crime of rape. Therefore, any sexual act that is non-consensual, regardless of the specific level of force involved, would fall under the category of rape. The handbook also suggests using the terms ‘menstrual products’ instead of ‘female hygiene products’. This change reflects the growing need to normalise menstruation as a natural and regular bodily function in biologically female individuals. It aims to foster an environment where discussions surrounding menstruation are free from stigma and treated with the same respect and consideration as other aspects of human biology. The handbook also proposes to refer to an ‘unwed mother’ simply as ‘mother’. This approach seeks to eliminate the social stigma associated with single motherhood and recognise the fundamental role of parenting regardless of

marital status. By using the term ‘mother’ without the unnecessary qualifier, the handbook promotes a more inclusive and non-judgmental approach, emphasising the importance of supporting all mothers and their children irrespective of their marital circumstances. The inclusion of terms like ‘intersex’ instead of ‘hermaphrodite’ in the handbook demonstrates the court’s commitment to understanding and acknowledging diverse gender identities. In a country as culturally rich and diverse as India, recognising the existence and rights of intersex individuals is a critical step towards inclusivity. The handbook further recommends using the term ‘transgender’ in place of ‘transsexual’, and ‘crossdresser’ instead of ‘transvestite’. This adjustment is aligned with the evolving understanding of gender diversity and inclusivity. ‘Transgender’ is a more accurate and respectful term that acknowledges an individual’s gender identity beyond their biological sex, while ‘crossdresser’ is a term that reflects a personal choice in clothing and presentation without implying any specific gender identity. These changes aim to create a language framework that respects and affirms the identities of individuals while promoting a more informed and compassionate dialogue around gender-related matters. By using appropriate language, the court is signalling a departure from harmful practices of mislabelling and ostracising marginalised communities. Initially, the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 made mention of individuals lacking financial means as ‘paupers’. Acknowledging that language carries

specific connotations about its subject and can either uphold or undermine the respect of such individuals, the law was modified. The term ‘pauper’ was substituted with the term ‘indigent’. This alteration to the law wasn’t solely driven by legal technicalities but was intended to acknowledge the inherent worth of the people it pertained to. Similarly, numerous words and phrases employed in legal discussions (both by legal practitioners and by judges) echo outdated notions intertwined with patriarchal nuances. Even when the use of stereotypes does not alter the outcome of a case, stereotypical language may reinforce ideas contrary to our constitutional ethos. Language is critical to the life of the law. Words are the vehicle through which the values of the law are communicated. Words transmit the ultimate intention of the lawmaker or the judge to the nation. However, the language a judge uses reflects not only their interpretation of the law, but their perception of society as well. Where the language of judicial discourse reflects antiquated or incorrect ideas about women, it inhibits the transformative project of the law and the Constitution of India, which seek to secure equal rights to all persons, irrespective of gender.” Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has written in the foreword of the handbook. The Court, hence, is acting as the ultimate ‘word police’, ridding its judgments and orders of gender-biased terms as if they were miscreants in the linguistic underworld. Additionally, the handbook includes tables that debunk various stereotypes and present the actual realities in those scenarios.

Reflections on an ideal trainer

BY SANKAR SEN

A police job is exacting and strenuous and so the object of training of IPS officers, leaders of the police force of tomorrow, is to make them tough and strong. They have to protect society from crime and criminals. Like Spartan generals they have to be brave and no-nonsense leaders. The Central Police Training College (CPTC) at Mount Abu was the post induction training institution of IPS officers. It was a makeshift institution hurriedly set up after independence. Training facilities were inadequate and in the curriculum there was an overemphasis on drill, parade, horse riding and physical exercises. To many young IPS probationers CPTC was an acronym for constant physical torture college. When we entered the portals of the CPTC, the commandant was a celebrated and colourful police officer of the UP cadre, G K Handoo. Tall, handsome and with silvery mane, he was a commanding and captivating personality. We used to experience a sense of awe and trepidation in his presence. He made clear to us in no uncertain terms that the police service is for the brave and lion-hearted and not for weaklings. He left on deputation to the

government of India after two months and the Deputy commandant, E L Stracey became Commandant-in-charge. Stracey was an IP officer of the Madras cadre. Smart, handsome and ramrod straight, he was an inspiring model, and an ideal trainer who took great interest in imparting training to budding leaders of the Indian police service. Stracey was a stickler for correct etiquette and manners and took great interest in teaching raw probationers how to hold forks and knives correctly at the dinner table, how to greet a lady and how to salute correctly in uniform. We used to call him Etiquette Loving Stracey. He could be blunt and stiff at times but always sought to inculcate in the probationers officer the same qualities. Colour of the socks not matching the shoes, hastily shaven cheeks and loose tie knots would not escape his eagle eyes. Once while noticing a young probationer lowering his head too much while salping, he advised him not to do so and devastatingly added horses do like that”. Though punctitious, he was never a heartless martinet. Behind a tough exterior there was warmth and concern for the welfare of the trainees. He would tick off not only the probationers but also the instructional staff and the senior officers

coming for the advanced courses. He used to chastise outdoor instructors for using swear words on the parade ground. He pulled up a senior officer (who later became a Member of Parliament) for coming late as a player in a cricket match and setting a bad example to probationers. Once while admonishing an errant probationer he said that one has to be at times cruel in order to be kind. Firmness and fairness must go hand in hand. Stracey used to take classes on police procedures. He was not very knowledgeable on police regulations and administration but always emphasised that in police investigation third degree methods are counter-productive and morally unacceptable. He used to emphasise that only when the senior officers stand rocklike and insist on policing according to due process would Indian police be able to get out of the miasma of distrust that now envelops it. Twenty years later when I was serving as DIG in Rourkela in Orissa, I received a letter from MIS Iyer, the then Deputy Director Training, National Police Academy, that Stracey’s sword was to be kept in the Central IPS mess at the NPA and wanted me to suggest some appropriate lines to be inscribed on the brass below the sword. I wrote back to Mr.

Iyer that Stracey had become a living legend and would occupy a distinguished place in the annals of the Indian Police Service. I suggested the following lines to be inscribed below the sword: Be Just and fear not. Let all the ends thou aimst at Be thy country’s, thy God’s and thy neighbour’s. I sent a copy of my letter to Iyer to Stracey, who was then Director-General of police, Tamil Nadu. Stracey wrote back that the “compliments you have paid are touching, all the more because they are sincere. I only hope I deserve them.” Today, many of the police training institutions of the country are in a bad shape and have become dumping grounds for inefficient and demotivated officers and men. We need outstanding and committed officers like Stracey at training colleges and institutions to galvanise them. His dignified bearing, graceful manners, eye for detail and constant and unremitting endeavour to improve an institution mark him out as an ideal trainer. (The writer is Senior Fellow Institute of Social Sciences, a former Director General of the National Human Rights Commission and former Director, National Police Academy.)

The shrinking space for books within our homes

BY BINDU MENON

More than a year ago, at the apartment complex where I stay, someone suggested setting up a space for a library within the premises. It evoked nodding approvals, enthusiastic responses, pledges of book donations and so on. At the same time came another suggestion for a sports area for children, which the building was sorely lacking. Soon enough, work began on an indoor sports court. But the library was, well, forgotten. It’s not that nobody wanted a library. It’s just that nobody wanted one so badly. And there was nothing surprising about it. Pre-Covid, there used to be a couple of lending libraries in my neighbourhood. Today, there are none. Which brings to mind what writer Neil Gaiman said at a lecture some years ago: “The simplest way to make sure that we raise literate children is to teach them to read, and to show them that reading is a pleasurable activity. And that means, at its simplest, finding books that they enjoy, giving them access to those books, and letting them read them.” Gaiman was building a case for public libraries. He added, “Prose fiction is something you build

up from 26 letters and a handful of punctuation marks, and you, and you alone, using your imagination, create a world and people it and look out through other eyes. You get to feel things, visit places and worlds you would otherwise know. You learn that everyone else out there is a me, as well. You’re being someone else, and you return to your own world, you’re going to be slightly changed.” Gaiman couldn’t be more right. Everyone worries about the receding role and shrinking space of public and private libraries, which is truly worthy of some serious discourse. But there is another equally grim reality that may not have the statistics to back it up: the shrinking space for books within our homes. Ever so often, there are requests from people wanting to give away books, especially when shifting houses. But there aren’t always takers for them. Both the generous givers and reluctant takers know this too well: that books take up space, accumulate dust and may never even be read. There’s an anecdote about Jacques Derrida, philosopher, father of deconstruction and a notoriously abstruse writer. When asked if he had read all the books in his vast library. Derrida

replied, “Only four of them. But I read those very, very carefully.” It’s true that books were the Google for an earlier age. Today, they jostle for space with gadgets, crockery, toys, knick-knacks and all the clutter that so defines modern-day living in cubby-hole apartments. So, are we witnessing the slow death of home libraries? It may be too premature to posit that. But we may be headed there. It is not that people don’t enjoy reading. Evidently, there are people writing books and there are people buying them. There are socially active online book clubs with a wide network. We have audiobooks and e-books that sustain reading and make reading sustainable too. But should these digital disruptors make the home library concept dispensable? That’s where the problem lies. Writer Douglas Adams was being witty but spot-on when he said, “We notice things that don’t work. We don’t notice things that do. We notice computers, we don’t notice pennies. We notice e-book readers, we don’t notice books.” Technology has indeed made books more accessible today. But it may also have invisibilised them in the home space. The visibility and accessi-

bility of physical books create an informal and enriching environment of reading at home. They foster conversations around books, broaden the mind-space and make us more discerning readers. That in itself is a big deal. But that’s possible only when someone spies a book on a shelf. Which makes the whole idea of printed, physical books in a home a shared experience. Writer Margaret Atwood, while advocating reading and writing at a young age, cautioned that “if there are no young readers and writers, there will shortly be no older ones. Literacy will be dead, and democracy — which many believe goes hand in hand with it — will be dead as well”. A few years ago, a global research led by sociologist Joanna Sikora of the Australian National University found that home libraries equipped children with life skills, enhancing literacy, numeracy and technology aptitude in adulthood. “Growing up with home libraries boosts adult skills in these areas beyond the benefits accrued from parental education or own educational and occupational attainment,” the study said. So, why not make room for books, whether one reads them or not.



'JAWAN' REFLECTS UPON HOW WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE THAT WE WANT AROUND US: SHAH RUKH KHAN

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan on Sunday said his much-anticipated film "Jawan" is about empowering women and fighting for the right.

Directed by Tamil filmmaker Atlee, "Jawan" outlines the emotional journey of a man who is set to rectify the wrongs in the society. The high-octane action thriller is set to arrive in theatres on September 7.

During an #AskSRK session with his fans on X, formerly known as Twitter, Shah Rukh was asked about the message he is trying to convey through "Jawan".

"The movie reflects upon how we as people can make a change that we want around us. Empower women and fight for the right," he wrote.

A Red Chillies Entertainment presentation, "Jawan" is produced by Gauri Khan and co-produced by Gaurav Verma. It also features Vijay Sethupathi and Nayanthara in pivotal roles as well as Deepika Padukone in

a special appearance.

Actors Sanya Malhotra, Priyamani, Girija Oak, Sanjeeta Bhattacharya, Lehar Khan, Aaliyah Qureshi, Ridhi Dogra, Sunil Grover and Mukesh Chhabra round out the cast.

Asked how he would define his character in the film, Shah Rukh said: "Upright, honest and patriotic."

The 58-year-old superstar described the film as a "mix of mass and international class in terms of action. With some really cool background music!" Popular music composer Anirudh Ravichander has created the soundtrack for the film.

Shah Rukh said the film is a product of three years of immense hard work and now he is "excited that #Jawan will entertain as many as possible in the theatres!"

Advance booking for "Jawan" opened on Friday.

Talking about his biggest learning in life, the superstar said one can achieve anything they believe in with



hard work and prayers.

"I have learnt this in my life... if the mind can conceive it, the heart can believe it... then you can achieve it. Work always like that and don't forget to pray!" he wrote.

Shah Rukh said he is happy that audiences are returning to the theatres for the community watching experience.

"I feel blessed by the love of so many people! My family and I are eternally

grateful to all for this immense love," he said.

When one of the fans asked him about his childhood memories of visiting his grandparents in Hyderabad, the superstar recalled going to Charminar and eating delicious food at home.

He also shared that Rajkumar Hirani, the director of his next film "Dunki", loved the trailer of "Jawan" and has been supportive.

Hrithik Roshan goes shirtless and flaunts his washboard abs, Saba Azad reacts



Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan treated his fans and followers with a jaw-dropping picture of him flaunting his perfect six-pack abs.

Hrithik, on Saturday, took to Instagram as he dropped a new shirtless monochrome picture. "Can't see the finish line," he captioned the image.

Soon after he dropped the post, his friends and fans could not stop gushing about the thirst trap picture.

Hrithik's girlfriend Saba Azad dropped a muscle fire and a heart emotion. The director of his upcoming film Siddharth Anand wrote: "It's on Fighter set. When you come tomorrow I'll show it to you."

Hrithik's co-star Anil Kapoor dropped fire and clapped emojis.

Hrithik recently unveiled a motion poster of his upcoming film "Fighter" starring Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor's first look as Indian Air Force pilots.

He captioned it: "#SpiritOfFighter | Vande Mataram! See you in the theatres on the eve of India's 75th Republic Day. Fighter releases worldwide on 25th January 2024." Directed by Siddharth Anand, "Fighter" also stars Karan Singh Grover and Akshay Oberoi. The aerial action film is set to release in theatres on January 25, 2024.

Shraddha drops adorable bday wish for her 'rockstar baapu'

Actress Shraddha Kapoor shared the most adorable birthday wish for her father Shakti Kapoor and gave it a spin of the actor's iconic style. Shraddha took to Instagram, where she posted a video to wish Shakti.

In the fun video, the father-daughter duo can be seen sharing a fun banter while the smiles and laughter follow.

She further jotted down the caption while wishing her 'rockstar baapu'.

"Happy Birthday to my one and only, my ultimate rockstar, my Baapu



@shaktikapoor

Shakti is mostly known for playing villainous and comical characters. In a career spanning over three decades, Kapoor has appeared in more than 700 films.

Shraddha began her acting career with a brief role in the 2010 heist film "Teen Patti", and followed it with her first leading role in the teen drama "Luv Ka The End".

The actress then starred in "Aashiqui 2", "Haider", "Ek Villain", "ABCD 2" and

"Baaghi". Following a series of poorly-received films, her highest-grossing releases came with the comedy horror "Stree" (2018), the action thriller "Saaho" (2019), the comedy drama "Chhichhore" (2019), and the romantic comedy "Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar" (2023).

On the work front, Shraddha will be next seen in "Stree 2", wherein she will be reprising her much-loved character from Stree.

Amitabh Bachchan fulfils his Sunday ritual with Junior B



Superstar Amitabh Bachchan never misses an opportunity to meet and greet his fans on Sundays, when people gather outside his house, Jalsa, to catch sight of the actor. This Sunday was no exception, Big B waved to the awaiting fans at the gate of his residence but this time his son and actor Abhishek Bachchan was also seen with him.

Big B can be seen dressed in a white kurta that he paired with a matching shawl. Amitabh can be also seen joining hands towards the crowd in the image.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Big B was last seen in the family entertainer film "Unchai" along with Anupam Kher, Parineeti Chopra and Boman Irani. Helmed by Sooraj Barjatya, the film got positive responses from the audience.

He will next be seen in "Project K" alongside Deepika Padukone and Prabhas. He will also be seen in Ribhu Dasgupta's next courtroom drama film "Section 84".

Abhishek, on the other hand, was last seen in "Ghoomeo", which is a cricket and disability-themed film by director R Balki. The movie has Abhishek essaying a cricket mentor who trains a young cricketer, played by Saiyami Kher, who loses her right arm. Shabana Azmi and Angad Bedi are also a part of the movie. Earlier, Big B also shared that he has watched "Ghoomeo" twice and really loved it.

Abhishek also serves as a producer on "Ghoomeo". The film recently received a standing ovation at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2023.

Britney flaunts new tattoo



Amid her separation from husband Sam Asghari, singer Britney Spears got a new tattoo on her back. On Friday, Britney took to Instagram to show off her new ink, which featured the reptile design sitting right above her fairy tattoo on the lower spine. "My new snake tattoo, guys. I'm so excited," she said in the clip. "It doesn't hurt that bad, actually," Britney added. The Toxic hitmaker simply captioned the video with a snake emoji.

This video comes amid her shocking split from Sam, after he filed for divorce from the singer last month. A few days ago, Britney penned a lengthy note on Instagram, speaking for the first time publicly about the end of her marriage to the 29-year-old model.

Prince Narula-Gautam Gulati nearly end up in physical fight on 'MTV Roadies'

Gang Leaders don't always remain united, because sometimes friendly rivalries take the form of violent encounters. Such is the case between Prince Narula and Gautam Gulati, who so far have been rivaling one another in the game.

However, the two nearly end up having a physical fight while Sonu Sood was announcing the vote-outs.

This time though, Prince ends up chiding Gautam for his comments about his earlier condescending comments, about him not being his competition. While Prince had viewed Gautam as his competition, Gautam had been less sporting and told his team members in private, that he does not consider Prince a competitor.

For telling his members this in private instead of having a face to face conversation with him, Prince ends up calling Gautam a coward, while Gautam gives a smug reply by telling Prince that he does not want to talk to him at all.

While Sonu Sood tries to calm their fight by telling Prince to



apologise for his comments, this only adds to the fire as Prince then further insults Gautam with the latter also getting up and retorting.

What initially started as an angry, but nonetheless civil argument heats up and turns into something much worse as both the Gang Leaders get personal and start swearing at each other before preparing to fight one another in great anger.

At this point, the two nearly end up hitting one another as contestants and Sonu Sood pull them back, trying to diffuse the situation, with less than any kind of good luck.

However, another thing that is

really going to be affected by this development are the vote-outs, because Sonu Sood had announced that some people will have to pack their bags, but this entire thing was interrupted.

As the vote-out needs the Gang Leaders to participate and have their unanimous agreement, alongside the contestants' poll, the two fighting each other is likely to delay or even alter the results of the pending vote-outs.

To watch what happens next, and how these Gang Leaders end up diffusing their tensions, viewers can watch this special on "MTV Roadies: Karm Ya Kaand" on MTV and JioCinema on the Sunday special.

'I try to be in the moment,' says actor Pankaj Tripathi

Gifted actor Pankaj Tripathi has every reason to be on cloud nine. He has just won yet another National Award (for 'Mimic'). His 'Oh My God 2', which withstood the tsunami of 'Gadar 2', may not have set the box office on fire but has crossed the elusive Rs 100-crore mark, besides winning over critics. His portrayal of central character Kanti Sharan Mudgal, combining a dramatic flourish with measured acting, has garnered much appreciation.

An 'A' certificate for 'OMG 2' was certainly self-defeating. The fact that the very section (teenagers) whose problem is being addressed in the film

can't watch it is indeed counterproductive. But Tripathi is still not flying high. Equanimity is one of his many qualities. As he puts it, "I am not affected easily; neither by success nor failure. 'Na zyada khushi mein khush, na zyada dukh mein dukhi.' Just like the philosophy of the Bhagavadgita." Like his character of a Shiv bhakt in 'OMG 2', he is a believer, only he follows the Advait school of Hinduism. He feels that giving an 'A' certificate to 'OMG 2', which dared to broach the taboo subject of sex education, was certainly self-defeating. "The fact that the very section (teenagers), whose problem is

being addressed, can't watch the film is indeed counterproductive." Refusing to be drawn into the game of numbers and the speculative drill that 'OMG 2' would have fared better had it been a solo release, he says, "I am not a man of trade. I am an actor. I do my work earnestly and go home."

All praise for director-writer Amit Rai, he shares how Rai had written the script some eight years back. When Tripathi was first offered the film, he had said no. The reason for his reluctance was his packed schedule. But once he heard the script, he knew he had to juggle his dates.

With innumerable projects in

hand, he would certainly like to slow down. Do actors too face burnout? "More than anyone else, since we invest physically, mentally and emotionally. We have to laugh and cry on the spur of the moment, at others' predicament, and that makes acting a gruelling process."

By next year, he hopes to do only four projects a year. So, no more cameos. He says, "I don't see any point in doing what I have already done. Besides, it is unfair to those who offer me meatier roles."

Among the plum roles on his plate is the titular role in 'Main Atal Hoon', wherein he steps into the shoes of former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

He has also been part of biopics like 'Harjeeta' and 'Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl'. On being asked if biopics tend to idolise unnecessarily, he says, "What's wrong with hero worshipping? If the person is awe-inspiring, he/she deserves to be looked at with respect." Having made his point, however, he also adds, "The Vajpayee film, directed by National Award-winning director Ravi Jadhav, will be balanced and has been well researched." Tripathi himself has delved deep into both Vajpayee's persona and, of course, his poetry.



For the Love of Salads: How to Make Your Salads Healthy (And Tasty)



Salads have got a bad rep for being boring, bland and unpalatable. But hear me out - when done right the humble salad can not only be wholesome and healthy, but also super fulfilling.

Here's are some ways you can spruce up your salads with some creativity to get the most out of them.

The Journey of a Salads

First, a quick history lesson on how salads came to be.

It's quite intriguing that the food history of western cuisine originates out of Rome and Greece.

It could have been the presence of royalty, the feasts and indulgences that ensued

which set the precedent for what went on to become staples in these countries' cuisines.

Salad as a component of a meal had its roots firmly set in European food where one of the courses were greens and raw vegetables mixed with a dressing to elevate flavor and make the vegetables more palatable.

Basic salads were categorised into bound, tossed, composed, vegetable and fruit, and a category that could be a combination of all these.

It is presumed that America introduced mayonnaise into salads, an emulsified sauce with origins in France but a lot of food historians have traced

it to Spain, yet the instance of which was easily marketable and very popular as a culture, salads went on to show up in menus across the world.

After the initial high of mayonnaise-based salads like Russian Salad, Potato Salad and even Caesar Salad in some cases, every salad counter and menu boasted about these supposed classics.

Classics that were far removed from their original character as leafy greens, moistened with dressing, a break between courses and a means to consume vegetables

to balance large cuts of meat. Salads were now heavy, creamy, loaded and still just a course of a larger menu.

Making Salads Palatable

A dressing that would complement these ingredients and bring the whole dish together. If you add pita chips, like there is in a Mediterranean

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SPRUCE UP YOUR BORING OL' SALADS TO MAKE THEM MORE INDULGENT, WHILE ALSO KEEPING IT HEALTHY.

and Healthy

With the advent of conscious eating and sustainable food, more and more questions started arising about the efficacy of salad as a healthy means of nutrition.

But is it too much to expect that salads could also be indulgent and tasty along with being healthy?

The easiest switch to make from emulsified dressings was to choose a quality oil that could be eaten raw.

The choices started from extra virgin olive oil to walnut, avocado and toasted sesame oil which was used extensively in Asian dishes.

As a chef, I would expect a perfect salad to have the following components:

- Seasonal leafy greens
- A seasonal vegetable
- A seasonal fruit
- A type of cheese that pairs with the other elements selected
- Nuts and seeds

Fattoush salad, you get carbohydrates as well, alternatively, to maintain the healthy stance of the salad, use whole-grain pita chips that are double baked for crispiness.

Dressing that is neutral can be multi-purpose as well, like a basic vinaigrette, it can be made fresh, bottled in a clean, dry, glass jar, refrigerated and used over a week.

Add lean meats like leftover grilled chicken or fish, poached prawns or fresh cottage cheese for lean protein and enjoy a salad as often as you like.

Fresh herbs add an excellent flavor profile and are a treasure trove of vitamins and minerals as well.

So, whether you make your own salads or are flummoxed by what to order when you eat out, ask for an oil based dressing, preferably one that doesn't use a seed oil and definitely not refined oil and you're in for a healthy, wholesome treat.

Celery seeds: Nutritional Value, health benefits, uses and more



In the world of spices and seasonings, celery seeds often remain an underappreciated gem. These tiny seeds pack a big punch, not only enhancing the flavors of dishes but also offering numerous health benefits. In this article, we will explore what celery seeds are, their nutritional value, health benefits, culinary uses, types, how to buy and store them, as well as precautions and potential side effects.

What Are Celery Seeds?

Celery seeds, scientifically known as Apium graveolens, are the small, brown seeds extracted from the wild celery plant. While they may resemble the familiar celery stalks, celery seeds possess a much more concentrated flavor, often described as earthy, slightly bitter, and reminiscent of celery, albeit intensified.

Nutritional Value: Though tiny, celery seeds are nutrient-rich. In a one-teaspoon (2 grams) serving, you'll find:

Calories: 5, Carbohydrates: 1 gram, Fiber: 1 gram, Protein: 0 grams, Fat: 0 grams, Calcium: 15 mg, Iron: 0.2 mg, Health Benefits

Anti-inflammatory Properties: Celery seeds contain compounds that may help reduce inflammation in the body.

Blood Pressure Regulation: Some studies suggest that celery seed extract may have a mild diuretic effect, potentially aiding in blood pressure control.

Antioxidant Effects: The seeds are rich in antioxidants, which combat oxidative stress and promote overall health.

Digestive Health: Celery seeds have been traditionally used to alleviate digestive discomfort, such as bloating and gas.

Arthritis Relief: Some people use celery seed supplements to manage the symptoms of arthritis and gout.

UV protection to anti-ageing, here are skincare benefits of Licorice or Mulethi

Want radiant, rejuvenated skin? Try licorice/mulethi that stands as an indispensable ingredient for skincare enthusiasts seeking natural solutions within beauty. Licorice root extract or the Indian ingredient mulethi is a powerful skin-brightening agent as it is known to inhibit the production of a melanin-producing enzyme. If you want a radiant and rejuvenated skin, harness the potential of licorice in its skincare formulations offering as licorice gains prominence and stands as an indispensable ingredient for skincare enthusiasts seeking natural solutions within the Indian beauty industry landscape.

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In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Rachna Rastogi, Head R&D at Skincare 82°E,

shared, "It is also an effective antioxidant and helps calm skin that is affected by environmental stressors and damage from UV rays. Licorice is rich in antioxidants, such as flavonoids and various polyphenols. These antioxidants can help protect the skin from free radical damage caused by environmental stressors like UV radiation and pollution, which contributes to premature ageing and skin damage. The antioxi-

dant properties of licorice can help combat signs of ageing, such as fine lines and wrinkles. Additionally, licorice's ability

to reduce inflammation can contribute to a more youthful and radiant complexion."

According to Dr Taruna Yadav, Senior Ayurveda Doctor at Forest Essentials, licorice, known as Mulethi, is revolutionising skincare with its remarkable benefits.

She revealed, "Rooted in Ayurvedic medicine, licorice is a natural powerhouse for various skin concerns. It contains glabridin, an antioxidant

compound that shields against free radicals, environmental toxins, and UV damage, preventing premature ageing. Licorice's ability to inhibit melanin production makes it an effective solution for dark spots and hyperpigmentation, promoting a balanced complexion. With anti-inflammatory properties, it soothes sensitive and acne-prone skin, reducing redness and inflammation. Licorice also helps maintain the skin's moisture balance, providing hydration and enhancing elasticity for a supple appearance."



Are you tapping into the power of peptides? This is what you need to know

Peptides are to skincare what the Z-punch move is to fitness and what clean eating is to nutrition: convoluted and almost impossible to distill into a one-line explanation. For starters, there are hundreds of them, all working in different ways.

And while they've been around for some time, they've historically played a supporting role, never quite achieving the star status of anti-ageing heroes such as vitamin C, glycolic acid or retinol. Until now.

Thanks to advances in skincare science, peptides are now being harnessed in a whole new way. Brands from Lancôme to No7 are giving peptides a starring role in their formulations, with promises of delivering even better results for your skin. Never one to miss a beauty beat, TikTok is on board; peptides are currently the second biggest search term for beauty on the platform and Google search traffic for peptides has increased by 50% since 2022. But are the new wave of peptides really as promising as they sound?

FACE FACTS

Like flat-pack furniture instructions and cryptic crosswords, peptides require your undivided attention to understand. 'Peptides are the building blocks of proteins, which are made up of chains of amino acids strung together by peptide bonds,' says Anjali Mahto, consultant dermatologist and founder of the clinic Self London.

National Nutrition Week 2023: Understanding the importance of micronutrients in your diet

Although micronutrients have a micro (meaning little or small) in their name and are needed by the body in very small amounts, don't let that fool you. According to Ruchi Rai, Dietitian, SRV Hospitals - Goregaon, their impact on a body's health is critical, and deficiency in any of them can cause severe and even life-threatening conditions.

For the unversed, micronutrients are basically the vitamins and minerals our bodies need to sustain, and they are required in established dosages (RDA-Recommended Dietary Allowances).

Vedika Premnani, Clinical Dietician, Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital, Mumbai, explained that these micronutrients play a vital role in our system, such as enabling the body to produce enzymes, hormones and other substances needed for normal growth and development. They are also essential for energy produc-



tion, immune function, blood clotting, bone health, fluid balance and several other processes.

"The micronutrient content of each food is different, so it is best to eat a variety of foods to ensure we are consuming adequate amounts of each," she added.

Let us understand which micronutrients are the most important to us, how to add them to our diets and if we don't, what the repercussions can be.

Which micronutrients are the most important?

Iodine helps regulate hormone levels, especially thyroid hormones. This helps balance our body's metabolism.

"Although iodine is present in various nutritious foods, including several salt brands, it is noteworthy that the typical adult diet often lacks an adequate amount of this essential nutrient," said Rai.

Vitamin A

The childhood tale linking carrots to improved eyesight holds a surprising degree of accuracy. Carrots serve as exceptional sources of vitamin A, a nutrient genuinely associated with enhanced vision. Furthermore, vitamin A plays a crucial role in supporting a robust immune system.

Vitamin D

Vitamin D plays a crucial role in promoting robust bone development and lowering the risk of bone diseases.

This essential nutrient is often referred to as the "sunshine vitamin" for a valid reason—our body produces it naturally when our skin is exposed to sunlight.

The proper amount of Vitamin D in our bodies can increase calcium absorption as well. Nutrients such as calcium play a crucial role in building and maintaining healthy bones, regulating heart rhythm,

metabolism, and cognition, Premnani explained. "It is required for every muscle contraction in the body, including heartbeat."

Zinc

Zinc provides our immune system with a much-needed boost to help fight off diseases. Since our body doesn't produce zinc on its own, dietary choices and supplements are our only sources of this nutrient. "Zinc plays a role in immune function, protein synthesis and wound healing," said Premnani.

Iron

Iron not only plays a vital part in maintaining a healthy bloodstream but also supports the mental and physical development of young children and promotes healthy pregnancies for expectant mothers.

"It is involved in oxygen transportation in the body. This is extremely important during exercise and recovery," Premnani noted.

What are some deficiencies caused by lack of micronutrients? Individuals lacking an adequate supply of these vital nutrients may experience the adverse effects of micronutrient malnutrition, which can have profound consequences.

Anaemia

Iron and vitamin B12 deficiency can lead to anaemia, even though iron deficiency is the most common type. Particularly in pregnancy, it can lead to inadequate fetal growth, premature birth, low birth weight, and an elevated risk of mortality for both the mother and the infant.

Osteoporosis

Deficiency in vitamin A can cause night blindness, dry skin, and increased susceptibility to infections.

Thyroid malfunctioning

Iodine deficiency can result in goiter (enlarged thyroid gland) and negatively impact thyroid function, leading to hormonal imbalances.

Ghosi by-poll: The first NDA-INDIA showdown ahead of 2024 LS polls



AGENCY

NEW DELHI: The Ghosi assembly seat in the Mau district is set to witness a do-or-die electoral battle on September 5. The by-election for the constituency will showcase the real power of the newly-constituted Opposition bloc, INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance), against archrival NDA in Uttar Pradesh.

The by-poll is touted to be a seminal before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in the state that boasts of the highest number of 80 Lok Sabha seats in the country. The alliances and strategies of the NDA and the INDIA will be put to the test in this by-poll. It will shape the political landscape of Purvanchal and beyond.

Hence, the by-election has evolved into a political showdown of an enormous proportion, transcending the traditional BJP Vs SP in the state to a bigger battleground of NDA Vs INDIA with constituents of both the blocs throwing their weight behind their respective candidates, transforming this seemingly small seat in Poorvanchal into a pivotal battleground.

The outcome of this election is bound to resonate throughout Poorvanchal and potentially influence the Lok Sabha elections. If the BJP candidate wins, the NDA will gain a substantial psychological

advantage over the SP in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections in Purvanchal. Conversely, an SP win would bolster INDIA's standing in Uttar Pradesh. In support of the BJP candidate from a backward community, Dara Singh Chauhan, the NDA's Apna Dal (S), Subhedeo Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSPP) and Nishad Party have united with unwavering commitment.

Meanwhile, SP candidate Sudhakar Singh, a Thakur, has garnered support from the Congress, the RLD, Left parties, the Apna Dal (K), and other constituents of INDIA forming a formidable force to reckon with. The electoral atmosphere unmistakably reveals that this contest extends beyond two individuals to a clash of alliances.

The SP and allies have started dubbing Chauhan an outsider pitted against a native in Sudhakar Singh. Singh is a two-time lawmaker, who last won the Ghosi seat in 2012. On the other hand, Chauhan had never contested the seat before 2022.

The intricate caste dynamics among the 4.40 lakh voters have added complexity to the race. The backward-dominated seat has a sizeable number of Muslim and upper-caste voters. Out of the total voters, 1,50,000 are from OBCs including 60,000 Rajbahars, 40,000 Chauhans and 40,000 Yadavs.

The second highest number of voters is Muslim, around 90,000. There are also a sizeable number of Dalits (roughly 60,000). The constituency has around 77,000 upper-caste Hindus - 45,000 Bhumihars, 16,000 Rajputs and 6,000 Brahmins.

The stakes are high for BJP candidate Dara Singh Chauhan, whose political future hinges on the outcome of the by-poll. Having crossed over from the SP and subsequently resigned as MLA of the constituency, Dara Singh's expectation of a ministerial role has yet to materialise. While a victory would see him secure a ministerial berth, a loss could jeopardise his political trajectory.

Chauhan has amassed 1,08,430 votes in the 2022 elections, and replicating this performance is his primary challenge.

In the 2022 assembly polls, he defeated the BJP candidate as a SP candidate by around 23,000 votes only after BSP's Muslim candidate received 86,000 votes. But if the BSP does not contest this time, SP would benefit by getting an entire chunk of the Muslim votes.

The area also has an influence of mafia don Mukhtar Ansari's family which could be of an added advantage for the SP candidate.

The Ghosi seat has a sizeable number of Rajbhar voters. Last time, SBSP President Omprakash Rajbhar was with the SP whereas this time he has come from BJP's side. Voters of the Nonia caste of Dara Singh Chauhan are also considered to be in a decisive role here.

Analysing Sudhakar Singh's strengths, the SP candidate benefits from his local roots and enjoys the backing of the Congress, RLD, and Left parties and substantial support from the Muslim, Yadav, and Thakur communities. The absence of a BSP candidate will also minimise the risk of a split in the Muslim vote bank.

What will common man get from One Nation One Election, asks Kejriwal



AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Questioning the rationale behind the Centre's 'one nation, one election' concept, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday asked what the common man will get from this concept.

"What is important for the country? One Nation, One Election or One Nation, One Education (good education for everyone whether rich or poor). One Nation, One Treatment (Rich or poor, equal treatment for all). What will the common man get from One Nation, One Election," Kejriwal posted on X in Hindi. The Union Government

has formed an eight-member committee on Saturday to examine the 'One Nation, One Election' with former President Ram Nath Kovind as its chairman and Union Home Minister Amit Shah and others as its members.

Earlier, AAP Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj had said that BJP was doing it to divert the attention from Hindenburg report 2.0. "I am very convinced that this is just a debate to deflect from the real issue of Hindenburg report 2.0. The Central Govt is scared of growing popularity and footprints of INDIA alliance and may push for early elections," Bhardwaj had said.

Simultaneous elections for the state assemblies and the Lok Sabha were held till 1967. However, in 1968 and 1969 some legislative assemblies were dissolved prematurely followed by the dissolution of the Lok Sabha in 1970. This forced a change in electoral schedules for the states and the country.

INDIA alliance wants to 'eradicate Sanatan Dharma': BJP's no holds barred attack over Udhayanidhi Stalin remark

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sunday launched a scathing attack against the INDIA bloc over Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's "eradicate Sanatan Dharma" remark and asked the Opposition if they are going to use "anti-Hindu" strategy in the elections.

Udhayanidhi Maran, who is also the son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Saturday equated Sanatan Dharma with "dengue, malaria, corona" and called for its "eradication".

Speaking at a conference organised by the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers Artists Association in Chennai, Udhayanidhi said, "Few things should not be opposed, they should be eradicated. We can't oppose dengue, mosquitoes, malaria or corona, we have to eradicate them. In the same way, we have to eradicate Sanatana (Sanatan Dharma), rather than opposing it."

"The name Sanatana is from Sanskrit. It is against Social Justice and equality," he added.

"Mohabbat Ki Dukan" spreading hatred: JP Nadra

Reacting to his statement, BJP national president JP Nadra said



AGENCY

that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "Mohabbat Ki Dukan" was spreading hatred against "Sanatan Dharma" and asked if Udhayanidhi's statement was part of INDIA bloc's political strategy.

"Are you going to use this anti-Hindu strategy in the upcoming elections? You have proved multiple times that you hate everything related to our country and your 'Mohabbat ki Dukan' is spreading hate," Nadra said while addressing a rally in Madhya Pradesh's Chitrakoot.

Udhayanidhi remarks "genocidal", says Amit Malviya

Amit Malviya, BJP's social media in-charge, also slammed Rahul Gandhi and accused Congress party's Tamil Nadu ally of calling

for genocide of India 80 per cent Hindu population.

"Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of Tamilnadu CM MK Stalin, and a Minister in the DMK Govt", has linked Sanatana Dharma to malaria and dengue... He is of the opinion that it must be eradicated and not merely opposed. In short, he is calling for genocide of 80% population of Bharat, who follow Sanatan Dharma," Malviya said.

Reacting to Malviya's "genocide accusation", the son of Tamil Nadu CM said that he didn't call for genocide of Hindus but remained firm on his statement. "I will say it today, tomorrow, and forever: Our resolve to stop Sanathana Dharma from the Dravidian land would not reduce even a bit," he said.

Amit Shah slams INDIA alliance at Rajasthan rally

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday slammed INDIA alliance for allegedly disrespecting Sanatan Dharma, terming the new political formation as 'Ghamandiya' alliance.

"The UPA went bankrupt. Now they have changed it into the INDIA alliance. For the past two days, I have been seeing that these people are insulting the country's culture and Santan Dharma by saying that Santan Dharma should be abolished," Shah told a massive rally at Baneshwar Dham before flagging off the BJP's second leg of 'Parivartan Yatra'.

"The Congress is insulting Sanatan Dharma. In the 2014 and 2019 LS polls, their numbers were reduced. In 2024 polls, they will not be visible even through binoculars," he claimed.

The Home Minister also accused Rahul Gandhi of comparing Hindu organisations with a terror group like Lashkar-e-



AGENCY

Taiba and former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh used to say that the minorities have the first right on the budget. "But the Modi Government said that it was the poor people who have the first right on the budget. The Congress party's president said if Modi returns, Santan Dharma rule will prevail. We say that Santan Dharma lies in the heart of people. This exists in India's Constitution," Shah said.

Blaming Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot led Congress government in Rajasthan for not allowing the Modi Government's schemes to work, Shah said: "By the time the Parivartan Yatra ends, the departure of

the Gehlot Government would have been decided."

Shah said that the Gehlot Government which instigated the riots should be overthrown.

Referring to the 'red diary' on which he spoke in the IFFCO event at Gangapur city on August 26, Shah said: "If someone wears red clothes, they see a red diary. Gehlot's corruption worth hundreds of crores of rupees is recorded in this red diary. This diary has not been given by us but by his former minister. If you have courage, then hold a press conference in Jaipur and give an account of the scams committed in the last five years."

Shah asked Gehlot:

"What did the UPA Government give to the people of Rajasthan for ten years? Do not talk here and there by being naive. I know you will not answer but I am the son of a tradesman, I keep accounts. In the ten years of the UPA government, only Rs 1.60 crore was given to Rajasthan, whereas in nine years the Modi government gave Rs 8 lakh crore to the people of Rajasthan."

"Gehlot is a magician. I have seen other magicians who make their cap, ring, or handkerchief disappear. Similarly, Gehlot made electricity disappear from Rajasthan by magic. Women's safety disappeared. Youth's jobs disappeared," he said sarcastically.

Later, Shah flagged off the second phase of BJP's Parivartan Yatra from Baneshwar Dham in Durgapur district. It will travel 2433 km in 18 days, and will cover two divisions of Kota and Udaipur, and Bhilwara district to woo voters in 25 assembly constituencies.

Bengal Govt's new order: No state university bound by education dept direction

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Afresh notification from the office of the West Bengal Governor, C.V. Ananda Bose virtually bringing down the level of state government authority on state universities to zero has opened yet another channel of confrontation between the Governor's House and state secretariat.

In the notification it has been clearly said that the faculty and non-faculty staff members of all state universities are answerable first to the chancellor and then to the vice-chancellor. The Governor himself, by virtue of his chair, is also the chancellor of all state uni-

versities. In the fresh notification from the Governor House, it has also been mentioned that the state government might give instructions to the state universities' authorities, but those instructions are not binding on the universities authorities or employees.

It has also been informed in the notification that any instruction from the state government or state education department to any state university will become valid only if that is cleared by the vice-chancellor.

On September 1, the Governor announced that he as the chancellor of the state universities will play the role of interim vice-chancellors

for state universities where the chairs of the functional heads are currently vacant. The decision attracted scathing criticisms from the state education minister Bratya Basu who said that the state government will move to the Supreme Court against the decision.

This fresh notification bringing down the level of state government authority on state universities to zero has also attracted scathing criticism from the state's ruling party leadership which has described the move as an attempt on part of the Governor to run a parallel administration in the state.

Ex-Trinamool MLA Mitali Roy joins BJP ahead of key bypoll in Bengal

AGENCY

KOLKATA: Just two days before the crucial bypoll to the Dhurguri Assembly seat in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, the ruling Trinamool Congress received a jolt as the party's former MLA from the same constituency shifted her camp to the BJP on Sunday.

Mitali Roy, the former party MLA from Dhurguri from 2016 to 2021, also contested on behalf of the ruling party in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections from the same constituency. However in 2021 she was defeated by BJP's Bishnu Pada Roy, who died recently necessitating the bypoll.

Party insiders said that she was expecting a re-nomination for the September 5 bypoll. But the ruling party instead of re-nominating her, fielded Nirmal Chandra Roy, a pro-

fessor at the Dhurguri Girls College, for the seat. Giving her reaction to media persons immediately after joining BJP, Roy said that she was virtually isolated within Trinamool Congress since her defeat in the 2021 polls. "BJP leadership has accepted me in the party with the due respect that I deserve and hence now I want to work for the common people of Dhurguri," she said.

Welcoming her to the party, the state BJP president and the party Lok Sabha member Sukanta Majumdar said that despite being an active and popular figure in Dhurguri, Mitali Roy was not able to work for the people while staying in Trinamool Congress. "We welcome her to the party. She will now be of great help in strengthening our organisational network not just in Dhurguri but in the entire

Jalpaiguri district," he said.

The chief of BJP's Information Technology cell and the party's special observer for West Bengal Amit Malviya also issued an X (formerly Twitter) message welcoming Roy to the party. "In another sure sign, that Mamata Banerjee is losing control, Mitali Roy, former TMC MLA from Dhurguri, who also contested the 2021 Assembly election, on TMC's ticket, joins the BJP, ahead of the by-poll. There is a reason Mamata Banerjee is not being taken seriously in the Opposition alliance. The political ground in her home state has slipped..." his message read. However, Trinamool Congress' state vice-president Jaiprakash Majumdar did not give much importance to the development. "Mitali Roy joined BJP just to fulfil her political ambitions. This will not affect us anyway," he said.

No anti-incumbency against my govt.: Ashok Gehlot

AGENCY

JAIPUR: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has expressed confidence that the Congress would retain power in the state by securing a massive mandate in the Assembly elections, scheduled to be held by the end of the year.

"There is no anti-incumbency against the Congress government in the state despite the fact that the Assembly elections are round the corner. We will beat the anti-incumbency trend for the first time

in the state," he said in an interview to The Statesman.

He claimed that the state government was taking decisions with the aim of providing the maximum relief to the people and the schemes launched by his government were being discussed across the country.

"People in other parts of the country are talking about our schemes, like the Old Pension Scheme and the Right to Health." Citing an example, the veteran leader said: "Laws have been made

in the state guaranteeing minimum income and the Right to Health, which are not there in any other state in the country. A law has also been made for the welfare and security of Gig workers."

In February, the state government had announced the decision to raise the coverage amount of its 'flagship' health scheme Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana - from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh per year per family. "People in the state are happy with the Right to Health Act," the CM said.

Asia Cup matches likely to be shifted out of Colombo after heavy rain

Five Super Four matches and the final have been scheduled in Colombo from September 9 onwards



AGENCY

PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA), SEPTEMBER 3: The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) is mulling a change in the venue for the Super Four matches of the Asia Cup in the wake of the heavy rains that have been lashing in Colombo. Five Super Four matches and the final have been scheduled in Colombo from September 9 onwards, but there are hardly any signs of the

weather relenting.

In that context, the ACC is currently engaged in a discussion with the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) and tournament host Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) about the possible change of venue.

The media has been informed that three venues are under consideration - Pallekele, Dambulla and Hambantota. The six participating teams have also been intimated about the possible

change in venue.

Pallekele is currently hosting the Asia Cup league matches, but the possibility of rain in this hill town is also on the higher side.

Dambulla is about 70 km from Pallekele, and the chances of rain are much less in the former city.

However, a SLC official said the Rangiri International Cricket Stadium at Dambulla might not be ready to host so many matches at a

short notice.

The weather in Hambantota is predicted to be the brightest in Sri Lanka at this moment, and the ACC is keenly evaluating the readiness of Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium to host the Asia Cup matches.

The ACC has another couple of days to take a final call, considering the Colombo leg starts only on September 9, but the Sri Lankan board did not want to leave the event to the mercy of elements.

It may be recalled that Sri Lanka has been drafted in as the Asia Cup co-host after the hybrid model proposed by then PCB chief Najam Sethi.

"The tournament will be hosted in a hybrid model with four matches being held in Pakistan, and the remaining nine matches being played in Sri Lanka," the ACC had said in June.

Asia Cup: Bumrah flies back to Mumbai due to personal reasons, to return during Super Four stage, say sources



AGENCY

KANDY, SEPTEMBER 3: Star India pacer Jasprit Bumrah has left for Mumbai amid the ongoing Asia Cup due to personal reasons, as per sources.

The sources also said the bowler is expected to be back in time for the Super Stage of the tournament, starting from September 6 onwards.

Pace veteran Mohammed Shami, who did not play in the first clash

against Pakistan at Kandy, could replace him during the match against Nepal.

Bumrah had just made his international cricket return after over 10 months from injury during India's T20I series against Ireland as a captain.

Not only he led a young Indian team to a series win, but also displayed amazing fitness and rhythm, taking four wickets in two matches, with the best figures of 2/15.

India will take on Nepal in their Asia Cup clash at Kandy. In Group A, Pakistan qualified for the Super Four stage with three points following a win over Nepal and a washout against arch-rivals India, which caused them to share a point each.

Now India (1 point) and Nepal (0 points) have to win their match to qualify for the Super Four stage. India: Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya (vc), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumraj, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasad Krishna, Sanju Samson (travelling reserve).

Nepal: Rohit Paudel C, Kushal Bhurtel, Aasif Sheikh, Bhim Sharki, Kushal Malla, Aarif Sheikh, Dipendra Singh Airee, Gulshan Jha, Sompal Kami, Karan KC, Sandeep Lamichhane, Lalit Rajbanshi, Pratih GC, Mousom Dhakal, Sundeep Jora, Kishore Mahato, Arjun Saud.

Asia Cup: 'Have plans to tackle Rohit and Virat', says Nepal skipper Paudel ahead of India clash

AGENCY

KANDY, SEPTEMBER 3: Following his side's Asia Cup clash against India at Kandy, Nepal skipper Rohit Paudel expressed his side's excitement to play against Men in Blue and said that they have plans to tackle the team's star batters, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, terming the former as team's "inspiration" as well.

India will take on Nepal in their Asia Cup clash at Kandy. In Group A, Pakistan qualified for the Super Four stage with three points following a win over Nepal and a washout against arch-rivals India, which caused them to share a point each. Now India (1 point) and Nepal (0 points) have to win their match to qualify for Super Four stage. "We are excited to play against India. India is a big country.

We are all excited to represent Nepal against India at the biggest stage," said the skipper at a pre-match press conference on Sunday.

About tackling Virat and Rohit, Paudel said, "Virat and Rohit have been the stars for their country for



That is why we are here. For the last two three generations, our seniors tried a lot (for big opportunities), we got this opportunity to play. We want to represent them in the match," he added.

The skipper agreed that a match will India will be a "fanboy moment" for the Nepal team as Men in Blue has a lot of big superstars of the game. "But on the field, it will be a game that both of us will be wanting to win," he concluded.

India: Rohit Sharma C, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya (vc), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumraj, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasad Krishna, Sanju Samson (travelling reserve).

Nepal: Rohit Paudel C, Kushal Bhurtel, Aasif Sheikh, Bhim Sharki, Kushal Malla, Aarif Sheikh, Dipendra Singh Airee, Gulshan Jha, Sompal Kami, Karan KC, Sandeep Lamichhane, Lalit Rajbanshi, Pratih GC, Mousom Dhakal, Sundeep Jora, Kishore Mahato, Arjun Saud.

over ten years. We have made plans to tackle them and hopefully, we will execute them tomorrow."

He termed Virat as an "inspiration" for all. "Virat is an inspiration for all of us, not only for his work ethic but also his discipline, on and off the field," said the skipper. Paudel expressed happiness because of fans' response despite the heavy defeat to Pakistan in the first match, saying that the fans have been extremely encouraging and positive to the team.

"Our players have been working really hard for two or three years.

Asia Cup: Eyeing Super Four berth, India face greenhorns Nepal

AGENCY

PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA), SEPTEMBER 3: Coming off a washout, India would hope they only have greenhorns Nepal to tackle and not rain as the heavyweights eye a berth in the Super Four of the Asia Cup here on Monday.

From Group A, Pakistan have already qualified to the Super Four with three points, and India have one point from the washed-out game against their arch-rivals on Saturday.

Even in the event of another rain-marred match on the morrow, India can advance to the Super Four with two points, but Rohit Sharma's men will certainly not want it that way. India received some encouraging signals from their match against Pakistan, and they would want to build on them ahead of the business end of this tournament and much sterner assays in the waiting.

Pakistan pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf had reduced India to 66 for 4 by the 15th over. At that point, India's worries might have been accentuated by the fact that they have a jelly middle-order.

Ishan Kishan was playing the first match of his career at No. 5 in ODIs and Hardik Pandya never really fitted the bill of a firefighter.

However, both Kishan and Pandya overcame their personal predicaments to amass 138 runs for the fifth wicket, cornerstone of



India's eventual 266.

Kishan was particularly impressive, as his forte is being a dashing top-order batsman.

So, there was that hint of doubt whether Kishan would be able to make the necessary adjustments to his batting and approach to suit the No. 5 slot.

He excelled on both the counts. As a top-order batter Kishan was susceptible to pacers who could move the ball around. Instead of trusting his defence, Kishan's method to get out of the cage was being aggressive. But here he had to be defensive.

Rauf, Afridi and Naseem Shah tested his fortitude but for once Kishan showed that he can offer a scratch. Nepal do not have the quality of Pakistan, but Kishan would like to have a go at them and add some more runs under his belt to boost his new profile.

Similarly, the management will also welcome the composure Pandya showed while playing second fiddle to Kishan, and the seamless shifting of gears the all-

rounder did after the left-hander's dismissal.

The adaptability and the no-egotistical methods of Pandya would have pleased the think-tank no end.

Even though the stuttering effort of their top four - Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer - against Pakistan pacers could be treated as an aberration, the management would want them to get into ODI mode at the earliest. Rohit and Kohli were rested for the ODIs against the West Indies, while Shreyas Iyer is making his return after an injury lay-off. Nepal might just give the trio the perfect opposition to earn some valuable game time and runs.

However, the team top brass might be a tad disappointed because the bowlers never got a chance to test their skills against a quality opponent in Pakistan. They would have been eager to see how Jasprit Bumrah responded to the task of bowling 10 overs and fielding the length of 50 overs.

Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by 89 runs in Asia Cup

Afghanistan bowlers struggled to make inroads on a flat pitch, with Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Gulbadin Naib taking one wicket each

AGENCY

LAHORE, SEPTEMBER 3: Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by 89 runs to remain in contention for Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup here on Sunday.

Bangladesh posted 334 for 5 in their allotted 50 overs after opting to bat with Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mehidy Hasan Miraz hitting centuries and then bowled Afghanistan out for 245 in 44.3 overs for a big win.

Taskin Ahmed (4/44) and Shoriful Islam (3/36) were the main wicket takers for Bangladesh, who had lost their first match to Sri Lanka by five wickets.

Earlier, Mehidy, promoted to open the innings, retired hurt at 112 from 119 balls, while Shanto made 104 off 105 balls before he was run out.

Mehidy and Shanto added 194 runs off 190 balls for the third wick-



et before the former suffered an injury to his hand and had to leave the field.

Afghanistan bowlers struggled to make inroads on a flat pitch, with Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Gulbadin Naib taking one wicket each.

Brief Scores:

Bangladesh: 334 for 5 in 50 overs (Mehidy Hasan Miraz 112 not out, Najmul Hossain Shanto 104; Mujeeb Ur Rahman 1/62, Gulbadin Naib 1/58). Afghanistan: 245 all out in 44.3 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 75, Hashmatullah Shahidi 51; Shoriful Islam 3/36, Taskin Ahmed 4/44).

HEATH STREAK, FORMER ZIMBABWE CRICKET TEAM CAPTAIN, DIES

AGENCY

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3: Former Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak died on Sunday at the age of 49. This was confirmed on social media by his wife, Streak, who played 65 Tests and 189 ODIs for Zimbabwe from 1993-2005, was battling liver cancer for a long time.

"In the early hours of this morning, Sunday the 3rd of September 2023, the greatest love of my life and the father of my beautiful children, was carried to be with the



it hours later after a message from his captain, but by then condolence messages by several former cricketers had surfaced. "RIP Streaky," Olunga wrote on X, formerly Twitter, on Sunday.

In Test cricket, Streak claimed 216 wickets and scored one century and 11 half-centuries for Zimbabwe. In 189 ODIs, he bagged 239 wickets and made 2,943 runs with 13 fifties. He is the highest wicket-taker for Zimbabwe by a long margin in both Tests and ODIs.

England go 2-0 up against New Zealand

AGENCY

MANCHESTER, SEPTEMBER 3: England's Johnny Bairstow and Harry Brook smashed half centuries before debutant Gus Atkinson took four wickets to power England to a 2-0 lead over New Zealand in their four-match T20I series with a 95-run victory on Friday.

After winning the toss and opting to bat, Bairstow finished with an unbeaten 86 off 60 balls and Brook impressed with 67 from 36 as England finished on 198/4.

Atkinson made an immediate impression by taking the wickets of Devon Conway, Tim Seifert, Tim Southee and Lockie Ferguson. Already named in England's preliminary squad for the World Cup,



Atkinson was given his chance to prove his worth and wasted no time taking it.

Magnificent Marsh Durban: New Australia T20I captain Mitch Marsh scored a second successive unbeaten half cen-

tury to lead his side to an emphatic eight-wicket victory over hosts South Africa on Friday and claim an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The home side were sent in to bat and posted 164/8, a total that never looked enough with the small boundaries at Kingsmead.

Australia had little trouble knocking off their target in 14.5 overs as Marsh followed up his unbeaten 92 in the 111-run victory in the first match on Wednesday with 79 not out from 39 deliveries, including eight fours and six sixes.

He put on 100 in 45 balls for the second wicket with impressive opener Matthew Short, who was both elegant and brutal in equal measure for his 66 from 30 balls.

Doda District all set to kick start activities under Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K Week

J1 NEWS SERVICE

DODA, SEPTEMBER 3: To eliminate corruption and promote transparent governance, Jammu and Kashmir UT Government has decided to launch Week Long Bharatbhar Mukht J&K Campaign which will start from the 4th of September and culminate on 10th of September.

To join this campaign against corruption, the district administration Doda has formulated a vibrant activity plan under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan.

The week-long campaign will witness a series of awareness events across the district with a focus on the promotion of transparent and accountable governance.

Special Gram Sabhas, MC meetings, and meetings with key stakeholders, including Self-Help Groups (SHGs), MGNREGA workers, farmers, students, and citizens, have been devised to spread mass awareness about the significance of corruption free governance.

Simultaneously, the "Digital Literacy Week" will be celebrated, highlighting the significance of digital initiatives in government processes.

The campaign will be given widespread publicity through print, electronic, and social media. Workshops and sensitization programs will be conducted at the district level, Sub Divisional level, and Tehsil level to educate participants about anti-corruption policies and procedures.

This initiative also stresses the importance of promptly addressing corruption-related grievances and complaints. Special counters

will be set up at different administrative levels to receive and resolve the issues relating to corruption. The IT Department will work in conjunction with other departments to create "Feedback Forms" for recording grievances and complaints, ensuring proper documentation and timely resolution. All complaints received during the week will be given top priority, with clear timelines provided for resolution.

In addition to these efforts, educational institutions will participate by organizing competitions and activities like quizzes, debates, plays and more, aiming to raise awareness about corruption-free governance. District-level competitions, including quiz, cartoon making, slogans, paintings, rangoli, and cultural events, will actively engage the community in the fight against corruption. The "Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K Week" promises to be a significant step towards a more transparent and corruption-free administration in Doda District.

HPL-T20 concludes at Habba Sahib Sports Ground Zaingair

Secretary Sports Council urges youth to participate in sports activities with vigor

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 03: A Hotelier's Premier League (HPL) T20, Session 17 cricket tournament which was organized by locals in Sopore today culminated with a colourful closing ceremony after the final match of the tournament was played between Lala 11 Sopore and Seer Sports at Habba Sahib Sports Ground Hathlangoo Zaingair.

Secretary Sports Council J&K, Nuzhat Gul was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Senior Superintendent of Police Sopore, Shabir Nawab, Fayaz Ahmad Malik besides other dignitaries

participated in the ceremony as the guest of honours.

Pertinently, thirty two teams from different areas of the District participated in the tournament with great enthusiasm, passion and valour.

On the occasion, the Secretary Sports Council extended appreciations to both the teams for playing the final stage and also congratulated the winning team. She also presented trophies to the winner and runner up teams. Both the teams were awarded with Trophies, Cash Prize of 240,000/- and 220,000/- respectively. Moreover, the Man of the series awardee was given a cash of Rs.

5000.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest said that every initiative is being taken to provide a platform to youth and guiding them to follow their goals adding that only Sports can keep youth away from drugs. Secretary Sports said that a special focus is being given to the development of sports infrastructure across the district to provide world class facilities to the youth of the district. Later, SSP Sopore appreciated the participating teams for their sportsmanship and enthusiasm during the tournament. He also urged them to motivate others to inculcate sports habits in their lives.

71 Kg banned MFP seized at Banihal

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 03: Atleast 71 kg of banned minor forest produce was today seized from Compartment 11 of Sarbagini Block Banihal Range which comes under forest division Ramban.

A team of forest and PFP officials

headed by Sajjad Hussain, Range Officer Banihal and Mushtaq Ahmed, Forester Sarbagini Block conducted a raid in forest compartment number 11 and seized banned MFP Kuth in 06 gunny bags.

All seized MFP was brought to Range office Banihal for further

investigation and a Damage Case No. 03/2023-24 was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. A hunt has been launched to nab the culprits.

The whole operation was carried under the supervision of DFO Ramban, Dr Rajan Singh.

Nowshera Forest Division ties up with Giri foundation for marketing of Chir needle handicrafts

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 03: To improve livelihood opportunities for the people living on the periphery of Nowshera Forest Division, a one day grooming session on preparation of handicrafts with chir needles and their value addition was held at Sunderbani Forest Range.

The chairpersons of all 15 Self Help Groups associated with chir handicrafts besides many girls and women participated in the event.

The grooming session was started by Divisional Forest Officer, Nowshera Satyendra Maurya by putting light on use of chir needles for making handicrafts and creating livelihood opportunities for women and girls in addition to their routine work.

Expert from GIRI Foundation Megha Sharma imparted training to participants to improve quality of chir handicraft products prepared by the SHGs. She

emphasized that by improving the quality of products by using good quality material with precision and good marketing skills, the scope for this emerging handicraft industry can be expanded all over the world. At present GIRI foundation is working on marketing of chir needle handicrafts in India.

The participants lauded the efforts of Nowshera Forest Division for holding a series of livelihood improvement programmes for people living on the periphery of Nowshera Forest Division. They also demanded to extend such training programmes to other remote areas of Reasi and Rajouri districts so that more women and girls may take benefit of such self employment generation activities in addition to their daily routine works.

Range Officer Sunderbani Sudesh Kumar made all arrangements for smooth con-

duct of said one day grooming session on preparation and value addition of Chir handicrafts. The whole programme was conducted under guidance of Conservator of Forests, West Circle Rajouri Vivek Verma.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Contract Type: Work

Contract Description: 1) Provision of additional CCTV Surveillance System at 16 PRR Posts/Out Posts having coverage over space provided for keeping processed and interrogation process in Kashmir Valley (see Firouzpur Division). 2) Upgradation of CCTV's & SCADA for Tunnel Monitoring and control system with allied work for reliable operation of Pir Panjal Tunnel Banihal-Quazqand section of Firouzpur Division.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Work	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
01/09/2023	12/09/2023	26/09/2023 15:00 Hrs

S.No. 1 Tender No. 181-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR

Details of Tender: TR(S) 17.867 Kms of 90 R Rails with 52 Kg (90 UTS) rails in various loco lines at SDGM, AKT, QD, PTM, HIK, SAF, P, ICM, SDA, A/P, SINA, SXZM, MZMA stations in BAH-BRML section under jurisdiction of ADENBDGM

Advertised Value (Rs.): Earnest Money Validity of Offer/Period of Completion
2,58,43,192.56/- 2,78,296,200/- 60 Days 12 Months

Similar nature of work: "CTRTR/RTTR/RTTR including Raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-2".

S.No. 2 Tender No. 196-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR

Details of Tender: Through line renewal (136.200 KM) of the existing 52 kg/60 PSC sleepers at Km 0.00 to 117.890 Km at various locations on OC-BRML Section & BAH-OG Section 18.40 Km from Km 150.30 to 168.70 under ADENBDGM.

Advertised Value (Rs.): Earnest Money Validity of Offer/Period of Completion
2,38,72,624.62/- 2,68,400/- 60 Days 12 Months

Similar nature of work: "CTRTR/RTTR/RTTR including Raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-2".

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders check for any correspondence issued against tender.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 27352023

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECH. DIVISION NORTH JAMMU

e-mail: xenorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 188 of 2023-24

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

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Providing and fitting of parts of 670 HP LRS installed at HT pump house Sitlee under Capex Budget.	200/-	Rs. 5000/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing : 31-08-2023 (04.00 pm)

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jtenders.gov.in> from 31-08-2023 (04.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jtenders.gov.in> from 31-08-2023 (04.00 pm) to 07-09-2023 (04.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jtenders.gov.in>.

- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 08-09-2023 (04.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

- The bidder should make payment for cost of bidding document in shape of single window challan of JMC / online payment through the JMC website link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html> in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu.

- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L₁ bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L₁ bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.

- The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jtenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

- The original documents when submitted by L₁ bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.

- Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days from last date of receipt of Bid. No exemption of any kind shall be allowed on this.

- Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.

- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.

- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.

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

- Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of financial bids.
- The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.
- Similarly, instead of insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FDR should be obtained and kept on record. Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

Indoor Saffron Cultivation Technology introduced in Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 03: In a momentous event at the Agriculture Extension Office in Kishtwar, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav today unveiled state-of-the-art Indoor Saffron Cultivation Technology. This innovative initiative marks a significant step towards revolutionizing saffron cultivation practices in the region.

The event also witnessed the presence of Chief Agriculture Officer, Amjad Hussain Malik, and DAO, Sanjay Sharma, along with beneficiary farmers who stand to benefit immensely from this technological advancement.

Under the Skill Development program, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, District Kishtwar has realised the project with an estimated cost of Rs 1.35 lakh, under the SANKALP Scheme. In a generous gesture, each of the 9 beneficiary farmers on the occasion, received 25 Kgs of Saffron Corms, racks, and trays, completely free of cost during

the event. This support aims to empower local farmers and encourage the adoption of advanced saffron cultivation techniques, addressing the climatic challenges prevalent in the region. The unveiling of Indoor Saffron Cultivation Technology reflects the commitment of the Kishtwar Administration to promote agricultural innovation and enhance the livelihoods of the saffron farming community by fostering the alternate mode of cultivation.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firouzpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction for the following works over Firouzpur Division:

1	Auction Catalogue No.	EAFZR-OH23-19
Auction start Date & Time 15-09-23 at 10:30 Hrs		

Name of Work: 1. Contract for Commercial Advertisement rights on exterior of Overhead of Water Tanks at Amritsar, Jammu Tawi, Jalandhar City & Pathankot Railway Station. 2. Contract for Commercial publicity rights through static media at Level crossing adjoining to Verka, Bhagatnawala, Jaitipura, Bataia, Chingra & Pathankot Railway Station. 3. Allotment of Commercial Publicity rights through Vinyl wrapping on exterior of coaches of Train No. Group rake 12422, 12492, 22462, 12414, 12408, 14612, 14610 & DMU Trains in Kashmir Valley.

2	Auction Catalogue No.	EAFZR-PnU23-12
Auction start Date & Time 15-09-23 at 11:00 Hrs		

Name of Work: Allotment of contract for Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of Normal Pay & Use Toilets at Jagraon, Farikot, Moga, Anantnag, Quazqand, Baramulla, Sopur & Sri Mata Vaisno Devi Katra Railway Station.

Complete details of auction can be seen by registered bidder on www.irps.gov.in 27212023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 27352023

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Contract Type: Work

Contract Description: 1) Provision of additional CCTV Surveillance System at 16 PRR Posts/Out Posts having coverage over space provided for keeping processed and interrogation process in Kashmir Valley (see Firouzpur Division). 2) Upgradation of CCTV's & SCADA for Tunnel Monitoring and control system with allied work for reliable operation of Pir Panjal Tunnel Banihal-Quazqand section of Firouzpur Division.

Name of Work	Work	Date & Time of Uploading Tender	Validity of Offer (Days)
1) Provision of additional CCTV Surveillance System at 16 PRR Posts/Out Posts having coverage over space provided for keeping processed and interrogation process in Kashmir Valley (see Firouzpur Division).		1) 20/09/2023 15:00 2) 22/09/2023 15:00	60 Days
2) Upgradation of CCTV's & SCADA for Tunnel Monitoring and control system with allied work for reliable operation of Pir Panjal Tunnel Banihal-Quazqand section of Firouzpur Division.		1) 20/09/2023 15:19 2) 20/09/2023 15:50	60 Days

Tender Type	Open	Bidding System	Single Packet System
Tender closing Date & Time	1) 20/09/2023 15:00 2) 22/09/2023 15:00	Date & Time of Uploading Tender	1) 20/09/2023 15:19 2) 20/09/2023 15:50
Pre-Bid Required	Not Applicable	Pre-Bid Query Date Time	Not Applicable
Advertised Value	1) Rs. 3,92,04,833/- 2) Rs. 2,98,85,826/98	Tendering Section	Telecom
Bidding Style	Single Rate for Tender	Bidding Unit	Above/Below/par
Earnest Money (Rs.)	1) Rs. 346000/- 2) Rs. 299400/-	Validity of Offer (Days)	60 Days
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 0/-	Period of Completion	(i) 04 Months (ii) 04 Months
Bidding Start Date as per IRPS	1) 06/09/2023 2) 08/09/2023		

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-19-23-24 Closing Date/Time: 20-09-2023 15:00 hrs.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 27352023

VC Akal University Punjab Tours Baramulla; interacts with Students, Stakeholders

J I NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 03: In a significant bid to familiarise the students about the importance of value based education, Vice Chancellor of Akal University Punjab Prof Gurnail Singh today paid a visit to Delima Baramulla where he held an interactive session with the students and other prominent stakeholders of the society.

During the interactive session, the VC shared experience about his educational journey and underlined the need for quality education for achieving



academic as well as competitive excellence.

He emphasised upon the parents to let their children choose career options based on their interest and potential

besides highlighting the negative consequences of such courses achieved through coercion. Calling upon the students to familiarise themselves with modern skill set, Prof

Gurnail Singh said that the present era is the age of information and technology and added that the need of the hour is to keep pace with the changing dynamics.

He further advised not to chase mere degrees but to inculcate the spirit of character and value as such features distinguish between an educated person and a literate person. At the conclusion of the session, a question and answer session was held wherein the participants asked the VC an array of questions with respect to academic and career pursuit.

The participants also expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor for paying a visit to the area and holding such a productive and educational session with them.

Director Agriculture Kashmir takes stock of paddy, other crops in Anantnag



J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 03: The Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited different paddy fields of Anantnag district and took stock of the agriculture scenario in the area. During the visit he held interactions with farmers and received feedback from them regarding various interventions of the department. Speaking to the farmers, he reiterated the department's commitment to provide every possible technical guidance to the community during their crop cultivation operations. He impressed upon the farmers to go for the diversification of crop cultivation and asked them to take full advantage of the different schemes and programmes implemented by the department for the development of the agriculture sector in the region. He expressed satisfaction over the conditions of paddy, vegetables and other agricultural crops in the area. Chowdhury exhorted upon the concerned officers to work shoulder to shoulder with the farming community so that the said targets under various projects of HADP could be met with. He asked the farmers to work as a team and the department of agriculture for the successful and effective implementation of projects under the Holistic Agriculture development Programme.

Free Medical camp under, "Doctor Apke Gaon Mai" initiative organised at Village Singpur in Kishtwar

J I NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 03: The Health Department today organised a free Medical Camp here at Village Singpura under the pioneering "Doctor Apke Gaon Mai" initiative.

The move aims at providing comprehensive medical screening services to remote villages in the District Kishtwar. As many as 1130 patients were exam-

ined by Specialists including Gynaecologist, Physician, Civil Surgeon, Paediatrician, Ophthalmologist, orthopedic and Dental Surgeons.

During the camp, doctors conducted 118 USGs, 21 ECGs, 270 NCD screening and 138 Lab tests including urine routine, HB, Blood sugar and pregnancy tests, all free of cost.

The primary objective of the initiative is to bridge the healthcare gap between

urban and rural areas, with a particular emphasis on reaching the most vulnerable populations who have limited access to medical resources.

Through regular visits over the course of three months, "Doctor Apke Gaon Mai" aims to provide comprehensive healthcare services, including general health check-ups, diagnosis of common ailments, and the provision of vital healthcare advice.

Furthermore, the healthcare professionals will prioritize health education, promoting preventive measures, and raising awareness about prevalent diseases in the region.

Meanwhile the public of Singpura have thanked Dr Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner, Dr.M.Y Mir CMO and Dr. Saima Ago, BMO Chathroo for fulfilling the aspirations of the public.

Director Fisheries review projects under CAPEX, HADP programmes



J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 03: In light of the recent reorganization of the Public Works (R&E) Department, which included the incorporation of the Departmental Engineering wing, a crucial review meeting was convened by Director Fisheries, J&K UT in his office chambers at TRC, Srinagar to take the first hand appraisal of all works approved under UT (CAPEX) and HADP programmes for the year 2023-24.

The meeting was attended by all the Joint Directors, Chief Project Officers and District/Project Officers of the Department.

All officers received detailed instructions to promptly engage with the Public Works (R&E) Division within their respective jurisdictions.

This engagement is necessary for developmental projects that are either currently underway, awaiting execution, or require the comple-

tion of essential formalities viz. estimation/ Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), tendering processes and work allocation. He directed to initiate on-ground execution without unnecessary delays caused by the transitional phase.

All the Joint Directors were advised to oversee the process of execution of works in their respective jurisdictions ensuring that projects are completed within the time frame with judicious utilization of funds.

The Director conducted a thorough review of the various beneficiary-oriented schemes currently being implemented by the Department under the Prime Minister's Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMSMV) and HADP Schemes.

All officers were instructed to double their efforts to achieve both physical and financial targets set for the current fiscal year within predefined time-frames.

Shobha Yatra Marks Beginning of Janmashtami Celebrations in Ghagwal

J I NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 03: In anticipation of the upcoming Janmashtami Celebration, a vibrant Shobha Yatra was taken out today at Ghagwal, spreading the spirit of unity and festivity among the people. The Shobha Yatra embarked on its auspicious journey from the sacred Shree Narsingh Ji Mandir, weaving through the heart of Ghagwal via Raghun Chack, Lala Chack, Rajpura, Sanora Randhwal, Harsath Ghagwal Jatwal, and eventually retracing back to the Shree Narsingh Ji Dham through the Hospital route.

This event was a collaborative effort orchestrated by Narsingh Dham Ji Committee Ghagwal, in partnership with the District Administration of Samba and the Directorate of Tourism Jammu. The Shobha Yatra was also graced by the presence of Abhishek Sharma, District Commissioner Samba, who not only participated in the sacred Pujan but also shared his assurance of fool proof arrangements for the forthcoming Jansmashtami mela at Ghagwal, ensuring the safety and comfort of all devotees. The Shobha Yatra showcased the vibrant cultural heritage and community spirit of Ghagwal, setting the stage for a grand Janmashtami Celebration that promises to unite hearts and celebrate the divine with utmost devotion. The esteemed participants were the DDC Chairperson Samba, Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC member Ghagwal, Suresh Kumar, BDC Chairman Ghagwal, Vijay Tagotra, ADC Samba, SDM Ghagwal, Vice President of Vyapar Mandal Ghagwal, Tehsildar Ghagwal, and a multitude of local residents from Ghagwal, whose active involvement added to the joyous fervor of this splendid occasion.

Digital Week Celebrations: Ganderbal Admin conducts Workshop on e-Office

J I NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 03: As part of the ongoing Digital Week celebrations, the District Administration Ganderbal today organized a workshop on e-Office, to enhance administrative efficiency and promote digital governance practices within the district.

The workshop was presided over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah along with Chief Planning Officer, Irfan Giri.

Apart from others, the workshop was attended by government officials, including district and sectoral officers, staff members, and other concerned.

Different topics were covered during the workshop, including Introduction to e-Office and its benefits, Navigation and basic functionalities of the e-Office platform, Digital file creation, movement, and tracking, e-Leave management and approval processes were also demonstrated. Interactive sessions were also



held where participants asked questions and sought clarifications on using the e-Office platform effectively to understand the system and its effective usage in daily administrative assignments. Addressing the gathering, the ADC stressed the significance of transitioning towards a paperless and efficient administrative system. He emphasized the importance of e-Office in reducing paperwork, streamlining processes, and ensuring transparency in government operations. During the workshop, participants received the training in using

the e-Office platform, which is designed to digitize routine office tasks.

Meanwhile, awareness programs including lectures, school level quiz competitions and painting competitions were held in various schools of the district regarding different e-services being provided by the Government of J&K.

Several programs under digital week campaign were held in all blocks of the district which witnessed overwhelming participation of locals who were acquainted with initiatives of digital services.

DC Ramban reviews implementation of welfare schemes, NSAP, ISSS

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Musarrat Islam chaired a meeting to review the implementation of welfare schemes of the Social welfare department, besides ensuring 100 percent verification of reverted cases of Pension on Jan Sugam portal. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Kasuri Lal, SDM Gool Tanveer Ul Majid, DSWO Rahul Gupta and other concerned officers besides SDM Banihal, Ramsoo and others joined through virtual mode.

During the meeting the Deputy Commissioner directed the SDMs to organise the melas at Panchayat level to ensure 100% saturation of reverted pension cases and get the list of beneficiaries from TSWOs concerned.

Earlier the DC briefed the participants about the directions conveyed from the Divisional Commissioner Jammu to address the problems of reverted cases and finish all the reverted cases of pensioners by or before 11.9.2023. Emphasising the need to work on Mission mode, the DC directed the SDMs to ensure that all pension benefi-

ciaries whose forms have been reverted shall be informed and handholded for ensuring 100% re application by eligible pension beneficiaries.

The Deputy Commissioner also took a detailed review of the progress achieved by the Social Welfare Department in the implementation of National Social Assistance Programme, Integrated Social Security Scheme, Scholarships, Prosthetic Aid and State Marriage Assistance (SMAS) like schemes launched for privileged, vulnerable, down trodden and weaker sections of the society.

Digital J&K Week Campaign: Series of informative events being hosted across district Ramban

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 03: Continuing Digital J&K Week celebrations various informative and attractive programmes being organised by the different departments at Panchayat, Block, Tehsil and Sub-division level across the district Ramban.

Digital J&K Week programmes witnessed huge public participation where different departments imparted awareness to visitors about the online services of their respective departments, besides extending them hand holdings

for availing the benefits of beneficiary oriented schemes of different sectors at their door steps.

After culmination of 3-day Digi Mela 2023 at Ramban which witnessed huge participation of people from all walks of life, the 2nd leg of the Digital J&K Week campaign has been intensified at Panchayat, Block, Tehsil and Sub-division level under which three mega events are being organized at Sub-Division level in Banihal, Ramsoo and Gool on September 4th, 5th and 6th respectively. During the awareness programmes senior officers of different departments



sensitized the people about On-Line services being provided by their respective departments by demonstrating and hands-on training. They urged the people to avail benefits of 612 online services of different

sectors to avoid frequent visits of Government offices and other services providers.

The departments provided on spot e-services being offered by them, including Aadhar enrollment, Golden Cards, services of Revenue department, Horticulture, Agriculture, Holistic Agriculture Development Schemes, RDD schemes besides other services that can be availed online by the public.

At Ukhral people, especially youth attended the Digital week programme in presence of SDM Ramsoo, Ghansham Banoora held at Panchayat Senabathi and Chakwa. Information was provided to visitors regarding online services of various departments.

ADC Anantnag inaugurated Ayushman Bhavah' campaign at Anantnag

J I NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 03: Additional District Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag in presence of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Anantnag today inaugurated Ayushman Bhavah' campaign at Old Age home Pazzalpora and Ikliavia school Anantnag to envisage & saturate all identified health care services in every village/ town in line with the commitment of Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi to ensure access to health care services to everyone in the society. 'Ayushman Bhavah' initiative involves a set of interventions that include 'Ayushman - Apke Dwar 3.0', 'Ayushman Melas- at Health and Wellness level and Medical Camps by Medical Colleges at CHCs' and 'Ayushman Sabhas' and eventually ensuring Gram Panchayat / Urban ward to attain the status of 'Ayushman Gram Panchayat' or 'Ayushman Urban Ward' in a saturation mode. During the campaign health check up was ensured to all registered beneficiaries besides various items including sports kits, carom board, Medical Kit, winter thermals were distributed.