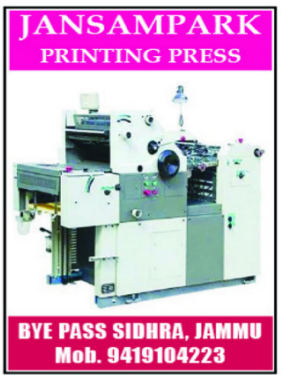




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Delhi HC grants NIA 10 days time to file documents on separatist leader's bail plea in terror funding case

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 12

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted 10 days time to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to place on record relevant documents on Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmed Shah's plea for regular bail in connection with an alleged terror funding case.

Shah's appeal challenges an order passed by a special judge on July 7, which

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4 killed as boulder slide hits truck in Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, SEP 12

At least four persons were killed after a truck they were travelling in was hit by a boulder slide on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in Banihal area of Ramban district on Tuesday morning.

"The truck bearing registration number (JK03J-0312) was heading towards Srinagar from Jammu when it was hit by the boulder slide at Wagan near Sherbibi. The impact of the collision caused the truck to fall into a deep gorge," an official told the news agency. He said all the four persons



in the truck were killed on the spot, adding that the bodies were retrieved from the gorge and taken to Banihal hospital. He identified the

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On national security, every political party is united: Defence Minister

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 12

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said all political parties are united when it comes to safeguarding the nation.

Lauding the role of Border Roads Organizations (BRO), the defence minister also said that BRO as 'Brother' is playing a key role in the socioeconomic development of far-flung areas

Speaking after inaugurating 90 infrastructure projects, completed by the BRO at a cost of Rs 2,941 crore from Jammu's Bishnah area, the defence minister said that when it comes to national security, every political party is united.

"It is heartening to say that we are getting full support from all to secure our borders... the projects (BRO's) which were completed are spread across states and UTs where different political

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



Invest more in R&D for India to move with world's pace: Defence Minister at North Tech Symposium Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 12

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has called upon the domestic defence manufacturers to invest more in Research & Development (R&D) for India to keep up pace with the continuously-evolving world.

As per news agency, Singh was addressing the North Tech Symposium, jointly organised by the Northern Command of the Indian Army, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and IIT, Jammu on September 12, 2023.

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Developing sustainable mobility ecosystem in harmony with environment need of the hour: PM

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday stressed the need to develop a mobility ecosystem that is sustainable and in harmony with the environment while also asking the Indian automobile industry to draw a pathway towards achieving the goals



of 'Amrit Kaal'. In his message to the

annual convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Modi acknowledged the role of the auto industry in the country's growth.

"In today's India, mobility in its various forms is a key driver of growth. As crores of people move out of poverty into the neo-middle class there is social and economic

mobility," the Prime Minister said in the address, which was read out by SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal.

He further said, "As they push the nation's growth through their aspirations, they power our economy to be the fastest growing in the world. Due to this, from being the 10th largest

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LG releases book 'Song of a Veiled Women' by Sumedha Manhas



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 12

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha released a poetry collection titled 'Song of a Veiled Woman'

written by Sumedha Manhas, at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday. The Lt Governor complimented sixteen-year-old Sumedha Manhas and wished her success in all future endeavours. KNO

Delegation of Federation of All India Vyapar Mandal calls on LG



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 12

A delegation of Federation of All India Vyapar Mandal (FAIVM) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday.

The delegation comprising of Dr Sanjay Bansal, President FAIVM, Sandeep Mengi, Vice President, Sanjeev Agarwal Secretary, Ajay Ahuja, Treasurer and Ramit Khurana Consultant

expressed their gratitude to the Lt Governor for the many initiatives taken by UT administration to promote Industries and Business activities in J&K UT.

They also apprised the Lt Governor of various issues of the business community. The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegation of redressal of their genuine demands and safeguarding the interests of the MSMEs. KNO

Army canine Kent sacrifices life while saving troops in Rajouri gunfight

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 12

A six-year-old dog (female labrador) laid down her life and saved the troops during an encounter that broke out in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri on Tuesday.

A defence spokesman in Jammu told news agency, a female canine Kent, from the 21 Army Dog Unit, was leading a group of soldiers on the trail of fleeing terrorists when it came under heavy fire and succumbed at the scene. He further added that the dog bravely took bullets of AK series rifles and lost her life saving her handler in a gunfight during a search operation in Narla village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

"Army dog Kent was at



the forefront of 'Operation Sujaligala'. Kent was leading a column of soldiers on the trail of the fleeing terrorists. It came down under heavy hostile fire. While shielding its handler, it laid down its life in the best traditions of the Indian Army," a defence spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Additional

Director General of Police, Mukesh Singh, said one terrorist and an army jawan were killed in the encounter that broke out in the Narallah area of the Rajouri district in the Jammu region. Three more jawans, including a Special Police Officer (SPO), were also injured in

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Ladakh LG, Padma Shri Balwant Thakur meet J&K LG

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 12

Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, met Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, Eminent Theatre personality and former Cultural Diplomat of India to South Africa and Mauritius also called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan. KNO



Delegation of JKPS Officers call on LG

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 12

A delegation of Officers of Jammu Kashmir Police Services called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday.

The delegation comprises of Joginder Singh; Perbeet Singh; Surjeet Bhagat; Sumir Kotwal; Rannish Gupta; Raj Kumar; Mushtaq Choudhary; Shazaad Salaria;

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Wait for some time, PoJK will automatically merge with India: V K Singh



AGENCIES
JAIPUR, SEPT 11

Minister of State of Road Transport and Highways retired general V.K Singh on Monday said that Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) will automatically merge with India after some time.

"Wait for some time, the PoJK will automatically merge with India," Singh in Dausa, Rajasthan responded after he was asked about the demands of PoJK Shia Muslims

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Bharat's Borders more secure than ever before under Modi Govt: Dr Jitendra

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, Bharat has gained a great strategic strength with technological interventions in last nine years and it's borders today are more secure than ever before under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said this during the inaugural ceremony of 90 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organization by Defence Minister, Sh. Rajnath Singh at Jammu.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the world today looks up to Bharat as an equal partner in every field and the recently concluded G20 summit with the adoption of Delhi Declaration is a testimony to it which



showcased Bharat's technological capabilities as well as economic strength.

Dr. Jitendra further said, Bharat's G20 Presidency also coincided with the country's glory in Space with the success of Chandrayaan-3 with Bharat's flag flying high on the south pole of the moon, taking lead in space technology show-

casing its achievements under PM Narendra Modi.

Praising Defence Minister Sh. Rajnath Singh, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the construction of much needed border bunkers, 4 percent reservation to border residents, establishment of Border Battalions etc. has been possible in the last nine years. Under this government, a new political culture has been set up in the country based on equality for all without discrimination of any kind.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, Basantar in district Samba was today chosen for the inauguration of 90 infrastructure projects as this region has been designated as the infrastructure marvel among all the constituencies, having seen tremendous development in last nine years with the development of more than 200 bridges, construction of highways, strategic tunnels constructed by NHAI, BRO etc.

J&K Court sentences three persons to 7-year RI in culpable homicide case

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPT 12

A court in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district has sentenced three people to seven years' rigorous imprisonment in a culpable homicide case.

Additional Sessions Judge, Kulgam, Parvaiz Iqbal also imposed a fine of Rs one lakh each on the convicts, Mohammad Amin Bhat, Rauf Ahmed Bhat and Younis Ahmed Bhat.

If they fail to deposit the fine amount, they shall undergo

rigorous imprisonment for a further period of six months, the judge said in his order. However, he said, the period of detention already undergone by the accused during the period of trial would be taken into consideration. The three were involved in an altercation with the victim Bashir Ahmad Parray in Kulgam district on September 9, 2016 which led to the latter's death at a hospital in Srinagar.

The judge convicted the three for culpable homicide

while noting that the accused did not have any previous enmity with the deceased.

The judge said the accused have prayed for showing them leniency on the grounds that all of them were from one family and due to their incarceration in jail, they as well as their family has suffered immensely.

The accused also prayed that two of them were students and as a result of the jail term, their whole career

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

ADDC Poonch Inspects progress of Developmental Projects in Mandi

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Poonch, Sandesh Kumar Sharma, undertook a visit to Mandi today to inspect progress of ongoing developmental projects in the region.

During the tour, the ADDC meticulously examined the works carried out by the Rural Engineering Wing Poonch. He inspected the repair and renovation of Panchayat Ghar Azamabad taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 3.30 Lakh and the segregation shed at Bedar and Gagrian Chool under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) taken up at estimated costs of Rs 4.055 Lakh and allotted costs of Rs 3.20 Lakh and Rs 3.72 Lakh respectively.

The pace of work on a retaining wall near Barari Part 1 and Part 2 in Panchayat Gagrian Chool were also inspected. The twin works have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 3.30 Lakh and Rs 3.00 Lakh, and allotted cost of Rs 2.80 Lakh and Rs 3.00 Lakh, respectively. The segregation shed at Gali in Panchayat Gagrian B, with an estimated cost of Rs 4.055 Lacs and an allotted cost of Rs 3.54 Lacs, was also inspected.



Apart from these works, the ADDC also inspected a range of other projects, including the Indoor Sports Stadium in Mandi, the Azamabad to Saroi Road, the Government Degree College campus site at Mandi and the JJM Scheme in Azamabad.

Discussions were held with the local community of Mandi regarding issues of public importance. The Officer also inspected Government Middle School at Karran, Government High School at Bedar, the Bedar-Phawari Road, the Khet to Paralkote Road, the Tourist Hut at Gagardian, and the languishing project of STD at Sawjan were also assessed during the inspection.

After the inspection of the ongoing

developmental works, the Additional District Development Commissioner, Sandesh Kumar Sharma directed the concerned executive engineers and officers to work with utmost dedication and exert full efforts to ensure that the projects are completed within the designated time frame. The Additional District Development Commissioner was accompanied by CEO Poonch Development Authority, Dr. Mohd Tanveer; Tehsildar Mandi, Shazad Latif Khan; AEE REW SUB DIVISION POONCH, Mohd Khalid, AEE PWD, REW, PDD, AE REW DIVISION Poonch, Nadeem Ahmed, Junior Engineers REW, Raj Kanwal and Talat Mir, JEs etc.

Two-week students induction programme begins at GCET Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: Two-week students induction programme for first year B.E students batch-2023 began today at Government College of Engineering & Technology (GCET) Jammu.

The program was organized under the patronage of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sameru Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that the focus of the induction program will be to assist new students to adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment. It will also aid them to boost their confidence, creativity, inventiveness, motivation to work for excellence, regulate time management, development of interpersonal relationships and leadership skills. She encouraged the students to fully participate in this programme, highlighting its significance in instilling the ethos and culture of the institution, building bonds with other students & faculty members and exposing them to a sense of larger purpose and self exploration.

Prof. (Dr) Anita Brar, coordinator for student induction program presented inaugural address, where she emphasized the purpose of conducting this programme for holistic development and personality of the students for living purposefully and to meet future challenges in life. She also stated that the expert lectures by the eminent



speakers will change their perception of life and make them as confident and self-assertive individuals. All the Heads of the departments were present during the inaugural function and encouraged the students to instil the humanistic values, philanthropic spirits and overall nurturing of good instincts.

Lectures were delivered by the eminent resource persons from reputed institutes/ companies across the country. The topics covered included "Mind Management" by Prabha Slathia from Art of Living, "Skills for Personality enhancement" by Dr. Neena Vij

from Central University Jammu and "Scope of Entrepreneurship in J&K" by Aman Talla and "Placement scenario in present era" by Dr. Ajay Abrol, GCET Jammu.

The committee members present during the programme were Prof. Dina Nath, Dr. Raman Gupta, Dr. Heera Saini, Dr. Neerupma, Asst. Prof. Altaf Ahmed, Mr. Balbir Singh, Er. Bharat Bhushan, Er. Neeraj Gupta, Er. Meenakshi Gupta and Er. Karan Kapoor along with students coordinators Mamoon Khan, Avleen Kour, Ahsan Kohli, Nandita Sharma, Sabira Firoz and Ritika Bhat.

DC reviews Aadhaar enrollment status in Rajouri District

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, chaired a meeting today to evaluate the progress of Aadhaar enrollment initiatives throughout the district. The meeting emphasized the crucial need for efficient execution and widespread participation in the Aadhaar enrollment process. Vikas Kundal reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the District administration to ensure equitable access to various government schemes. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer (DSEO) Rajouri, Sandeep Kumar Sharma, and P.O. ICDS, Showket Malik. Additionally, ADC Nowshera, ADC Sunderbani, ADC Kalakote, ADC Koteranka, and SDM Thannamandi participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

At the outset of the meeting, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer Rajouri reported that 100% of the eligible adult population in District Rajouri has been covered under Aadhaar. However, the coverage for children aged 0-5 years is approximately 65%.

DC Rajouri Vikas Kundal empha-



sized the need for coordinated efforts to fully implement the Aadhaar-linked birth registration (ALBR) System at all delivery points in the district. This ensures that Aadhaar numbers are automatically included on birth certificates issued through the CRS portal. The PO ICDS was directed to conduct a fresh survey to identify the remaining 0-5 years age population within a week and submit a final report by September 20th. In this regard, Additional Deputy Commissioners Rajouri, Sunderbani, Nowshera, Kalakote, Koteranka & SDM Thannamandi were instructed to hold regular meetings with CDPOs & ZEOs to identify the left-over 0-5 years age population and enroll them through operators of ICDS, SSA & CSCs. The process should be completed as swiftly as possible.

The DC Rajouri stressed the

importance of daily reporting formats and instructed all ADCs/SDM Thannamandi to provide status updates on a daily basis.

Recognizing the crucial role of accuracy, efficiency, and comprehensive coverage in the enrollment process, Vikas Kundal issued directives for vigilant supervision and continuous monitoring by all relevant officers. This hands-on approach ensures that citizens receive accurate Aadhaar documentation, enabling them to seamlessly access benefits offered through various government initiatives.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reiterated the unwavering dedication of the district administration to achieving universal Aadhaar enrollment. The meeting served as a platform for reviewing past achievements and strategizing for future phases of implementation.

During the meeting, officers engaged in discussions regarding potential challenges in the Aadhaar enrollment process. They highlighted the previous organization of special camps across the district, targeting both government and private schools. The officers pledged to continue organizing camps to ensure comprehensive coverage for any remaining beneficiaries.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress of several schemes of RDD



JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting here to review the progress of several ongoing schemes being executed by the Rural Development Department (RDD) in the district. During the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Dr. Bashir Ahmad briefed the DC about the status of various programs like Solid Waste Management, PMAY, Amrit Sarovar and Meri Maati Mera Desh through a powerpoint presentation. ACD informed the DC that EOIs had been floated and stand allotted to three agencies in three clusters for 7 blocks at district level

for the successful implementation of the SWM project. It was also informed that vehicles including Vans and e-Carts are also allotted to clusters for door to door collection of waste. The DC asked the ACD to devise a format for daily collection waste which should be given to all agencies and shall be monitored regularly. The DC also reviewed the status of Community Compost Pits and Community Soakage Pits proposed block wise and it was informed that 142 Community Compost Pits are proposed in all blocks out of which 76 are completed besides 124 are under progress.

Similarly, 200 Soakage Pits are proposed out of which 144 are completed and rest are under progress. The DC impressed upon the con-

cerned officers to redouble the efforts and complete all the works on time. He also reviewed the status of SBM machinery procured under 14th FC saving like bailing machines, shredders, garbage Hoppers and other machinery.

While reviewing the status of PMAY (SECC) 2016-17 and Non-SECC 2021 onwards, ACD informed that 279 targets were fixed under PMAY (SECC) 2016-17 and 100 percent target was achieved. Similarly, under PMAY Non-SECC 2021 onwards 5390 Households were identified out of which 2858 are found eligible.

Regarding Amrit Sarovar 2022-23, the ACD informed that 83 works were proposed under MGNREGA and other departments and all works stand completed. Besides, under UT CAPEX 8 works are proposed at the cost of Rs 8.19 lakh out of which 2 are completed.

Similarly, under Amrit Sarovar 2023-24, 94 works are proposed and 18 are completed and under UT CAPEX 6 beautification works are proposed at the cost of Rs 51 lakh and 1 work stand completed.

Interacting with the officers, the DC stressed to work in coordination and synergy to ensure smooth and speedy execution of works in all blocks.

Group of 100 men & women farmers flagged off for one day Interstate Exposure Visit by DC Kathua

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas today flagged off a batch of 100 famers for One day Interstate Exposure visit to Regional Research Station, Gurdaspur, Punjab under "Promotion of Oil Seeds" programme being implemented by Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare department. Chief Agriculture Officer, Sanjeev Rai and other officers and officials of Agriculture Department were also present.

At the Flagging off ceremony, the DC Kathua said such exposure visit helps farmers to acquaint themselves with new



farming techniques besides providing them an opportunity to get in depth knowhow of latest agricultural practices. He said the idea of sending farmers to Punjab Agriculture University was to keep them abreast with the latest technological upgrading in the field of Agriculture. He urged farmers to take full benefit of such visits by adopting learned techniques in their respective areas. He

appreciated the Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Kathua for their handholding efforts by organizing such exposure visits. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Agriculture Officer said the agriculture department is making relentless efforts for raising farm productivity, reach out to the farming community by organizing different programs and events. He

said the specificity of this visit was the participation of more than 50 women farmers and entrepreneurs from the District which he said will help in empowering women farmers.

AEO, H.Q. Ravi Chohan, AEO Kathua Parmod Kumar, JAEO Ravinder Pal Singh, AEA Nipun Mahajan, AEA Naresh Sangral, Nodal Officers, Women Self Help Groups Kathua Shivali Sharma and Pooja Andotra also accompanied the farmers.

Officers present on the occasion were DAO (Ext.) Kathua Murari Lal Digna, ADO (Veg) Kathua Ashok Kumar, Subject Matter Specialist (DL) Kathua Raj Singh and other officials.

Education Deptt Kulgam Organises Community Mobilization Programme

Sensitization of SMCs, VECs & PRIs priority of programme

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 12: A community mobilization cum sensitization programme for School Management Committees (SMCs), Village Education Committees (VECs) and PRI members was today organised by the Zonal Education Office Kulgam under the aegis of SAMAGRA Shiksha at DIET Kulgam. Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parray; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat; ADDC Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather along with many officers of the Education Department graced the occasion. VEC members, SMCs, PRIs, senior citizens, teachers, students, retired Govt. Employees, youth and many Govt employees from other departments were partici-



parted in the programme. Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman DDC said that the programme aims to improve, streamline and strengthen the Education sector. He applauded the teachers and showered praise on them for their exemplary work. The Deputy Commissioner speaking on the occasion stressed upon concerned stakeholders to take active and

fruitful measures to improve female literacy rate and work proactively to get the dropouts enrolled. He also highlighted the role of PRIs in the implementation of various schemes and development of their concerned areas. ADDC Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather highlighted the role of education and encouraged PRIs and other stakeholders to

come forward and revive the education system for the future of children in their localities.

It was informed that the programme aimed to sensitize the stakeholders about their role in bringing a positive change in the educational scenario of the Zone and it also aimed at uniting the stakeholders to work proactively to mobilize communities to attain the goal of quality education.

During the programme, community members were also made aware of different government schemes and were urged to promote government schools and work for their upliftment which would help in attaining the dream of quality education. Various colourful cultural items related to Community Mobilization were presented by the students of different schools.

Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu reviews performance of Department in Districts

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: Dr Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Director Sheep Husbandry, Jammu today reviewed the performance of the department in the districts here at a meeting held in the Directorate office. The meeting was attended by

District Sheep Husbandry Officers and Farm Officers wherein threadbare discussion was held regarding implementation of different schemes of the department during the year 2023-24. The Director exhorted the field as well as farm officers to achieve the assigned targets under the

schemes like HADP, ISDS, TSP etc within the prescribed time. Discussion was also held on various issues being faced by the farm as well as field officers in the implementation of the schemes of the department so that these issues are resolved at an earliest for achieving the desired results.

Two days National Workshop on Shaala Sidhi concludes at Srinagar

Pr. Secy Education addresses valedictory session of workshop

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: The Two day long National level workshop on 'Shaala Sidhi' concluded here today. Addressing the valedictory session of the workshop, Principal Secretary, Education, Alok Kumar underscored the importance of Shaala Sidhi in empowering schools to chart their own development course. He emphasized that this visionary initiative provides schools a structured framework for self-assessment, enabling them to systematically evaluate their performance, pinpoint areas for improvement with decisions based on robust data. He also lauded the region's steadfast commitment to furnish every child with quality education, hailing the workshop as a pivotal stride towards the realization of this aspiration.

Alok Kumar elucidated on a series of innovative initiatives complementary to Shaala Sidhi. He illuminated the essence of SAMIKSHA, designed to solicit invaluable feedback from students on classroom interactions,

with the overarching aim of bolstering learning outcomes and informing tailor-made training programs for educators.

He expounded upon the School Complex System, an innovative approach designed to optimize the allocation of resources, both human and material, with the ultimate goal of enhancing student achievement. He highlighted that upgradation of civil infrastructure in the UT of J&K has attained pace and Lieutenant Governor recently inaugurated civil work projects worth Rs 164 Crores under Samagra Shiksha & UT Capex, besides launching scores of new initiatives for enhancing learning outcomes of students. Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Deep Raj, in his remarks said that the workshop is a collaborative effort of National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi, and Samagra Shiksha, Jammu and Kashmir, which unveiled an ambitious vision for the transformation of the education landscape. He added that this workshop served a unique platform

for profound discussions, exchange of expertise and insights on teaching methodologies and performance enhancement within educational institutions. He also spoke on transformative vision underpinning the Shaala Sidhi initiative, an integrated web-based school evaluation system poised to comprehensively assess and enhance myriad facets of school functioning. While speaking on the occasion, Director School Education, Kashmir, Tassaduq Hussain echoed the department's unwavering commitment towards changing schools into vibrant bastions of learning. He highlighted on the pivotal role played by workshops like Shaala Sidhi in charting new frontiers for educational enhancement. Pertinently, the two day workshop was organised by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi in collaboration with the Samagra Shiksha, J&K and was attended by CEOs, DIET Principals, ZEOs, and Hols representing various districts of Kashmir Division.

FCS&CA-K holds Awareness programme on Online Services at Bemina, Srinagar

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: The Department of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Srinagar today organized a daylong awareness programme at SDA Park Bemina Srinagar as part of an awareness camp.

The Director FCS&CA Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Sofi was chief guest on the occasion while as Deputy Director FCS&CA, Najwan Nazki was the guest of honour. Speaking on the occasion the Director FCS&CA-K highlighted the positive impact of online services and achievements of the department.

On this occasion, the Assistant Director Srinagar South, Shohab Latief elaborated and gave an extensive presentation of various schemes of the department wherein additional 10 Kilograms of food grains over and above regular monthly food grains are being provided to PHH beneficiaries under PMFS. He asked the rationees to avail this facility at all the Govt Sale Centers/Fair Price Shops of district Srinagar. He further said that the Department has moved to online (Automated) mode of ration distribution through



Aadhar enabled/Biometric based point of Sale (POS) Devices, as it simplifies the process, brings good Governance, Transparency and efficiency and also enables the rationees to get their ration entitlement in a convenient and hassle-free manner. After this, there was an interaction session between the public and the Tehsil Supply Officers of the department wherein the queries raised by the public were redressed on spot. After this e-Tickets under AAY/PHH categories were handed over to the rationees by the Director FCS&CA-K, Assistant Director, & Corporator SMC Bemina West.

Among others, Chief Accounts Officer, Aaliya; Assistant Director Srinagar South, Shohab Latief; Assistant Director Srinagar North, Mohd Yousuf; Corporator SMC Bemina West, Shameema; President Food & Supplies Association, Aijaz Ahmad Khan; Tehsil Supply Officers and other Officials of the department and respectable dignitaries of the Mohalla Committees of Bemina and other adjoining areas attended the event.

Anganwadi workers sensitized about their roles & responsibilities as members of SAKHI club at Ganderbal



J I NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today addressed Anganwadi workers during a mega awareness and meeting event organized by SAKHI - Club Ganderbal, to discuss and understand their roles and responsibilities as members of SAKHI club at Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

SAKHI (Support and Knowledge Hub for Improvement) is a community-based initiative aimed at empowering women and promoting gender equality.

The event was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Mushtaq Simmani, District Program Officer, District Social Welfare Officer and other officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the alarming increase in domestic violence against women in day-to-day life and stressed the need for clubs like SAKHI to combat

these issues effectively. He encouraged the Anganwadi workers to play a pivotal role in creating awareness and providing support to women in their respective areas.

The DC said that SAKHI club members are responsible for raising awareness about women's rights, gender equality, and safety within their communities.

The event commenced with an opening address by the organizers, emphasizing the importance of the SAKHI - Club Ganderbal in addressing the issues related to crimes against women and promoting their well-being.

They are expected to provide a support system for women who are victims of abuse or violence, connecting them with relevant authorities and resources.

ADDC while speaking on the occasion emphasized the importance of collaboration between different departments to ensure the success of SAKHI - Club Ganderbal.

The District Program Officer discussed the various programs and initiatives that would be undertaken by the SAKHI club in the near future.

DSWO talked about the support and resources that the District Social Welfare Office would provide to SAKHI club members.

Later, the event featured interactive sessions where Anganwadi workers had the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification, and share their ideas for the betterment of the club's objectives.

The event concluded on a positive note, with a sense of commitment and enthusiasm among the Anganwadi workers to carry out their roles effectively within the club.

The organizers expressed their gratitude to all the dignitaries and participants for their active involvement in the event, which was a significant step towards creating a safer and more inclusive society for women in Ganderbal.

The event served as a platform to inspire and mobilize the senior Anganwadi workers of Ganderbal to actively participate in the SAKHI - Club's mission of empowering women and promoting gender equality.

Meanwhile the SAKHI -Club kits were distributed among several participants who voluntarily wanted to join the Club. It was a vital step towards making Ganderbal a safer and more inclusive place for women.

Exciting Action unfolds at the Ongoing Inter-District Provincial Handball Competition at Baramulla

J I NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 12: The fervor of youth sports reached its zenith at the Indoor Stadium Khawaja Bagh in District Baramulla as the ongoing Inter-District Provincial Handball Competition for Under 14, 17, and 19 boys continues to captivate audiences.

This sporting extravaganza, organized by the Youth Services & Sports Kashmir Division is showcasing the immense talent and competitive spirit of young athletes.

After the exhilarating conclusion

of the under 14 handball competition yesterday, the spotlight now shines on the under 17 age category.

Ten districts from the picturesque Kashmir province participated, showcasing their prowess on the handball court.

The competition was fierce, but ultimately, four districts emerged victorious and secured their spots in the upcoming semifinals.

The under 17 competition was inaugurated by Jatinder Singh, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Baramulla. Alongside him, all the Zonal Physical Education

Officers (ZPEOs) of the department gathered at the kick-off of the event with a heartfelt pledge for a drug-free India. The proud participants and spectators joined in unison to sing the national anthem, setting a patriotic tone for the gripping matches that followed.

The semifinals of the under 17 handball competition are scheduled to take place tomorrow, promising more exhilarating action. The competition in the under 19 category is also on the horizon, ensuring that the fervor of handball continues to grip the hearts of sports enthusiasts in Kashmir.

GDC Neeli Nallah organises workshop on "Role of Yoga in Management of Substance-Use Disorders"



J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: NSS Unit, Sewak, Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur today organized one day workshop on the theme "Role of Yoga in Management of Substance-Use Disorders" under the banner Nasha Mukh Bharat.

The programme started with lightening of ceremonial lamp by the Principal, Yoga experts, staff members and followed by welcome address by the NSS PO, Dr. Radha Rani. The session started with

Dhvani "OM" by Shreekrishna Sharma. Then the second expert K.C Gupta introduced participants about different Yoga Asanas like presence of mind, scientific meditation, will power, How to listen to a lecture, clapping therapy, nostril control, self examination, precautions, a sound mind in a sound body, self motivation, personality improvement etc.

They encouraged all the students to involve themselves in various types of asanas and meditations. While addressing the students, Principal of the College, Prof. Hans

Raj stated that the objective of the workshop is to raise awareness about the ancient practices of yoga and its positive impact on physical and mental well being and he urged the participants to adopt yoga as a part of their daily routine life. Students performed various Yoga asana for management of substance. The participants felt very relaxed and positive after performing yoga and meditation sessions, as they shared it during the interactive session.

The workshop is being organized under the able guidance of Prof. Hans Raj, Principal of the College. Dr. Radha Rani, NSS PO was the convener of the programme and Dr. Swati Dutt was the organizer of the event.

Others present in the workshop were Pardeep Kumar, Kumari Mahima Bhagat, Dr. Akhter Hussain, Zahoor Ahmed Mir and Neha Dev.

SEC reviews 2nd supplement of Panchayat Electoral Roll in UT

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: State Election Commissioner (SEC), B R Sharma today convened a meeting to review the preparations for adding left out voters in Panchayat Electoral Roll by way of new Supplement. During the review meeting, SEC asked DCs to ensure that no eligible voters with respect to 1.1.23 as qualifying date is left out of current process of updation which will be stated from 20th of Sept and will culminate on 20th of October. A tentative schedule was shared with the Deputy Commissioners to start pre-updation activities.

The meeting held brief discussions on availability of soft/hard copies of Panchayat Electoral Rolls-2023 for displaying the same for preparing 2-d Supplement, Printing of



electoral rolls /forms and availability of infrastructure. Strategy to include new voters in Panchayat rolls whose names already exist in Assembly Rolls w.r.t 01.01.2023 as qualifying date, availability of ERO/AERO/Panchayat Election Booth Officials (PEBO) and updation of their names and other details on websites of Districts as well as on SEC website.

The mechanism of updation and printing both online and offline mode i.e (passwords etc for the users & user IDs

and role of NIC/DIOs), requirement of funds by each District for the Electoral Roll (Updation & SVEEP activity), tentative Schedule of Revision, Handbook for revision of rolls, meeting of DCs with District Technical team headed by DIO of concerned District and (ERO/ AERO/PLBOs) along with RDD functionaries Was also discussed. The SEC sought details from all deputy commissioners regarding polling stations, physical verification of polling stations, classification of

polling stations into various categories, availability of minimum basic facilities, Migrant voter, besides, other special category of voters and Panchayat wise availability of their data for use in Election. The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners, Secretary SEC, Director RDD Kashmir, Director RDD Jammu, Director Panchayat Raj, Jammu, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, J&K State Informatics Officers, Dy DEOs, DPOs and other concerned.

Fortnightly activities under Gandhi Jayanti commence at GCW Udhampur

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: The fortnightly activities under Gandhi Jayanti celebrations commenced today at Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur.

On the Day one, NSS unit, in collaboration with the Department of Music under the guidance of Prof. Anjali Mahajan, Principal of the college organised Nukkad Natak on the themes Nasha Mukh Bharat and Bhraashatchar Mukh JK.

The objective of organizing this Nukkad Natak was to spread awareness among the students about hazards of drug abuse, misuse, drug addiction, corruption etc. The Natak also aimed at encouraging the students to contribute their bit in the eradication of the menace of drug addiction and corruption from our society.

About 60 students witnessed the Nukkad Natak with great enthusiasm. Volunteers who presented the



Nukkad Natak on the said theme received a lot of applause from the audience.

The Nukkad Natak was organised by, Sumita Rao, NSS PO, and Yash Kumar, Department of Music while the technical assistance was

provided by Dr. Kewal Kumar, Department of Botany.

The others among teaching faculty Ms. Tania Akhter, Tania Mahajan, Yash Paul and Sanjeev Upadhyay were present during the Nukkad Natak.

Severe heat wave grips Kashmir, courtesy climate change

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 12

Owing to the climate change in Kashmir, the prolonged dry spell in Jammu and Kashmir parts has presently resulted in severe heat wave conditions, breaking the decades old records in the month of September here in the Union Territory.

With no active Monsoon activity and also the absence of the Western Disturbance, there has been a sudden increase in the maximum temperature across Jammu and Kashmir, Deputy Director Meteorological department (MeT) told the news agency.

The experts have stated that the prevalent weather conditions are the outcome of climate change. "The main driver of this sudden change in weather conditions is climate change. There is a possibility of erratic weather conditions due to climate change. In that

context, snowfall was recorded in the month of November in 2018-19, which is due to climate change. So the present heat wave is also a part of the erratic weather conditions," Dr Irfan Rashid, an expert said.

"In the ensuing autumn, Kashmir may witness different kinds of weather events that will follow as a part of ongoing regional climate change, which Kashmir is experiencing," Dr Irfan Rashid added. He further stated that the weather system might have weakened, which has led to the prolonged dry spell, but it needs to be researched properly meteorologically. About climate change, he said that the people at present mostly rely on conventional fossil fuel, which led to the increase in regional emissions. "The governments as well as the policy makers need to look into it, which can reduce the carbon footprint and can help somehow to tackle the situa-

tion," he added.

Deputy Director MeT, Dr Mukhar Ahmad told KNO the present heat wave is the outcome of prolonged dry spell, saying that there was no active Monsoon activity and also the absence of Western Disturbances have led to the present weather conditions.

"The present heat wave conditions will continue for the next one week. There is a forecast of hot and dry weather conditions till September 15, following which the weather conditions would improve," he said. Moreover, Srinagar once again recorded the hottest day in the month of September. According to the Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, Srinagar has recorded the second highest maximum temperature in the month of September since 1891.

The maximum temperature in Srinagar settled at 34.2 degree Celsius, which is 6.0 degree Cel-

sus above normal.

The previous record was 33.8 degree Celsius on 01 September 1970 while the all-time record was 35.0 degree Celsius on 18 September 1934, Keng informed.

Moreover, Kokernag and Qazigund continued to witness severe heat wave conditions as the mercury settled 6.6 degree Celsius and 6.7 degree Celsius above normal respectively.

In Qazigund, the maximum temperature settled at 33.2 degree Celsius, he said, adding that the previous record was 32.8 degree Celsius on 12 September 2019 while the all-time record is 33.2 degree Celsius.

As per Keng, the maximum temperature in Kokernag settled at 32.0 degree Celsius, which is also similar to the all-time hottest day in September recorded in September 1977 while the previous record was 31.8 degree Celsius on 02 September 2023. KNO

Foreign Tourist arrivals show increasing trend; 30647 guests visit Kashmir so far

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 12

Foreign tourism is in a revival mode in Kashmir as 30647 foreign guests have visited the Valley since January this year forcing the travel agents to dole out various new services to lure more high end-visitors.

As per news agency, Kashmir, which for the last two years broke records for receiving maximum tourists, has been a destination for domestic tourists majorly.

"This year, the number of foreign tourists to the valley has swelled as more than 30647 foreigners have visited the valley till now," an official privy to the development said.

As per the officials, the valley this year has received bulk tourists from countries including Europe, Thailand, Malaysia and the Middle East.

Witnessing the surge in foreign tourists, the department is going to participate in international tourism trade fairs to promote Kashmir tourism across the world.

"Apart from the domestic travel fairs, we are going to participate in international travel trade fairs to promote Kashmir tourism. Moreover, 75 new offbeat destinations are also coming up primarily to attract foreign tourists," an official said.

The travel agents, as such, have included various services in their pack-

ages to cater to foreign tourists.

From trekking to greater lakes to heritage tours, travel agents have framed special packages for foreign tourists.

"This year we have witnessed an increase in foreign tourists. This has happened post-G20 summit, as a strong message went to foreign countries that Kashmir is safe for tourists. Right now, travel agents are also individually in touch with foreign associations to promote Kashmir," said the President Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) Farooq Ahmad Kuthoo.

"Travel agents have also floated their packages, which include various services of adventure and offbeat trips to lure foreign tourists. Similarly, hoteliers too are contributing to provide services of international standard to the tourists to make their stay in Kashmir a memorable one," he added.

Kuthoo hoped that the travel advisory by many countries would also be lifted to further promote Kashmir as an international tourism destination.

Pertinently, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday also said that around 300 new destinations including heritage sites, offbeat, adventure and spiritual destinations are being developed to provide a variety of gateway options for domestic and foreign tourists. KNO

Teenage girl found hanging at her home in Budgam village

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, SEP 12

A teenage girl was found hanging at her home in Khansahib area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on

Tuesday. An official told the news agency that a 19-year-old girl was found hanging at her home, following which she was rushed to a nearby hospital. He said that the doctors at Khansahib hos-

pital declared her dead on arrival. "The body will be handed over to the family for last rites after medico-legal formalities, while further investigation has been started," he said. KNO

NC, PDP set to attend maiden meeting of INDIA's 14-member coordination committee in New Delhi

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 12

National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leadership is all set to attend the maiden meeting of the 14-member coordination committee of the opposition alliance INDIA on Wednesday.

The leaders from both the regional parties—NC &

PDP stated that the respective party leadership will attend the meeting tomorrow where a bunch of issues will be raised. The meeting is scheduled to be held tomorrow at NCP supremo Sharad Pawar's residence in New Delhi.

The former chief minister of erstwhile J&K state—NC Vice President Omar Abdullah and PDP President Meh-

booba Mufti will attend the meeting tomorrow.

Pertinently, Omar and Mehbooba have been appointed as members of coordination committee and election strategy committee of INDIA alliance, a grouping of opposition parties.

National Conference (NC) Chief Spokesperson, Tanvir Sadiq told the news agency,

that the meeting is very crucial, the party leadership is going to attend the meeting tomorrow.

"We are going to attend the meeting," Sadiq said, adding that there are many issues that will be raised, but as if now there is no particular agenda for the meeting and anything that will be raked up in the meeting will be made public accordingly.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

4 killed as boulder...

deceased as Mohammad Afzal Garoo, his brother Mohammad Altaf Garoo, sons of Abdul Aziz Garoo from Redwani Kulgam and Irfan Ahmed, his brother Showkat Ahmed sons of Abdul Hamid Bhat from Srigufwara Anantnag.

Meanwhile, a pall of gloom descended in Redwani and Srigufwara villages when bodies of four people arrived there. KNO

On national security...

parties are holding the power", the defence minister said, as per news agency, adding that "I want to congratulate everyone for the completion of these vital border projects. The strength of India is that when there is a challenge to our national security or a threat to Bharat Mata (mother India), all political parties set aside their ideological differences and come together to face the adversary".

Praising BRO and calling it as a "bro (brother)" of the armed forces, he said through its infrastructure projects, the agency is not only securing India's borders, but also playing a key role in the socioeconomic development of far-flung areas.

Earlier, Singh dedicated 90 infrastructure projects BRO, worth over Rs 2,900 crore, spread across 11 States/Union Territories. These include Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh; two airfields in West Bengal; two helipads; 22 roads and 63 bridges. Of these 90 projects, 36 are in Arunachal Pradesh; 26 in Ladakh; 11 in Jammu & Kashmir; five in Mizoram; three in Himachal Pradesh; two each in Sikkim, Uttarakhand & West Bengal and one each in Nagaland, Rajasthan and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The BRO has completed the construction of these strategically-important projects in record time; most of them in a single working season using state-of-the-art technology.

Singh credited the timely completion of these projects to the hard work & dedication of its personnel as well as the commitment of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The event was organised at Devak Bridge on Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur Road, which was inaugurated by the defence minister. The state-of-the-art 422.9 meter long Class 70 RCC Devak bridge is of strategic importance as it will enhance the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces and boost socio-economic development of the region.

Nyoma Airfield

In addition, Rajnath Singh virtually laid the foundation stone of Nyoma Airfield in Eastern Ladakh. This airfield, to be developed at a cost of approx. Rs 200 crore, will boost the air infrastructure in Ladakh and augment IAF's capability along the Northern border. The Raksha Mantri exuded confidence that this airfield, which will be one of the world's highest, would prove to be a game-changer for the Armed Forces.

The Raksha Mantri also expressed hope the BRO will soon set another unique record with the construction of Shinkun La Tunnel, the world's highest tunnel at an altitude of 15,855 feet. The tunnel will connect Lahaul-Spiti in Himachal to the Zaskar Valley in Ladakh and provide all weather connectivity, he said, commending the BRO for developing infrastructure in border areas and making an invaluable contribution to the security of the nation.

Rajnath Singh emphasised that infrastructure development in border areas is not only effective for national security, but also promotes connectivity with a neighboring country which functions with a spirit of cooperation with India. He pointed out that the BRO has constructed infrastructure projects in several countries such as Myanmar & Bhutan and helped in strengthening

peace and cooperation with them.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology and Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office Dr Jitendra Singh, Member of Parliament, Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma, Director General, Border Roads Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha were among those present on the occasion—(KNO)

Invest more in...

He was of the view that although R&D is a risky venture as it requires out-of-the-box thinking and sometimes does not give desired results, it still remains one of the basic elements for the development of any country. Hence, capital investment in R&D becomes a necessity, he emphasised.

"India is passing through a transitional phase. There is nothing wrong in acquiring a technology through imitation or transfer, but we cannot become a developed nation on these grounds alone. We need to file our own patents, for which a lot of investment in R&D is needed. Capital investment in R&D may reduce today's profits, but it will prove to be beneficial to the industry and the country in the long term," the defence minister said.

He urged the industry partners to focus on creating a culture that encourages R&D, based on skilled human resources. He suggested linking the work of institutes such as IITs, IIMs and IISCs with the defence sector in order to create an R&D ecosystem in the field.

He added that efforts should be made to connect with the Indian R&D sector, the engineers and scientists who work in top universities, companies, space agencies & scientific research organisations abroad and wish to be a part of India's growth story.

He also recommended hiring of top managers, legal experts and financial experts from within the country and abroad to create a culture conducive of R&D.

Rajnath underlined that fact that to obtain the services of top talents, there is a need to create a good work culture & positive environment and adopt new HR standards.

"We cannot run our workforce in the 21st century on the basis of the HR policy of 19th century. The quality of work is more important than the number of hours worked. Focus should be on intellect and innovation. A work culture needs to be developed where there is a concept of senior and junior; not superior and inferior. There is a need to involve women in R&D with more effectiveness," he said.

Rajnath Singh also suggested SIDM to create an internal vigilance mechanism to counter the potential cases of corruption and favoritism.

"If any company affiliated with you is indulging in any wrongdoing or passing wrong information, then you should bring it before the government. Such actions will further increase people's trust in the institutions," he said.

The North Tech symposium is an event conducted annually and this year it was organised at IIT, Jammu. The event witnessed an enthusiastic participation of around 200 Industry partners and provided an opportunity for knowledge diffusion among various stakeholders to create awareness of contemporary technologies and hardware solutions available with the manufacturers under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

On the occasion, the defence minister also gave away SIDM Champion awards 2023 to a number of industry partners, including Bharat Forge Limited, TATA Advanced Systems Limited, Larsen & Toubro Limited and IdeaForge Technology Limited.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology and Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office Dr Jitendra Singh, Secretary, Department of

Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi and SIDM President SP Shukla were among those present on the occasion—(KNO)

Developing sustainable mobility...

economy, India has become the 5th largest economy. Soon, we are poised to reach the top 3." Modi reiterated that the automobile industry is both a catalyst and a beneficiary in the value-creation cycle.

The industry has contributed to income growth by employing crores of people, he added.

"At the same time, the automobile industry too has been a beneficiary of greater demand generated by economic growth. The need of the hour today is to develop a mobility ecosystem that is sustainable and in harmony with the environment. Environmentally-conscious and economically viable mobility is the future," Modi wrote in his address.

The Prime Minister also stated that the Indian automobile industry's efforts towards decarbonisation through the introduction of vehicles with a wide range of powertrain technologies are noteworthy.

He further said, "The period till the year 2047, when we celebrate 100 years of Independence, is an opportune time to realise the vision of building a strong, sustainable, self-reliant and developed India. I am confident that the discussions among industry experts and key stakeholders at this convention will help draw a pathway for the automobile industry towards achieving the goals of Amrit Kaal." Modi also stressed the need to continue and enhance concerted efforts for reducing both carbon emissions and India's dependence on oil imports citing multiple alternative technologies such as ethanol, flex fuel, CNG, bio-CNG, hybrid electric and hydrogen which are in use at present. (Agencies)

Delhi HC grants...

had rejected his bail plea.

On Special Public Prosecutor for NIA Akshai Malik asking for 10 days time to file documents, the court granted it time and posted the matter for next hearing on September 22.

On August 7, senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, representing Shah, had argued that the case lacked substantial evidence, referring to it as a "no material case".

He had said that a charge sheet had already been filed by the probe agency, adding that the trial had commenced and charges had been framed. He had further said that Shah's appeal against the order framing charges was pending before the court, and he intended to argue that there was a lack of material evidence.

The court had issued notice and directed the NIA to submit relevant material within the next two weeks, posting the matter for the next hearing for September 12.

"In the absence of any material/material against the appellant, the prolonged period of incarceration, the impossibility of speedy trial with 400 witnesses to be examined by the prosecution, the appellant seeks bail," the appeal states.

"Appellant has been incarcerated for over four years in the present FIR and intermittently for 35 years in different prisons in Kashmir and the country apart from being under house arrest for a substantial period, without a single conviction or charge against him. A total of 9 PSAs against him have been quashed and it is only now that he has been charged for the first time by the ED in case ECIR no./04/DZ/2007, in which too, the Appellant maintains his innocence," it adds.

Shah was arrested in June 2019, and is alleged to have played a significant role in establishing a separatist

movement in Jammu and Kashmir. He is also accused of honouring the families of deceased terrorists, receiving funds through hawala transactions, and raising money via LoC trade to support subversive and militant activities.

The NIA has claimed that several individuals accused of conspiring to gather funds to disrupt the situation in Kashmir and wage war against the Indian government have been involved.

Shah was included as a defendant in the second supplementary charge sheet filed by the NIA on October 4, 2019. (Agencies)

Army canine Kent...

the exchange of fire.

Last week, a terrorist was killed in a joint operation conducted by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police in the Reasi district.

"War-like stores including one AK series assault rifle with magazines were recovered during the search following the encounter," an official said.

Indian Army defused an Improvised explosive device (IED) in the same region on September 3. ^{KNO}

Wait for some...

to open the roads to India.

On the success of the G20, the minister said: "The G-20 event has been successful. Such an organised event has never happened before. Around 200 meetings were organised in 60 cities of the country."

He said that other countries too have praised India for organising such a successful event.

"India has achieved a big victory in the collective manifesto issued in the conference. The world was divided on many issues including Ukraine, but with the wisdom of Prime Minister Modi, we all together have found a way out that no country had any objection to," the minister said while addressing a press conference at BJP's Parivartan Sankalp Yatra in Dausa.

He said that the formation of the Biofuel Alliance and the corridor from India to Europe will pave the way for India's economic progress.

"Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has also welcomed the joint declaration of G-20," he said.

On the question about the BJP's chief minister face in the state, he said that wherever elections are held, BJP does not declare the chief minister face but contests elections only on the charisma of the Prime Minister.

"Everyone should assume that the party will give opportunity to such leaders who are good, useful and on whom the public has confidence," he said. (Agencies)

J&K Court sentences...

has doomed irreparably.

However, the prosecution strongly objected to the plea for leniency.

The prosecution, led by additional public prosecutor Zia ur Rehman Khan, said it will be a mockery of justice to permit the accused to escape the extreme penalty of law when faced with such evidence.

The common man will lose faith in the courts, Khan added.

He said it is the duty of every court to award proper sentence and that undue sympathy would do more harm to the justice system.

Delegation of JKPS...

Suresh Chib and Abhishek Sharma expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for the release of NFS Scales of Grades. KNO

District Administration, Handicrafts-Handloom Department Join Forces to Organize 2-Day Craft Carnival 2023



JI NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary today chaired a meeting in his chamber bringing together prominent officers from the district to discuss the arrangements for the upcoming Craft Carnival 2023.

The event, organized by the Handicrafts/Handloom Department in collaboration with the District Administration, is scheduled to take place on September 14th and 15th.

Chief Executive Officer, PDA, Dr. Mohd. Tanveer Khan; PO ICDS, Khalid Hussain Wafa; ACD, Abid Hussain Shah; Chief Education Officer, Bishamber Dass; DSWO, Mohinder Paul; AD Handloom/Handicraft, Shazia Rehman; ARTO, Chowdhary Jamsheed Rasool; DEPO, N.M Suri; District Culture Officer Rajouri/Poonch, Dr. Alamdar Adam; AEE Aslam Khan; AHTO, Parupkar Singh besides other concerned officers were present in the meeting. During the meeting, the

Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of cooperation among the various departments to ensure the overall success of the Craft Carnival. Several key directives were issued to the concerned departments to guarantee a seamless experience for the attendees.

To maintain cleanliness and hygiene, the Executive Officer of the Municipal Council has been instructed to ensure the cleanliness of the venue, Krishan Chander Park, and its surrounding areas. Sufficient dustbins will be installed, and Safai Karamcharis will be deployed to maintain cleanliness throughout the event. Additionally, two mobile toilets will be set up at the venue for the convenience of the attendees.

The Executive Engineer of Jal Shakti Poonch has been directed to ensure a smooth supply of drinking water at the venue. Temporary taps will be installed, and arrangements for a water tanker for the duration of the event will be made. The Executive Engineer of JPDC Poonch will be responsible for pro-

viding uninterrupted power supply during the Craft Carnival.

The issue of security arrangements was entrusted to the police authority, ensuring a safe environment for all participants and visitors.

To mobilize public participation, the Chief Education Officer, the PO, ICDS Poonch, the Heads of different Government Degree Colleges and the District Social Welfare Officer will actively engage youth, students, teachers, PRIs, and the general public to encourage their involvement in the Craft Carnival.

Efforts will also be made to facilitate smooth traffic movement near the venue. The installation of poles for multicolored flags will be taken care of by the Executive Engineer of PWD (R&B) Poonch, who will ensure an adequate number of poles using pipes at the venue.

Medical facilities, including a medical camp and an ambulance, will be available on-site for the duration of the event, ensuring the well-being of all attendees.

Various departments, such as GM DIC, DSWO, Project Manager NRLM, and Women Development Co-operation, have been directed to set up stalls showcasing their respective initiatives and offerings.

To ensure extensive media coverage, the District Information Officer of Poonch and the Assistant Director of AIR Poonch have been tasked with telecasting and providing publicity for the event on All India Radio and local channels. The participation of media personnel will be coordinated by the District Information Officer.

Accommodation arrangements for artisans and weavers will be facilitated by the Executive Officer of PDA and the Executive Engineer of PWD (R&B) Poonch.

Lastly, the Cultural Officer of Rajouri-Poonch, Dr. Alamdar Adam, will liaison with AD Handloom/Handicraft Poonch to organize musical programs and live painting during the event. The District Cultural Officer will provide the sound system at the venue.

District Election Authority hosts Training for Nodal Officers at Kishtwar



JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 12: In anticipation of the forthcoming Municipal Elections, the District Election Authority Kishtwar, under the guidance and supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav who is also the District Election Officer (DEO), organized a one-day comprehensive training program for Nodal Officers here today in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

This intensive training program

encompassed a diverse range of critical topics, including security protocols, Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) preparation, strict adherence to the Model code of conduct, execution of SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) initiatives, rigorous expenditure monitoring, effective media communication strategies, adept material management, seamless manpower coordination, SMS monitoring, computerization/randomization procedures, and meticulous transportation planning.

During the training programme, emphasis was laid on the pivotal role of Nodal Officers in harmonious collaboration and efficient coordination to uphold the values of a free, fair, and transparent Urban Local Bodies election.

State Level Master Trainer (SLMT) Riaz Ahmed Butt provided a comprehensive overview of the roles and responsibilities assigned to each designated Nodal Officer.

Speaking on the occasion, ACR Kishtwar Varunjeet Singh Charak encouraged all attendees to actively engage in the training programs and adhere rigorously to the guidelines established by the Election Commission of India (ECI), in order to facilitate a seamless election process. Furthermore, it was informed in the meeting that Nodal Officers have been entrusted with the task of devising meticulous plans and submitting them within the stipulated time frame to the Deputy District Election Officer (Dy DEO) Naresh Kumar, thereby ensuring the smooth and equitable conduct of the upcoming municipal elections. Joint Director Planning also shared valuable insights into the ongoing preparations and activities undertaken by the district in anticipation of the forthcoming Municipality elections.

Among others, the officers and officials of the District Election Cell also remained present on the occasion.

GDC Kishtwar hosts screening of documentary on Mahatma Gandhi's life, legacy



JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 12: Government Degree College Kishtwar today hosted a documentary screening titled "MAHATMA GANDHI AND NATION BUILDING" in the college's conference hall.

The event was part of the fortnightly activities being organized by

the College from today to 2nd October, commemorating the forthcoming Gandhi Jayanti 2023.

Under the patronage of Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal of the College, and with the invaluable guidance and support of Dr. Vijay Kumar, Prof. Randeep Kumar, and Prof. Sonika, the event unfolded seamlessly. The documentary screening

attracted a vibrant audience, with a total of 150 students in attendance, joined by dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff members from the college. The occasion served as an educational and inspiring tribute to the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi.

"Mahatma Gandhi and Nation Building" depicted the extraordinary journey of Mahatma Gandhi in his pursuit of truth, non-violence, and the betterment of our nation.

It illuminated his pivotal role in India's struggle for independence and nation-building.

Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal of Government Degree College Kishtwar, expressed her gratitude towards all participants and reiterated the importance of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings in shaping the future of our nation.

This remarkable event aligns with the college's commitment to fostering a sense of patriotism, social responsibility, and moral values among its students.

General Manager reviews performance of Northern Railway

Presented Safety Awards for outstanding achievement for Improving safety
Reviews of Safety and infrastructure work | Emphasis on improvement in Punctuality



JI NEWS SERVICE

Sh. Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager Northern Railway held a review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway and DRMs.

Deliberations were held on keeping focus on passenger amenities at stations like extension of platforms, increase of level of platforms, washable aprons, provision of 2nd entry, foot over bridges, Escalators, lifts facilities for Divyangjans, improvement of station building including façade etc.

He also reviews the progress of mobility enhancement and other

developmental infrastructure works and Freight loading.

Apart from performance review the GM also presented Safety Awards to 9 vigilant employees for their contribution towards maintain high standards for safety and security of passengers and railway property.

He instructed to maintained good record of punctuality of trains and expedites the works related with mobility enhancement and conducting drives to check the progress. He stressed upon the safety during ongoing monsoon season and all efforts should be done to curb any kind of obstruc-

tion during operation of trains. He reviewed the work done over the zone in improving the maintenance standard of track, welds and removal of scrap lying near the tracks.

He also emphasized on focusing on electrical safety on tracks, trains and premises. Enhancing speed of trains is a priority over the zone. Works should be expedited as to complete the projects on time. The GM also took stock of the tree cutting activity and removal of vegetation alongside the tracks.

Sh. Chaudhuri emphasized upon minimizing the human failure in train operation, extensive monitoring of rail fractures and rail welds and said no error should be left.

Talking on freight Business Development, the GM instructed that BDUs should create an environment of trust, support and confidence amongst the customers. He added that the initiatives and concessions offered by the Railways should reach the clients. He also informed that, loading of food grains & other items have steadily increased with every passing month.

Northern Railway is committed to provide safe, smooth and efficient services to its customers.

Power shutdown

Likewise, the power supply to Jhonu, Barmeen and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 16 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Doda, Shiva, Koti Pul Doda, Bharth, Dashnan, Bhabore, Ghat and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 16 from 7 am to 1 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDC O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Sallan, Mela Bhaiya, Patyari, Packka Kootha, Parngoli, Kadather and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 13 from 6 am to 10

am. Similarly, the power supply to Barnoti, Sakta Chack, Chadwal, Chappki Tanda, Fattu Chack and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 13 and 15 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Dewal, ADC Quarter back side, Billawar Town, Kishanpur, Mud Mohalla and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 13 from 7 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Dhar Dugan, Hottar, Coti Kishanpur and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 14 from 7 am to 8.30 am.

JD Employment Jammu inaugurates Three-Month Skill Development Training Program in Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik, Joint Director of Employment Jammu Division, inaugurated a three-month Skill Development Training Program (Associate Electrician) in collaboration with the Government Industrial Training Institute in Udhampur, today.

In his address to the attendees, Dr. Malik emphasized the critical importance of Skill Development Courses, highlighting how they empower unemployed youth by enhancing their skills. He also stressed that the private sector



offers lucrative career opportunities beyond government employment.

Priyanka Gupta, Assistant Director Employment Udhampur, encouraged young participants to wholeheartedly commit to the program, recognizing its potential to significantly improve their job prospects in the current market. The "Associate Electrician" training program aims to provide participants with the essential skills and knowledge required in the rapidly growing Electrical Sector.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Priyanka Gupta, Assistant Director of Employment, who expressed gratitude to all attendees, trainers, and especially Engineer Ravinder Singh Bhatti, Superintendent of ITI Udhampur, for their unwavering support in bringing this Skill Development initiative to fruition. Additionally, as part of the "MUMKIN" Scheme, two vehicles were handed over to unemployed youth in Udhampur District to support their sustainable livelihoods in the transport sector.

Director Panchayati Raj tours Inderwal, Mughal Maidan Blocks of District Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 12: Director Panchayati Raj J&K Khalid Majeed during his tour to District Kishtwar visited Inderwal and Mughal Maidan Blocks.

ACD Kishtwar, Manoj Kumar; BDO Inderwal, Tasleem Wani; BDO

Mughamaidan, Dheeraj Singh and RDD Staff of both the Blocks were present during the tour programme. The Director inspected the assets in Panchayat Chatroo Lower B and Panchayat Sigdi B1 created under SBM-G including Block level Plastic Waste Management Units, Panchayat level solid waste man-

agement units, Shredder Machine, Community Sanitary Complexes, Visual cleanliness and IEC activities. He interacted with sanitary workers as well as PRIs and public and took feedback on what changes they have witnessed during and after villages becoming Model under ODF Plus.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"An eye for and eye will only make the whole world blind." - Mahatma Gandhi

JINDRAH IMAGES

INDIA-CHINA STANDOFF AND POLITICS

An uneasy calm continues to prevail along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh in wake of the ongoing standoff between India and China. In India. The aggression of China has become a debatable point with opposition parties particularly Congress top leaders including Rahul Gandhi accusing the ruling BJP at the Centre of lying and making false statements. Amid these accusations, Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor Brig B D Mishra (ret'd) has rejected the claims of Rahul Gandhi that China has illegally occupied a large part of Indian territory in Ladakh. Without taking the Congress leader's name, the Lieutenant Governor claims that he has seen himself on the ground that not even one square inch of land which the Chinese have occupied. He was of the opinion that the Indian Defence Forces are fully prepared to foil any attempt by the Chinese and to give them a "bloody nose" in case of any misadventure. 'Whatever happened in 1962, that is immaterial. But today we are in occupation of our land to the last inch,' he remarked, adding 'Our armed forces are prepared for any eventuality, and God forbid if the balloon goes up, people will get a bloody nose from us'. The Lieutenant Governor was right in his words as Indian Army troops are capable of defending every square inch of land and nobody can dare to come towards India with any design to have a foothold here. Rahul Gandhi has been critical of the Narendra Modi-led Union government for its policy on China. In the past, he has accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of lying when he asserted that "not even an inch of Ladakh has been taken by China". "I have been saying for years that what the PM said, that not one inch of land was lost in Ladakh, is a lie. The entire Ladakh knows that China has transgressed. This map issue is very serious. They have taken away the land. The PM should say something about it," Rahul Gandhi had said during his recent visit to Ladakh. Recently, China released its new edition of the 'standard map', which included the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, the Aksai Chin region, Taiwan and the disputed South China Sea in it. Chinese troops had erected four tents in Table Top area of Gurung Hills in Chushul area along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh—an area which had been declared as buffer zone by the two armies—PLA and Indian Army, in its bid to provoke Indian troops. The incident was a complete violation of the disengagement agreement. It, however, received a strong and swift reaction from Indian troops who reportedly forced the PLA to remove four tents. The Chinese action of installation of tents in the buffer zone was noticed by the locals who sounded troops. The need of the hour is that two nations should find an amicable solution to it in the larger interests of the people in both countries and sub-continent. War cannot be a substitute for any dispute in present times. Sincere efforts should be made by the Chinese government to resolve all outstanding issues with India for a long lasting peace in the region. Secondly, opposition parties should refrain from making any adverse remarks on LAC and LoC while criticising the government policies. They must remember that the government always works in continuity and whatever may be the situation on the border they should equally share the responsibility.

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Moving away from a GDP-centric prism

ARUN MAIRA

A PARADIGM SHIFT IS REQUIRED IN THE WESTERN-DOMINATED SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

As a citizen of India, that is Bharat, I was proud to see our Prime Minister introduce the heads of powerful states, one by one, to our President and show them the magnificent backdrop of the Nalanda University, the world's first centre of universal knowledge, established in 427 CE, 1500 years before Bologna University, the first European university, was founded in 1088. The time has come for powerful people in the world to humbly learn from the rest and change their ways. The great achievement of India's G20 presidency has been to remind the grouping of the purpose for which it was created in 1999 (and held its first summit in 2008) — to stabilise the global economy, which had been shaken by the financial crisis in the G7 countries, and extend the benefits of economic growth to other nations equitably. The G7 hijacked the G20 summit in Indonesia in 2022 amid the Ukraine war and made it another platform to settle scores with Russia. This year, the US's war of sanctions and its military alliances against China cast another long shadow over the G20. However, India, with the support of Indonesia, Brazil, and South Africa — four 'Southern' nations leading the G20 four years in a row (2022-25) — held firm. The G7, where only 10 per cent of the world's people live, must not hijack the G20 for its geopolitical purposes, they declared. It must be a forum for global development, even as India was able to get the African Union added as the G20's 21st member.

However, the Prime Minister had set the aspirations of India's G20 presidency much higher than to just bring it back on track. The theme of India's presidency, publicised in cities around the country, where hundreds of meetings were held in the run-up to the summit in New Delhi on September 9-10, was Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, translated as 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. This was a paradigm shift from the purpose of the G20, whose vision of globalisation is 'One Earth, One Economy, One Future'. In line with this, the Prime Minister appealed to leaders on the eve of the summit in New Delhi for a "shift away from a GDP-centric view of the world to a human-centric view". Sadly, other than expressions of pious hopes and intentions in the declaration, the GDP-centric view has prevailed in effect. The economic and social costs of a narrow focus on economies are very visible. The G20 declaration admits that "at the midway point to 2030, the global progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is off-track, with only 12 per cent of the targets on track". The private business sector and financial institutions are powerful actors in the GDP paradigm and they measure their own performance in terms of monetary profits and revenues. When the GDP is the overall measure of a country's development, the business and financial sectors' views on public policy will prevail. Thereby, they obtain concessions to increase their revenues and profits to

boost overall economic growth. Paradigms are hard to change from within. Champions of voluntary change in the financial sector, such as Larry Fink of BlackRock, the world's largest investment fund, who stuck his neck out too far for the sector's liking to promote ESG (environmental, social and governance) integration, are brought down to the ground by their own sector. Business and financial sectors have the resources to influence the global policy agenda. The B20 advertised its support of the G20 with four-page advertisements in India's national papers. The L20, which represents the needs of the working people, has been barely visible in comparison. Civil society organisations were distributed across many other '20s', for renewable energy, health, education, etc. Here too, the business and financial sectors were well represented. Sadly, the worth of a dollar invested in education, health and other social sectors is also measured by how much it will increase the GDP in the long run. All for the GDP: then who or what is there for humanity? The G7 and G20 were set up to solve global financial and economic problems. In this vision, social institutions are deformed to increase economic growth. Women's work at home is not valued in the economy. Women are plucked out of their families and trained to work in industrial establishments to contribute to the GDP. 'One Earth, One Family,

One Future' requires a paradigm shift in the concept of well-being of humans. To realise this vision, family values must be nurtured more in so-called 'social enterprises' than their financial valuations in stock markets and contributions to the economy.

A paradigm change requires a power shift, which is always difficult because people with power will not let go. Money gives power; political authority gives power; and formal knowledge gives power too. In fact, this is the basis of a caste system of power in all societies. Those with the power of money, authority and formal higher education are the upper castes in the power hierarchy. They form coalitions among themselves, ostensibly to make life better for the common people who, they say, cannot govern themselves and must be governed by others.

"We cannot solve complex systemic problems with the same ways of thinking that have caused them," Albert Einstein said.

A paradigm shift is necessary in global systems of expertise. It is time for the powers to humbly listen to the people and learn from them, rather than teaching them ways that have led humanity to problems of environmental degradation and economic inequities that must be solved urgently in the next few years.

A paradigm shift is required in Western-dominated systems of knowledge and expertise. Ancient wisdom can teach the modern world a lot about ethics and sustainable living. Women are a half of humanity: their views must not be overpowered by masculine ways of thinking.

How India seized the G20 opportunity

THAT INDIA HAS A GEOPOLITICAL SWEET SPOT OF SORTS HAS BEEN APPARENT FOR SOME TIME.

VJAYKUMAR HARBHISHETAR

There is little doubt that the G20 summit has proved to be PM Modi's crowning diplomatic achievement. In the end, despite what the naysayers said, his team managed to obtain a consensual summit statement that bridged the huge divide between the Western position on Ukraine and that of China and Russia. The second significant achievement was to induct the African Union (AU) as a permanent member. The AU represents 55 member states in Africa, some with fast-growing economies; it will account for a quarter of the world's population by 2050. The Delhi Declaration did not categorically condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine or demand, as did last year's Bali Declaration, Russia's "complete and unconditional withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine". It called on nations to uphold the international law and the UN Charter and "refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state." The Russians were cynically game for this formulation, and the West, keen to boost Modi's success, went along with it. The declaration reminded us that G20 is about international economic cooperation and not geopolitical issues, though the latter can have consequences for the global economy. The declaration also high-

lighted "the human suffering and negative impacts of the war in Ukraine" on the Global South on account of "food and energy security, supply chains, macro-financial stability, inflation and growth."

The summit was as much about Modi as India, the rising power. The Prime Minister has, of course, made sure that everyone knows about it. His photos were everywhere in New Delhi on the posters telling us about the summit and its goals. The capital city was cleaned up, whitewashed and wherever necessary, slum areas were screened off to ensure that Delhi presented its shining face to G20 leaders and officials.

US President Joe Biden and other top leaders were welcomed to the city on Friday. There were notable absentees — Presidents Xi Jinping of China and Vladimir Putin of Russia. The disagreements over the war in Ukraine cast a shadow over the summit and detracted from its real focus, which is the relationship between the world's leading economies (G7), the 12 emerging economies and the European Union, which together make up the G20.

The way India has seized the opportunity provided by the G20 presidency to project itself has been remarkable. A lot of money has been spent on what is not a coronation by our peers, but merely a rotational presidency. The somewhat over-the-top approach was aimed at a domestic audience rather

than a global one.

That India has a geopolitical sweet spot of sorts has been apparent for some time. Things are going well for the country, which has emerged as the most populous nation in the world and is among the fastest-growing major economies worldwide. There is little doubt that the world views it as a rising global power and its heft in international gatherings has grown significantly.

The deliberate effort of spreading G20 activities around the nation — 200-odd events in 60 cities — has ensured that even if the rest of the world did not pay too much attention, the growing Indian middle class has taken note. Dozens of cities gained from the largesse offered by the government in its year-long observance of the event, which, in true Indian style, has looked more like a mela.

International summits are supposed to be about declarations and outcomes. This is true of the Delhi event as well. While the AU membership and the crossing of the Ukraine bridge were significant achievements, most of the expected outcomes—embracing technological innovation, spreading digital public infrastructure, reforming multilateral development banks or acting on climate change, or even the Black Sea grain initiative — are yet to be realised. Neither did the presence of the G7 leaders give us a clear-cut picture of how they will spur the development of the Global South nations and assist their economies to cope with climate change.

A big question that roiled the summit was the uncharacteristic absence of Xi Jinping. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Xi had been one of the world's most travelled leaders. He didn't travel during the two years of the pandemic, and this year he has been out of China only twice.

There is a great deal of speculation about why he did not come to New Delhi. The Chinese themselves have given no explanation for his absence. The reasons are likely to be multiple — the desire to play down the summit being hosted by India, economic woes back home and the growing rift with the US and the EU.

But a major factor is likely to be a shift in China's approach to geopolitical issues. In recent years, Beijing has only paid lip service to the notion of multilateralism. With its relations with the US having reached a point of no return, it figured that there was little value in participating in a forum in which the US was bound to play a significant role. Its preference now is to push multilateral forums such as BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) or the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), of which the US is not a member.

This is not good news for multilateralism. Countries such as India can even now play an outsized role as a bridge between the two, but it would require uncommon application and a bit of luck.

Pakistan's private security services

BHOPINDER SINGH

Former Saudi spy chief, Prince Turki bin Faisal, described the Saudi-Pak relationship as, "one of the closest relationships in the world between any two countries without any official treaty". But there is a transactional quid pro quo cementing the self-assumed and postured guardianship of the two holiest mosques, as romantically claimed by Pakistan i.e., Islamabad desperately needs financial support, and Riyadh has always needed somebody to defend the oil-rich state. This desperation for each other's ability to address the other's specific concerns has led to a mutually gratifying equation that can be packaged under the cover of 'Ummah' reciprocities. Pakistanis readily trained and even flew sorties to thwart Yemeni aggression on Saudi Arabia in the late 60s, posted over 15,000 soldiers in the 80s and even during the Gulf War. They jointly created the Afghan mujaheddin. Today the former Pakistani Army Chief, Raheel Sharif, leads the Riyadh-based multinational military alliance under the

aegis of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC). However, it is the Saudi-funded and Pakistan-developed 'Islamic Bomb' project that personifies the trust and efficacy of strategic security afforded by the Pakistanis that ensures the regular Saudi doles to sustain Islamabad's faltering economy.

Irrespective of the deep divides within all Pakistani political parties (even counting other institutions like the Pakistani Military or even the clergy) within Pakistan, relations with Saudi Arabia remain robust. Pew Research Centre survey records the most favourable perception (9 out of 10) of the Saudis, amongst Pakistanis. The life-sustaining financial doles from Saudi have assumed even more significance, as the freefall of Pakistan seems imminent, otherwise. In the uniquely Pakistani narrative of the extra-constitutional mandate assumed by the Pakistani 'establishment' (read, Military), the Pakistani Chief, General Asim Munir held a four-hour meeting with Pakistani businessmen! Confirming the worst-kept secret of the

Pakistani Military to be a 'State within a State', the Army Chief shared details about assurances given to him by the Saudi Arabian Prince, Mohammad Bin Salman (MBS), regarding investments up to \$25 billion via Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). The surreal details shared by the Pakistani Chief included a specific request to set aside \$10 billion to tide over the depleted foreign exchange issues — and similarly so, with his meetings with United Arab Emirates rulers. As if on cue, he assured the audience of such largesse from other Sheikhdoms like Qatar and Kuwait, additionally. Whether it was optimistic grandstanding or even genuinely confirmed investments towards the beleaguered Pakistanis, one thing is clear the only worthwhile thing that the Pakistani Army Chief can offer to these Sheikhdoms in exchange, is even more enhanced security imperatives and guarantees. Beyond a point, no amount of arms purchased by these Sheikhdoms can replace boots on the ground. The ragtag Yemeni Houthi militias had made a mockery of the multi-

billion dollar worth of the supposedly impregnable THAAD and Patriots systems, with their relatively crude drones and rockets. Taking on the likes of Houthis or other groups inimical to these Sheikhdoms requires physical troops in battleground — who are better than the financially desperate Pakistanis? To put numbers in perspective, the annual defence budget (for 2023) of Saudi Arabia and UAE is approximately \$70 billion and \$15 billion, respectively (which for India is about \$69 billion). For these cash-flush Sheikhdoms to reallocate financial 'support' towards Pakistan in return for security guarantees, does not seem implausible, or even impractical. Given that the latest threat perceptions of the Sheikhdoms do not necessarily come from Israel anymore or even from the traditional sectarian rival and sanction-hit Iran, but instead come from societal dissonances within e.g., 'Arab Spring', or from armed militias like Houthis, ISIL, Hezbollah etc., all of which require conventional soldering responses on-ground.

Ranveer Singh congratulates PM Modi for success of India's G20 presidency

Several Bollywood celebrities praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the successful presidency of G20. Actor Ranveer Singh, whose recently released film 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' enjoyed success at the box office, has also congratulated the Prime Minister. The actor took to his Instagram stories on Tuesday and shared a picture of PM Modi from the G20 Summit. He captioned the picture "Heartiest congratulations to our Honourable PM @narendramodi ji for hosting a triumphant G20 Summit, uniting nations for a brighter future! One Earth. One Family. One Future."

across the world. The event, for which the city was decked up over days, was held at the state-of-the-art Bharat Mandapam at Delhi's Pragati Maidan. India took over the G20 presidency on December 1 last year at the summit in Bali and will continue to hold it till the end of November. The New Delhi Declaration was adopted by G20 leaders on Saturday, the first day of the summit. Notably, throughout India's presidency, raising the voice of Global South and the developing nations was at the forefront of New Delhi's agenda. India's theme for the G20 Presidency was 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which translates to 'One Earth One Family One Future'. PM Modi stated that India's G20 Presidency has become a symbol of



inclusion both inside and outside the country, adding that it became "People's G20" and crores of Indians were connected with it. A major and historic takeaway of India's presidency of the G20 Summit was the inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the grouping. Meanwhile, Ranveer will be next seen in director Farhan Akhtar's next directorial film 'Don 3' which will hit the theatres in 2025.

Sonam Kapoor opens up about her pregnancy, says, 'it was the best moment of my life'

SONAM KAPOOR SAYS IT WAS THE MOST MAGICAL MOMENT OF HER LIFE



Actress Sonam Kapoor opened up on the most magical moment of her life when she delivered her baby and he was in her arms. The actress opened up in detail about her pregnancy at an event in Mumbai on Monday. Talking about the most magical moment of her life, Sonam said: "When I delivered my baby and he was in my arms, it was one of the best things I felt. There is a feeling of euphoria. I had a natural birth and it was the most amazing moment. My husband was next to me and the doctor who helped me deliver the baby was my mother's close friend. I had the people who love me around me -- my parents, my sister, my in-laws. It was just the best moment of my life. It is really life changing when you give birth to a child." Sharing about her diet during her pregnancy, the actress said: "My doctor in London told me to eat a balanced inflammatory diet which is basically Indian Khana. So I had dal, roti, and bhajji. If you are a non vegetarian you can have chicken, fish and dahi."

Netflix, National Commission for Women discuss cinema as catalyst for change

National Commission for Women (NCW), Netflix and Annapurna Studios, hosted a significant event in Hyderabad, centred around the theme of 'Cinema as a Catalyst for Change'. The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Anjani Kumar, IPS, Director-General of Police, Telangana, Ambika Khurana, Director of Public Policy at Netflix, Abhishek Goradia, South Content Head at Netflix, renowned actress and NCW Honourable Member Khushboo Sunder, along with Parvathy Thiruvotiyur, Supriya Yarlagadda, and other eminent figures from the industry, as per the statement

shared by NCW team. The Chairperson of NCW, Rekha Sharma expressed how she feels while witnessing women making significant strides in cinema. She emphasised the persistent gender pay gap in the industry and called for recognition of women's worth, advocating for equality in pay. She urged everyone to keep the conversation alive, striving for a brighter, more inclusive future in the film industry. At the event, DGP of Telangana, Anjani Kumar, shared his profound views on cinema's transformative power. He said, cinema is not merely for entertainment; it is a catalyst for change. He cited

examples of mainstream blockbusters shedding light on critical societal issues such as widow remarriage, the plight of sex workers, and drug abuse. He stressed the importance of continuing the dialogue to reshape the narrative. Member Secretary Meenakshi Negi echoed the sentiment that it's time for cinema to break free from stereotypes and portray women as strong, complex characters rather than damsels in distress. She called for a dialogue that transforms the way women are portrayed on the big screen, emphasising empowerment. During the first panel discussion, the emphasis was

placed on the collective responsibility of the industry to bring stories of courage to the forefront. The industry stakeholders acknowledged their role in championing narratives that inspire and empower. It was a consensus among the panelists that the power to shape perceptions and drive change lies in the stories they choose to tell. The second panel was marked by thought-provoking discussions on pivotal issues. One significant question raised was the feasibility of creating commercially successful films with predominantly female casts and themes. This prompted a deeper exploration of how OTT platforms have gained promi-

nence, partly due to their appeal to a predominantly female audience, which differs from the traditional cinema-going demographic. These conversations underscored the importance of addressing gender representation not only in front of but also behind the camera to cater to evolving audience preferences. This collaborative event marks a significant step in addressing gender disparities and advocating for diversity and inclusion within the film industry. Netflix, NCW, and Annapurna Studios remain committed to fostering change and driving meaningful conversations within the entertainment world.

Shehnaaz Gill announces release date of 'Ranna Ch Dhanna' starring Diljit Dosanjh and Sonam Bajwa



Actor Shehnaaz Gill took to Instagram and X to share an exciting update about her upcoming film, 'Ranna Ch Dhanna'. The actor announced that the film, starring her, along with singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh and actor Sonam Bajwa, would release on October 2, 2024. Taking to her social media handles, the actor shared the poster of the film and wrote, "Ishq ne ghalib nikamma kar diya warna cheez toh hum thay kaam ki, #RannaChDhanna movie releasing in cinemas worldwide 2nd Oct, 2024!!!" Written and directed by Amarjit Singh Saron, the film's poster shows Diljit, Sonam and Shehnaaz and other women, in animation style. Reacting to the announcement, fans shared their excitement about the film.

Demi Lovato recalls early relationships with older men, calls them 'gross'

Singer Demi Lovato has said that she is currently thriving in her new relationship, with boyfriend Jordan Rutes. Reflecting on her 'daddy issues', the singer has opened up about her previous relationships with older men, calling them 'gross'. The 'Sorry Not Sorry' singer, who had previously dated Wilmer Valderrama despite their 13-year age gap, recalled her earlier relationship, during the September 11 episode, of SiriusXM's 'The Howard Stern Show'. "I can say with confidence that my daddy issues aren't anything that are inside of me anymore," the 'Camp Rock' actress, 31, said. "I think there's a few signs to that. I'm with a partner that is my age, essentially. I look back on the past (of dating older men) and think 'that's gross', Page Six reported. Demi also gushed about her "healthy" relationship with Lutes, 32, and her hope to one day tie the knot and have kids with the fellow musician. "There's this partnership there



that is just so magnetic, and the way that we laugh together. It's just nonstop. I think if you can find someone that makes you feel safe, that you're so attracted to, that you laugh with constantly, that's the formula of a really great relationship," the singer added. The 'Heart Attack' singer first met with the Canadian musician, while working on her album 'Holy Fvck'. Jordan had co-written multiple songs on the album, and according to her, she was

instantly attracted to him. "He came in to write on one of my sessions and I was in the studio and was immediately attracted to him. I like texted my friends on the side and was like, 'He's so hot!'" she said. Before her current romance, the songstress was involved with several older men, including Valderrama, whom she began dating in 2010. Demi was with the 'That '70s Show' alum, 43, on and off for six years. The former couple met when the popstar, at the time a pop-rock singer, was 17 years old, but they didn't confirm their relationship until she was 18. At the time, the actor was 29. About six years after their breakup, Demi released the song '29', which fans speculated was about Valderrama. While she never confirmed the rumours, she did warn other girls against dating older men. "If you're a young girl and you think that it's sexy or fun to date older men, it's not OK unless you're of age," Demi said in an August 2022 episode of the 'Call Her Daddy' podcast.

Joe Jonas wells up on stage before singing song he wrote for estranged wife Sophie Turner



Singer-songwriter Joe Jonas shed a tear while thanking his fans before singing the song he wrote for his estranged wife Sophie Turner. The Jonas Brothers singer, 34, has been on tour with his brothers over the last few weeks amid news of his divorce from the 'Game of Thrones' actress, reports 'Female First UK'. At his show at Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles, he told fans before he launched into a rendition of 'Hesitate': "Thank you everyone for the love and support to me and my family - I love you guys." He walked around the stage and looked down at the ground while the crowd cheered him on, and video from one cinematographer showed him in close-up singing the lyrics to the song while a single tear rolled from his eye. During the moment Joe was singing the lines: "Time, time only heals if we work through it now, I promise we'll figure this out." As per 'Female First UK', Joe continued to sing the chorus along with brothers Nick and Kevin despite being overcome with emotion. His parents Denise and Kevin Jonas Sr were watching in the audience and a clip showed Denise putting her hand over her mouth and shook her head as soon as her children began playing the song. Joe also told fans at the Saturday gig: "It's been a crazy week I just wanna say, look - if you don't hear it from these lips, don't believe it. OK?" He filed for divorce from Sophie, with whom he has daughter Willa, three, as well as another girl born last year, on 5 September after four years of marriage and two daughters.

The Great Indian Family trailer: Vicky Kaushal's Bhajan Kumar might actually be a Musli

The trailer of Vicky Kaushal's next, 'The Great Indian Family' is finally out. On Tuesday, production banner Yash Raj Films shared the trailer of the family drama written and directed by Vijay Krishna Acharya. Also starring Manushi Chhillar, the film is slated for a release on September 22. (Also read: Vicky Kaushal dances his heart out in new song Kanhaiya Twitter Pe Aaja, internet points out the website is now called X)

The trailer begins in a small town named Balarampur, where Vicky Kaushal's Bhajan Kumar makes an entry. He sings Kanhaiya Twitter Pe Aaja and introduces his name: Ved Vyas Tripathi. He gives a glimpse of his family, who are part of the pandit community that have lived in Balarampur since generations. Still, he complains how his only problem was that he was unable to find anyone to date as girls would touch his feet for seeking blessings. As Manushi Chhillar's char-

acter arrives in his town, Vicky tries to impress her. With everything going smoothly from hereon, Bhajan Kumar then interrupts and says how even God's sense of humour is just too risky to be taken for granted. He is shocked upon reading a letter that hints that he may actually be a Muslim. Problems and confusions surround him soon and Bhajan Kumar has to go against his family to prove his point. Although nothing more is

revealed in the trailer, the tagline reads that the film is 'the biggest confusion of the year.' Reacting to the trailer, a fan commented, "Vicky's screen presence is magnetic. He draws you into the story effortlessly." Another wrote, "I can't get over how good Vicky looks in this role. Total heartthrob!" A fan said, "Vicky's smile is infectious, and it lights up the entire trailer!" The Great Indian Family also stars Manoj Pahwa,

Kumud Mishra, Yashpal Sharma, Alka Amin, Shrishti Dixit, Bhuvan Arora and Bharti Perwani in key roles. The first song from the film, Kanhaiya Twitter Pe Aaja was released a few weeks ago, where Vicky Kaushal was seen dancing up a storm on stage with the audience cheering him on. The Great Indian Family marks Vicky's second release of the year. He was last seen in Zara Hatke Zara Bachke, where he starred alongside Sara Ali Khan.



Food served with a side of culture



NEW SPACES AT MAP AND THE NITA MUKESH AMBANI CULTURE CENTRE ARE GIVING THE CONCEPT OF CAFÉS IN CULTURAL SPACES A NEW SPIN

Whether you are at a cavernous museum or at a theatre, food at cultural spaces in India always seems like an afterthought—over-fried samosas or wilting sandwiches with weak tea or milky coffee is usually the best on offer. And I thought this was the best “canteens” could do until I had a leisurely afternoon tea at the British Museum’s Great Court restaurant some years ago, sipping Prosecco while sampling scones, cakes and sandwiches. That a muse-

um could be about art as well as food was eye-opening.

I had a déjà vu moment at Cumulus, which opened on 11 August in Bengaluru’s buzzy Museum of Art and Photography (MAP). The fine-dining rooftop restaurant’s stark white décor is just the setting to pause and reflect after all the sensory stimulation while walking through three floors of art. A collaboration between MAP and the couteur chocolate brand Smoor,

the al fresco space is named after the cotton-candy clouds that dot Bengaluru’s skies. “It also metaphorically refers to the ‘cloud’ where the museum’s art collection is stored,” says Kanchan Achpal, head of marketing at Smoor. Achpal says Cumulus hopes to celebrate the “art of food”. “We believe that food is art because you are basically bringing ingredients to life when you cook. So, when MAP invited us to open a restaurant, we accepted,” says Achpal.

“Public cultural spaces are democratic spaces that are accessible to the widest demography. And for people to feel a sense of community here, food is the lowest common denominator that can help achieve that. For a café to work in these places, it needs to meet three

basic expectations: Serve hygienic food, at friendly price points, and offer value proposition in terms of overall experience to visitors,” says Amrith Arora, founder and principal, Studio Lotus, a Delhi-based design practice that has designed F&B establishments like Baradari, a fine-dining restaurant in Jaipur’s City Palace; Palki Cafe in the Mehrauli Museum, Jodhpur, Rajasthan; and Café Lota in Delhi’s National Crafts Museum and Hastkala Academy. Café Lota, launched in October 2013 as part of a publicised effort to renovate the museum, is a fine example of what can transpire if a “culture café” gets all the three aspects Arora mentions right. Within a year of its launch, its region-focused menu became a major

draw. Rajesh Ojha, founder-partner of Red Cedar Hospitality, which runs the restaurant, says, “When we sat down to ideate, we thought that because the craft museum housed artefacts from different regions of India, it would be good to create a menu that featured dishes from all the states.” Focused on showcasing lesser-known regional delicacies, Café Lota’s menu reads like a culinary expedition of India. Some of the popular dishes include mushroom uttupam, palak patta chaat, Amritsari amaranth machhli aur shakarkandi (the Café Lota version of fish ‘n chips) and bhapa doi cheesecake. “We send our kitchen staff to homes to learn the recipes of every new dish that’s added to the menu,” says Ojha.

The rise of small tea growers

THE SMALL TEA GROWER MOVEMENT IN INDIA CONTRIBUTES TO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND OFFERS INTERESTING ARTISANAL BREWS

For long, our tea has come from vast estates. Far-flung and isolated, they are worlds unto themselves, a way of life, with hundreds of people working and living there with their families. This tea plantation model, however, seems to have become unviable and small tea growers, though not new to the scene, are beginning to claim a larger share of the market.

Estate management is mandated to provide housing, rations, primary school facilities and primary healthcare. Tea planters say 60% of their cost of production is labour cost. Moreover, labour is no

longer available easily and climate change is adding to the stress. In such a scenario, small tea growers, who contributed 28% to our annual tea production in 2011, saw their share rising to 51% in 2021, according to a Confederation of Indian Small Tea Growers Association status paper this February. The report puts the number of small tea growers at around 240,000, cultivating 200,000 hectares and producing about 691 million kilograms of tea. Assam, which produces 52% of the country’s tea, leads the count—it also leads in experimentation. The Tea Board of India



defines a small tea grower as one who farms on less than 25 acres; the paper suggests the average holding size is 2.14 acres. Most are family-owned and family-run farms that harvest leaves and sell them to fac-

ories; some process their own leaves to experiment with tea-making.

Within this large and still somewhat messy segment, some extraordinary stories have begun to emerge. In

Assam, Sainen Phukan of the Latumoni farm is working constantly on styles (his tea pellets are especially interesting), Rakhi Saikia of Pabhojan makes a rare yellow tea, Bijit Basumatary and Bhugeshwari Changmai are proponents of organic cultivation.

In Darjeeling, West Bengal, Rajah Banerjee, former owner of the famed Makaibari gardens, runs Rimpocha, an artisanal tea brand working exclusively with small tea growers. In the south, Knowledge Sharing and Caring, a group of about 12 small farmers, works on artisanal teas. The women-run Tea Studio in the Nilgiris, with a focus on sustainability, is a model for bought leaf factories, producing teas only on order.

The hardest dish in the world is made with stones

A CENTURIES-OLD DISH FROM CHINA, COOKED WITH STONES, STARTED TO GO VIRAL, WITH SOCIAL MEDIA USERS DUBBING IT AS THE ‘WORLD’S HARDEST DISH’

The food universe of social media is filled with astonishing finds: one discovers nifty hacks for popular recipes; soothing ASMR baking videos; and the most thrilling is to stumble upon something that can be easily qualify as the weirdest recipe ever. One such find is the Chinese suodiu which loosely translates to suck and dispose. This dish has stir-fried, spice-coated stones!

As CNN story titled, World’s hardest dish? Stir-fried stones are China’s latest street food



fad, reports the dish originated in the Hubei province, located in eastern China, centuries

ago. The story says, “Suodiu is believed to date back hundreds of years. It was passed down for

generations by boatmen through their oral history, according to a local media report. Back in the old days, boatmen could become stranded in the middle of a river and run out of food while delivering goods. To “find happiness in the bitterness,” the report said, they would find stones to cook with other condiments to make a dish.”

So far, so fascinating. The idea is to coat the stone with spices to induce a feeling of satiety. The stones have a smooth surface and can be lift-

ed with chopsticks or eaten with hand. The sauce or spices that coat it are meant to be sucked and the stone is discarded. As a variation, the dish is served with vegetables, pork and seafood. As per CNN, the dish gained popularity recently, as street vendors in parts of China took to selling it from their shops and carts, and it caught the attention of social media users on ‘Xiaohongshu, China’s equivalent to Instagram.’ On YouTube, there are multiple shorts and videos about this dish. One of them is on the channel, Refreshments, which documents a chef preparing this dish from scratch. Take a look:

Exercise-induced hormone may help fight Alzheimer's disease

A NEW STUDY HAS FOUND THAT EXERCISE HELPS PRODUCE A HORMONE THAT COULD PREVENT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



With a profound impact on memory, thinking and behaviour, Alzheimer’s disease can significantly affect people’s quality of life. Although a cure hasn’t been discovered, researchers have been trying to find ways to reduce the symptoms or prevent it. A new study has found that exercise helps produce a hormone that could prevent Alzheimer’s disease.

The study, led by researchers from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), found that a muscle-driven hormone, Irisin, that increases in the body after exercise could be useful in reducing amyloid-beta deposits in the brain, a hallmark of Alzheimer’s disease, according to Medical News Today. Amyloid is an abnormal protein which can eventually damage organs.

The findings showed that exercise increases circulating levels of irisin, which regulates glucose and lipid metabolism in fat tissue and increases energy expenditure, according to Neuroscience News. For the study, the researchers used their 3D cell culture model of Alzheimer’s disease. “First, we found that irisin treatment led to a remarkable reduction of amyloid beta pathology,” said Se Hoon Choi, study author, in a press statement. “Second, we showed this effect of irisin was attributable to increased neprilysin activity owing to increased levels of neprilysin secreted from cells in the brain called astrocytes.” Neprilysin is an amyloid beta-degrading enzyme. According to the researchers, the findings indicate that irisin is a major mediator of exercise-induced increases in neprilysin levels which reduced the amyloid beta burden in the study. This could be a new pathway for therapies that aim to prevent or treat Alzheimer’s disease.

3 millet recipes inspired by the G20 menu

With the G20 menu boasting of interesting millet dishes for world leaders, different varieties of this ancient grain are now in focus. Millets have been a staple in many regional cuisines for centuries, and now this nutrient-dense superfood is believed to be the answer to the devastating food crisis brought on by rising temperatures in the future.

The versatility of this gluten-free grain allows it to be a great addition to your diet in interesting ways. Here are three different recipes with two different millets:

Vegetable upma with foxtail millets

These small oval-shaped millets are believed to be a staple grain in countries like India, China and Japan. In fact, research says it originated in China before making its way into India. In a modern kitchen, one of the easiest ways to use this millet is to cook it whole in upma.

All you have to do is rinse a cup of foxtail millets and let it soak. Then, heat some ghee, and add mustard seeds, cumin seeds and curry leaves. You can add some chopped onions, green chillies and ginger, and saute. To make it nutrient-rich, throw in your favourite vegetables. Once the vegetables are cooked, spoon in the millets, and season with salt and pepper.

Salad with foxtail millets

Foxtail is one of the most versatile millets; think of it as quinoa. In this salad, it’s combined with chickpeas and eggs for a fulfilling meal.

Prawns, fresh herbs, and a door to Veracruz

I had fresh herbs that morning, marjoram, and thyme. I rubbed a few leaves between my fingers and smiled in satisfaction at their sweet, woody flavour. I like to wonder where my food comes from, and since I tend to romanticise or create these images in my head, I could picture them growing in cool, fertile European meadows, or perhaps the Levant.

The reality, alas, was that I had just removed them from plastic packets, which I had bought at a neighbourhood store after weaving my motorcycle in and out of noxious traffic. Both spices required cool weather, so perhaps they had been grown in the Nilgiris, so there was that.

And I had fresh, fat prawns. From the Arabian Sea, I imagined, where...well, this was pointless romanticism. They had come from the Rabbani fish stall in Cox Town, where a man with a whisk keeps flies away and rush-hour traffic deposits its dust and toxins.

Deflated, I looked outside. At least the giant flame of the forest, the palash, outside my kitchen window

kept my mind’s eye on endless journeys. I knew what I did not want to do with the prawns—make my usual Goan prawn curry, one of my comfort foods.

Comfort food is all very well, but, really, it’s overrated, especially with Indians. Left to ourselves, we will eat nothing but comfort food, making little or no attempt to explore what’s out there in the world. When we travel, we look for comfort food. At home, we like comfort food. We almost fetishise comfort food.

The mainstream, mainland Indian definition of comfort food, as it is defined in popular culture, is quite narrow, given the diversity of this country. All these influencers are always pushing the best dal, the best vada pav, the best dosa, the best nalli nihari. Come on. How about telling me where you get the best bibimbap or the best paella? Let’s not even go that far—how about the best jadon or the best arikadukka? If you don’t know what they are, it only confirms my little rant about comfort food. Please google.

To return to the prawns and



herbs, I thought it might be wise to explore one of Mexico’s many cuisines, which have some similarities with ours but are refreshingly different and—to a cook unfamiliar with them—challenging. Now, Mexican food, as it is sold in India, appears to centre largely around tortillas, burritos, salsa and refried beans, Indianised with chicken and—shudder—paneer.

Yet, I know Mexico is a melting pot, its food a melange of Spanish, indigenous and Afro-Caribbean influences. While we in India are

generally not acquainted with seafood in Mexican cuisine, it is a staple in Veracruz, the region along the Gulf of Mexico.

When I showed the spouse a Veracruz recipe from one of my old books, she was surprised that it called for olives and capers. It sounds Italian, she said suspiciously. But that’s the Spanish influence, which you can see in the recipe below: I haven’t used olives or capers, but the black peppers, garlic, marjoram, thyme, cinnamon, and cilantro are firmly Spanish.

I did not have access to Mexican chillies—anhos and pablanos, for instance—but I did have some smoked paprika, and that would have to do. It is Mexico—and indeed the Americas—that is the true home of chillies, which have been in use there for thousands of years. In contrast, they came to India only about 600 years ago via the Portuguese. You’ll find chillies in every other Mexican dish.

So, I began with the foray outside my comfort zone. It wasn’t very disconcerting, given the familiar ingredients, but the approach to cooking

prawns was not something I had done before. The thing about prawns is that they cook really quickly, so you only need to get the ingredients right and watch them go pink, which I did.

Advertisement

My mother and child were suspicious about prawns not made the Goan or Maharashtrian way, and it seemed obvious it was not comfortable enough for them. They said it was “nice”, which is another way of saying maybe you should skip this next time. I had it with Manipuri black rice, and I thought the combination worked wonderfully, infusing our dinner with some romanticism from Veracruz.

Prawns with tomatoes and fresh herbs

Serves 3-4

Ingredients

Half kg medium prawns
1 onion, chopped finely
4 medium tomatoes, chopped or pulverised
8-9 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
1 tsp fresh marjoram
1 tsp fresh thyme
2 tsp fresh cilantro for garnish

2 mild green chillies, split lengthwise

1 small stick of cinnamon
Half tsp sugar
5-6 black peppercorns
1 tsp smoked paprika (substitute with Kashmiri mirch)
Juice of half a lemon or lime
2 tsp vegetable oil
Salt to taste
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Method

Heat oil gently in a non-stick pan. Drop in the green chillies, peppercorns, and cinnamon. When they begin to swell, add the garlic and sauté for 30 seconds. Add onion and sauté until they begin to brown. Add tomatoes and sugar and sauté for three-four minutes. Add smoked paprika and sauté for a minute. Add marjoram and thyme, and mix well. Add salt, lemon, or lime, mix, and then add prawns.

Turn over the sauce and prawn for a couple of minutes, until the prawns turn pink. Take off the heat and transfer to a dish. Serve warm with tortilla or rice (we used black rice from Manipur). Garnish with cilantro.

Director Agriculture inaugurates 02 days Seminar on Beekeeping in Srinagar district

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated two days district level Seminar on Bee-keeping in district Srinagar.

The programme was organised by Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare department Kashmir under National Bee and Honey Mission (NBHM) and was attended by Joint Director Inputs, Joint Director Extension, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Technical Officer, Apiculture Development Officer Srinagar, Bee Keepers, Farmers, Unemployed youth and other stakeholders.

Speaking at the inaugural session, the Director Agriculture marked the importance of bee-keeping as a complimentary source to the overall income of the farmers. He said that it is encouraging that a large number of youth is taking



bee-keeping as a main venture to earn income and livelihood.

Director asked the educated youth of the region to come forward and take benefit from the programme and schemes by the department for the promotion of bee-keeping and other allied activities. He said that the development

of a bee-keeping special project under a holistic agriculture development programme has been approved by the government. He said that bee-keeping as an off-farm activity has a potential of employment generation due to wide agro-climatic diversity enabling round the year bee-flora available.

Shahrukh Khan's movie 'Jawan' screened at Cinema Hall Handwara



JI NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 12: After

first movie show held last month, Shahrukh Khan starrer Bollywood Movie "Jawan" was screened at

Cinema Hall Handwara today.

The Cinema Hall was inaugurated at Handwara last month with the Screening of Shahrukh Khan starred Movie "Chak De India". On the occasion, large number of people, PRIs and local youth enjoyed the screening of Shahrukh Khan starrer Movie "Jawan".

Meanwhile, people of the district expressed their gratitude towards the UT Government for opening up the Cinema and screening of movies in Kupwara district.

The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir, President Municipal Committee Handwara, Abdul Majeed Pandit; EO MC Handwara, Naveed Aijaz, ARTO, DSWO and other Officers were present during screening of the movie.

Gandhi Jayanti: GDC Ramgarh hosts screening of motivational movies to mark special series of activities

JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 12: Government Degree College Ramgarh organized Screening of movies on life and works of M.K. Gandhi & awareness on "Nasha Mukh Bharat" and Bhrashtachar Mukh JK" to mark start of month-long commemorative activities on Gandhi jayanti. The special series of events has been organized under the aegis of India's presidency in G20; "Nasha Mukh Bharat" and Bhrashtachar Mukh JK" and over all banner of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The events were organized under the guidance and coordination of Prof.(Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College.

Prof. Risha Kumari, Convener of the event managed the Whole event. In the beginning,



she briefed the students about the event being celebrated to pay tributes to the Father of the Nation.

She added that Gandhi ji was the preeminent leader of the Indian independence movement in British-ruled India, who employed non-violence and civil disobedience

which led to India's independence.

The movies screened reflected on Gandhi ji's prolific life in his quest for India's independence and for peaceful protesting and movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. She also highlighted the purpose of cel-

ebrating Bhrashtachar Mukh J&K Week and added that the online shift of services has paved the way for transparent, accountable and accessible Government to citizens besides has also ensured time-bound service delivery and redressal of grievances.

Dr. Sandeep Kumar made the students aware about the social and health hazards of drug abuse and motivated them towards a Drug Free life and society.

A large number of students attended the event. The other faculty members who were present include Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Seema Sharma, Dr. Shamsheer Lal, Dr. Ekta Rani, Dr. Rahul Kundal, Dr. Priya Sharma, Dr. Paramjeet Kour, Dr. Shivali Choudhary, Dr. Sahil Kumar and Mr. Anil Kumar.

Rajnath Singh e-inaugurates Kalapassi Bridge Ramban



JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 12: Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, on Tuesday e-inaugurated newly constructed Kalapassi Bridge, 35 MTS PSC Box Girder, with load class 70R at km 144.970, old Alignment Ramban besides other 90 infrastructure projects constructed in other parts of India from Devak Bridge, Samba, Jammu and

Kashmir.

At the Kalapassi Bridge, District Development Council Chairperson, Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan unveiled the inaugural stone in presence of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mussarat Islam, SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma, Commander (Superintendent Engineer) 760 Border Roads Task Force (BRTF) Amiya Shrivastava, ADC, Harbans Sharma, Officer

Commanding (Executive Engineer) 52 RCC GREF, Kumar Gautam and several other senior officers.

The DDC Councillors, PRIs and other prominent citizens were also present on the occasion.

According to the Commander, keeping in view its strategic importance in strengthening road connectivity to Subdivision Gool, Sawalkot Project Site and to NH-44 in Ramban town, the BRO construction completed work on the Bridge by early September, 2023 with an expenditure of Rs 2.90 crore.

Among the inaugurated 90 projects, 11 are in J&K UT, 36 Arunachal Pradesh, 26 in Ladakh UT, 5 Mizoram, 3 in Himachal Pradesh, 2 each in Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal and 1 each in Nagaland, Rajasthan and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. These 90 projects include 64 bridges, 21 roads, 2 Helipads, 1 tunnel and 2 Air Strips.

Secy Revenue conducts review of online services

Emphasizes on importance of smooth, hassle-free delivery of revenue services

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: Secretary Revenue, Dr. Piyush Singla today conducted a comprehensive review of online revenue services during a meeting with Jammu and Kashmir Land Records Management Agency, Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency, IT department, and representatives of National Informatics Centre.

During the meeting, the Secretary emphasized on the importance of smooth and hassle-free delivery of revenue services. He stressed on the need for real-time resolution of technical issues to ensure timely service delivery. He added that the department is closely monitoring service delivery at the highest level and is committed to providing efficient services within the specified timeframe.

Dr Singla issued special instructions that all portals of Revenue Department must have tools like screen reader, options to vary colour themes, to ensure ease of access to specially abled persons.

During the review, it was informed that services like Agriculture certificate and Alienation of Land Certificate have been developed and are expected to be launched by the end of this month as they are currently undergoing testing. It was also informed that new services like general caste certificate and unmarried certificate have been added.

The meeting was also informed that all services on Jan Sugam portal and some services on Revenue Plus have been integrated with Digi Locker.

Moreover, it was also given out in

the meeting that online delivery of CLU permission has been added to change in land use service available on Revenue Plus, which will eliminate need for applicants to visit the Government offices to collect permission.

It was also made out that the development of Natural Calamities Relief Assistance service, aimed at providing timely relief assistance to victims of natural calamities, is also in progress for integration with Revenue Plus.

The meeting was among others was attended by Special Secretary Revenue, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza; Assistant Commissioner, Survey and Land Records, Nasir Ali; Deputy Secretary, IT Department, Rachna Sharma; representatives from JaKLaRMA, NIC, JaKeGA and other concerned officers.

ADDC convenes Concurrent Audit Team meeting at Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 12: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Ali Afsar Khan Tuesday convened a meeting of Concurrent Audit Team regarding the

ongoing and recently completed languishing projects within the district.

The meeting reviewed the progress of different projects under execution. The ADDC stressed on the timely execution and efficient resource alloca-

tion regarding the projects. The ADDC directed the concerned to identify bottlenecks that act as hindrances in the execution of the developmental works. He stressed for the timely resolution of the issues so that people can avail benefits of these

projects. The meeting was attended by Accounts Officer to DC Office Bandipora, Assistant Executive Engineer from Jal Shakti Department Bandipora, R&B Department Bandipora and R&B Department Sumbal besides others.

Vice Chairperson DDC Udhampur hails contribution of women scientists in Chandrayaan-3 Mission

Exhorts people to make Meri Maati Mera Desh a public movement

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: Vice Chairperson, District Development Council Udhampur, Juhi Manhas Pathania, called upon people to make the Meri Maati Mera Desh programme a public movement. We need to participate in it religiously, she added.

She visited different hamlets and paid homage to brave martyrs at 'Falaks' (plaques) installed in all Panchayats. She also visited Amrit Sarovars in her constituency, under the 'Meri Matti Mera Desh' programme and collected a pinch of soil and rice granules from households, which will be taken to Kartavya Path in New Delhi for planting an Amrit Vatika.

Speaking on the occasion, she paid tributes to revolutionaries, martyrs and soldiers guarding the borders. She appealed to the people to join 'Meri Matti Mera Desh' Programme so that each house in every village of the country would associate with Panch Pran'.

She said the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign by the PM has showcased the vision of New India. She also administered the oath of 'Panch Pran' to the people who pledged to make India a self reliant and developed nation by 2047.

Ms Pathania also took this pro-



gramme as a viable opportunity to interact with women and aged who often find it challenging to attend public darbars and put forth their issues. She emphasized the importance of women's empowerment and encouraged them to come forward and participate in decision-making processes. She was appreciative of women scientists in the success story of Chandrayaan-3, monumental achievement of our scientists.

This is not just a victory for our space agency, but it is a bright symbol of India's progress and ascent on the global stage.

The analytical prowess, combined with a fervent commitment to inquiry and exploration, of women scientists has constantly propelled the nation into the forefront of global scientific achievements.

In this era of science, technology

and innovation, she also specially appealed to those associated with the world of education to inspire more youngsters towards science.

The success of Chandrayaan-3 has given a monumental chance to ignite the spark of interest in these fields and also leverage the window of opportunities in our nation.

The Vice Chairperson also took note of the lack of basic amenities in some areas and promised to take immediate action to address these issues. She directed the concerned officials to take necessary steps to ensure that the people of her constituency receive adequate health-care, education, and other essential services.

The Vice Chairperson's visit was well-received by the local residents, who appreciated her efforts in reaching out to them and addressing their concerns.

Training imparted to ROs, AROs at Kupwara

JI NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 12: On the directions of District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, the Election Office Kupwara today conducted a one day training programme for Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) here in the anticipation of Municipal Elections.

The daylong training session was chaired by General Manager DIC, Sameer Jan. The training was attended by ROs, AROs, and concerned election officials. During the training session, ROs and AROs were imparted training about their role and responsibilities, election management, nomination process, scrutiny of nomination papers,

withdrawal of candidature, EVM management, conduct of polls, counting and declaration of results besides provisions of the model code of conduct imposed after notification of Elections. A thorough question answer session was also held to clear the doubts about the procedures and rules for the conduct of free, fair, and transparent Elections in

the district. The GM emphasized the critical role of ROs and AROs, and urged them to prepare in advance the action plan for the upcoming elections and acquaint themselves with necessary information and latest directions of CEO J&K, to ensure transparent and fair Municipal Elections in the district.

The need of reading good books and how reading books help in transforming an individual. And as we are in Digital era wherein we have hundreds and thousands of books at our fingertips we should take advantage of the same and indulge in reading more books, he added.

The DC appreciated the management of Govt Degree College Pampore for organising such a wonderful exhibition as such interventions will result in the overall enhancement of the society.

DC Pulwama presides over as chief guest

JI NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today presided over a Mega Book Exhibition held at GDC Pampore as chief guest.

During the exhibition, the DC took an extensive tour of various stalls examining the various books and expressed his pleasure on such a vast array and collection of books.

Addressing the students and

other participants, Dr Basharat emphasised that reading books not only nurtures the brain of an individual but widens his perspectives. This type of exhibition shall serve as a platform for students to know not only what is relevant to their course study but also to know what is happening in and around the world, he added.

Quoting Mark Twain, "A person who does not read good books has no advantage over a person who cannot read", the DC stressed on

Akhand Bharat dream achievable under Modi Govt: Kavinder Gupta

Inevitable to stop integration of PoK with Bharat

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 12: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday asserted that the way Bharat is progressing by leaps and bounds under the Modi Government, the aspirations of the people like Akhand Bharat goal, etc seem to have become achievable targets and it is only matter of time that things will start rolling in the aforesaid direction.

In a statement issued to media fraternity, the BJP stalwart leader also fully endorsed the statement given by Union Minister and former Army Chief General V.K Singh (Retd) that Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) would merge with the country on its own after some time.

Kavinder said that there is sum and substance in the statement by



VK Singh as already reports coming from that part of Kashmir have been indicating that huge segments of people out there have been impressed with the gigantic progress which India has made and are interested in joining their roots. He categorically said that integration of PoK with Bharat is inevitable and one day things will take the

right turn transforming the nation into Akhand Bharat.

Kavinder said that the giant strides which India is making in realizing colossal development and progress in all spheres has helped the country to join the elite club of developed nations. "No one can deny that scores of development projects are being inaugurated on single day like today only Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched 90 such projects making it obvious that country is moving swiftly to achieve development goals as fast as possible", he said.

The former deputy Chief Minister asserted that the G20 showcased Bharat's strength economic, social and in other sectors in a most appropriate manner kindling desire among countries in neighbourhood to become part and parcel of this great nation once again as they used to be an earlier.

M.K Ajatshatru Singh, Ranvijay visit Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya at Birpur

Distributes clothes, eatables among students

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, SEPT 12: In connection with 138 death anniversary of Maharaja Ranbir Singh, Trustees of J&K Dharmarth Trust M.K Ajatshatru Singh (Former Minister) and Ranvijay Singh visited Shree Ranbir Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Birpur, which is being managed and maintained by Dharmarth Trust.

Brig R.S Langeh (Retd), President of the Trust accompanied with the Trustees.

The Trustees were received by students and teachers of the MahaVidyalaya. They interacted with the students and the staff and enquired about their problems.

While talking to the students, the Trustees exhorted them to work hard to make their future bright. He also asked the staff to be dedicated and honest in performing their



duty. On the occasion, they donated clothes, eatables and gifts to the school students and later they had also lunch with them.

Later, Ajatshatru Singh and Ranvijay Singh visited Radha

Krishan temple and Shiv Temple situated in the premises of MahaVidyalaya. They offered pooja and reviewed the arrangements being made by Dharmarth Trust for the convenience of the devotees.

Meri Maati, Mera Desh: Col Mahan conducts door-to-door campaign to collect 'Maati' in Basohli



JJ NEWS SERVICE

BASOHLI, SEPT 12: Stating that the BJP is a mission to serve the nation and its people, Munish Sharma, former General Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir unit of the party, said that every activist of this organisation is it strength. He said that BJP is the only political party in the country having the most dedicated activists

and each one of us feel proud to be associated with it. Munish Sharma was talking to a large number of local party activists during his visit to Resham Ghar colony and adjoining areas of Jammu West Assembly constituency. Munish Sharma said that the BJP has achieved the distinction of being the largest political party of the world and the credit for the same goes to

the dedicated activists as well. He said that on the one hand, Narendra Modi government has done a lot in development and social welfare sectors, the BJP activists have reached at the doorsteps of the people in their respective areas and made them aware of the pro-people, nation and development-centric programmes and policies of the Union government. Munish Sharma said that

the BJP activists have been always in the public, educating the people about record number of welfare schemes launched during the past nine years by Narendra Modi government for the socio-economic upliftment of the poor, the needy, the marginalised sections and extending them every possible help in availing the benefits of the same.

The Modi government has also initiated and completed a large number of mega projects of connectivity, healthcare, education and the people have, themselves seen a change on the ground.

The BJP senior leader asked the party activists to continue with the social service and serve as a bridge between the Modi government and the people and keep them updated about what is being done new for bringing progress and prosperity in the lives of the masses.

Shame for NC, Cong, PDP regimes for failure to address people's issues for over 70 years: Purnima

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 12: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former Deputy Mayor has strongly condemned the successive regimes led by the National Conference, Congress and People's Democratic Party in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir for having miserably failed to address the pressing issues of the people especially in the Jammu region.

Notably, Purnima Sharma visited Village Sailgram on the request of Panchs, Ex-Sarpanch and Lambardar to take stock of the problems and issues of the people in this village that is just 19 kms away from Jammu. The majority of population living in this village is that of ST Gujjars. After taking stock of the problems and interacting with the residents of the village, Purnima said that it is really an irony that no modern amenities and facilities were made available in the area despite elapsing of more than 75 years of independence. She expressed surprise that this area so close to Jammu is devoid of roads with no lanes, drains so much so that even there is no Pacca road for



plying of buses.

The senior BJP leader said it is a matter of great shame for those heading the erstwhile regimes J&K that the children of village Sailgram have never ever seen even bus till date. The locals of the village told Purnima that there are no proper educational facilities for their children in the village as only 2 teachers have been deputed in the Govt School Sailgram. They also highlighted many other issues and problems being faced by them.

After listening patiently to the people of the Village, Adv Purnima

said that connectivity is the first and foremost pre-requisite for development and the absence of roads in the area needs to be addressed on topmost priority. The senior BJP leader assured the people that she would soon take up their issues with the concerned authorities and would ensure that these are addressed at the earliest. She asserted that only BJP can fulfill the aspirations of common people. She appealed to the people to vote for BJP in the upcoming ULB and Assembly polls for welfare and prosperity of the people of this village.

Hilly, rural areas confronting development deficit under J&K Govt: Rattan Lal



JJ NEWS SERVICE

BATOTE, Sept 12: The hilly, rural and far off areas are being discriminated badly by the present government, which is busy in developing unproductive projects and wasting public exchequer.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, Jammu, J&K National Conference, while addressing party workers meeting at Batote in district Ramban. He was accompanied by several party functionaries during his visit to district Ramban including Sheikh Bashir Ahmed and Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretaries.

The senior NC leader observed that the ground situation in context with the development in the rural and hilly belts is pathetic as people are craving for basic amenities. He said that people are confronting development deficit but the government is busy in spreading false narrative of colossal development in far off belts of J&K, which is a white lie as on ground people are facing multiple problems with no solution in sight. He said that neglect of hilly terrains is visible on ground but the government is trumpeting development, development and development day in and day out.

The meeting was convened under

the chairmanship of Sajjad Shaheen, District President Ramban, during which he shed light on the unfair treatment faced by the people of Batote. He apprised the senior functionaries of the Party that the people are facing shortage of drinking water and electricity. He mentioned that despite the Sher-e-Kashmir Emergency Hospital having a capacity for 13 doctors; only 2 doctors are presently serving. Furthermore, the youth in the district of Ramban are being overlooked for employment opportunities in national projects presently running in district Ramban. He also pointed out that the Patnitop Development Authority is working against the interests of the people as they are unable to freely construct their residential houses.

Rattan Lal criticised the present government for its failure to stand on the expectations of people of Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed great disappointment against the LG's administration for their alleged failure to develop tourist spots in the Ramban district. He also raised serious concern over the incompetence of the local Municipal Committee Batote which has miserably failed to provide basic amenities to the local residents.

The senior NC leader asked the

government to prioritize local youth in the ongoing national projects within District Ramban to address the problems being faced by youth due to highest ever employment in J&K. He further asked government to construct a tunnel from Tringula to Kud for smooth functioning of traffic of local populace.

The Provincial President emphasized that only National Conference can bail out people from this misery as castles of development made by J&K Government in air are distant apart from reality. He called upon party workers to gear up for the upcoming polls. He stressed upon the need of unity and dedication to overcome obstacles and ensure the success of the party.

Dr. Shamshad Shan, DDC Chairperson of Ramban, voiced her disappointment with the lack of support from the government. She criticized the administration's delaying tactics, which have resulted in hindrances to various developmental projects in the district.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretaries, Shamim Akther DDC Member, Abid Magrey District Vice President Ramban and Arif Mir District Secretary Ramban said that wrong decisions of government have made the lives of people a virtual hell therefore people should support NC to ensure public welfare and a meaningful life. They said National Conference is a secular party and only it will fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who were present include Nafid Mir, Raja Arshad Ali, Amar Chand, Ravinder Singh, Babar Malik, Adil Mir, Zatuan Akther, Pooja Jaggi and other functionaries of District, Blocks and Halqa.

Why elections to ULBs not under State election Commission, asks Congress

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 12: Congress has questioned why the Jurisdiction of state election Commission is not extended to ULB elections, without which the entire exercise of elections including preparation of Electoral rolls, is violative of the constitution and unconstitutional, more particularly after abrogation of special status & J & K made UT, whereby entire constitution is applicable to J&K.

Taking strong exception to the fact that the exercise for the upcoming elections to the ULBs is being conducted by the Chief Electoral Officer and not by the state election Commission which has jurisdiction over Panchayats only, so far, as per 73rd amendment whereas it is the same Commission which is supposed to conduct election to ULBs in view of 74th amendment, said JKPC Chief Spokesperson. How is it justified that the elections to the rural PRIs - panchayats, BDCs, DDCs etc are conducted under superintendence & control of state election Commission, while as Urban PRIs- ULB elections are being conducted by another election authority- office of CEO, he asked.

It is totally illegal, unconstitutional

and against the provisions of 74th amendment, which is directly & fully extended to the J & K but not implemented in this regard by the dispensation claiming one nation, one constitution.

The state election Commission was incorporated in the state Panchayat Raj Law by amendment on the insistence Congress in coalition with NC, after the elections to BDCs, were aborted over the issue of full implementation/ incorporation of all relevant provisions of 73rd amendment. It was later done in March 2014 by amendment in the state legislature whereby entire jurisdiction over the electoral exercise including delimitation of wards was given to the commission. After the coming into power, the BJP always tried to weaken & dilute the 73rd by incorporating indirect elections to Sarpanchs, which was later undone by then Governor N N Vohra during Governor rule.

Referring to the process of delimitation and rotation etc, he said that 73rd 74th amendment provided the same to be done under supervision of independent institution of election Commission in the absence which it is illegal and violative of the provisions of 74th amendment. Congress in coalition with NC had

incorporated all good provisions of 73rd including state election Commission but same was not extended to ULBs by BJP controlled government since 2015, till date.

Termining the exercise of elections to ULBs and all related matters as illegal and unconstitutional, particularly after the whole constitution is directly extended and applicable to J&K, post 5th Aug 2019, for quick understanding of BJP, the UT administration and the general public, Congress questioned the exercise already initiated, as without jurisdiction and demanded immediate extension of the jurisdiction of election Commission over the whole exercise of elections & related matters, to the Commission, as provided by Article 243ZA of the Constitution of India which reads as under " Art 243ZA - Elections to the Municipalities -(1) -The Superintendence, direction & Control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of all elections to the municipalities shall vest in the state election Commission as referred in the art, 243K." Since constitution is supreme, any provisions of law to the contrary, is violative of the constitution and cannot sustain, he added.

Chairperson DDC Kulgam expresses grief over deaths of Kulgam residents, others in road accident at Banihal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 12: The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, M Afzal Parry expressed heartfelt con-

lences to the bereaved family of Redwani, Kulgam over the death of their beloved in Banihal Road accident, in which four persons lost their lives. Two out of four deceased in the mishap belonged to Redwani

village of Kulgam District. The Chairperson along with the entire DDC Kulgam prayed for peace to the departed souls. In his condolence message, the DDC expressed sympathies with the bereaved family.

Dharmarth Trust pays rich tributes to Maharaja Ranbir Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 12: J&K Dharmarth Trust today paid rich tributes to Maharaja Ranbir Singh during a programme organized at the Ranbireswar Temple on his 138th death anniversary.

Brig R.S Langeh (Retd), President Jammu and Kashmir Dharmarth Trust, highlighted the life-time contributions of Maharaja Ranbir Singh for the people of his king-



dom. He said that it was Maharaja Ranbir Singh who went on to annex Gilgit which had previous-

ly witnessed a rebellion against the state and the princely states of Hunza and Nagar started paying tributes to Jammu and Kashmir during his reign. Even in the field of justice Maharaja Ranbir Singh established a modern judicial system compiling civil laws and compiling criminal laws in the form of Ranbir Penal Code during his reign, he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that Ranbir Singh was the third son of Maharaja Gulab Singh and ascended to the throne in August 1854 and continued to rule till his death on 12th September 1885.

Chandel urges BJP to expel traitors before elections

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 12: Hindu nationalist BJP leader Shri Raju Chandel, while speaking to journalists today in Jammu, praised the action taken by BJP high command against the traitorous leaders in Kashmir, who were involved in anti-party activities. He stated that this action should have been taken long ago by our senior BJP leaders, but it was taken late.

He welcomed the party's action against the hidden traitors and rebels within the party. Shri Chandel told journalists that those who are making conspiracies against the party and causing disruptions within are all these Jai Chands, referring to the PDP, NC,



Congress, and all their leaders who are working against the BJP and the central government. He said that such traitors are not needed in the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Shri Chandel said that he is having discussions with the senior and old leaders of Kashmir Valley and

the action being taken against the hidden traitors in all parties is being well-received by all district presidents and senior leaders of the BJP.

Shri Chandel demanded from the senior BJP leaders that all the hidden traitors of Kashmir within the BJP like Gaddar Mauka Parast and the true patriot brother Ravindra Raina who are trying to discredit them and engage in treachery with the BJP, should be exposed as soon as possible. He stated that there is absolutely no need for such leaders in the Bharatiya Janata Party and they should be shown the way out as soon as possible. Otherwise, these Jai Chands will cause significant damage to the Bharatiya Janata Party in the upcoming assembly elections.

Campaign to raise awareness against drug abuse at Khellani



JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, SEPT 12: As a part of ongoing process of educating the local youth, Campaign to Raise Awareness against Drug Abuse was conducted for the youth and inhab-

itants at Khellani. During the campaign, Mr Himat Singh Rana, Principal, New Standard High Secondary School, Khellani elucidated various points on drug abuse and its consequences in the day to day life. He educated them in detail on various Drugs of Abuse such as Tobacco/Nicotine, Club Drugs, Cocaine, Heroin, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Synthetic Marijuana, Methamphetamine, Cold Medicines, Salvia, Steroids and other commonly abused drugs. He also emphasised on the various aspects like Drugged Driving, Drugs and the Brain, Medical Consequences, Mental Health, Prevention and Treatment.

The highlights of the campaign included weaning away the students from the menace of drugs and efforts were made to project the health hazards and danger to social life of drug addicts.

A total of 40 students (26 Boys and 14 Girls) of New Standard High Secondary School Khellani attended the campaign. Students appreciated the measures projected by the event to keep them away from drug abuse and choose a healthy and progressive life.

ed the program which intends to build critical life skills such as problem-solving, collaboration, managing emotions, cre-

ative thinking, etc. in line with National Education Policy 2020.

He said, "strengthening of healthy competition

among students in the house system will create positive impact and prepare students for the real world challenges."

Vinay Gupta rolls out the door-to-door campaign under Meri Mati Mera Desh

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 12: Continuing the 'Meri Mati, Mera Desh' campaign in ward no.22, Shastri Nagar, Bharatiya Janata Party, BJP Senior leader and Seh Prabhari Jammu North District Vinay Gupta along with Ved Sharma Co incharge BJP all Cells today rolls out the door-to-door campaign in ward no 22, Shastri Nagar in Bahu Constituency collected the 'Mitti' soil from various households under its national campaign titled "Meri Mati, Mera Desh" program. In the meantime, the meeting was held regarding karykarm "Meri Mati Mera Desh" in the residence of Ved Sharma along with prominent persons of the area. Vinay Gupta appealed to all to collect fistfuls of rice or tulsii leaves from households where the soil is unavailable.

Speaking on the occasion Vinay Gupta said, "Under the 'Meri Mati, Mera Desh' campaign we

honour India's land and bravery. The campaign is essentially a mission to reproduce a blend of scents from different cultures across the nation, an elated feeling of patriotism in the heart of the nation. It will essentially give rise to a feeling of belongingness to every Indian, whenever he/she visits the 'Amrit Vatika'." Vinay said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheads the campaign

in which 'Mitti' collected from the houses and the statues/memorials of the martyrs will be transported to the National capital where it will contribute to the making of 'Amrit Vatika' in front of 'Rashtra Pati Bhawan' on 'Kartavya Path'. "The response has been good and Vinay accompanied by party workers also took out padhyatra in ward no 22, Shastri Nagar, and also

held an interactive session with the general public." During the campaign under Meri Mati Mera Desh, Vinay highlighted the achievements of the Modi-led government and asked the general populace to avail the multiple schemes of the central government. While interacting with the public Vinay Gupta asserted that it's my moral duty to stay amid the general populace.

Bharti Foundation expands life skills development project in collaboration with DSE, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 12: Bharti Foundation in collaboration with The Directorate of School Education (DSEJ), Jammuis extending its 'Life Skill Development among Students through House System' project under its Satya Bharti Quality Support Program - At Scale to more than 3,500+ Government Middle Schools of Jammu.

The program lays emphasis on building capacities of head of schools and teachers to enable students with 21st century skills. The project is being led by the Counselling Cell with support of Aadharsihla and Cultural Innovation Cells at DSEJ. Dedicated team from Bharti Foundation will impart training to resource persons to help implement the project. These resource persons will further support schools in developing a comprehensive understanding of life skills education and building the skills through school activities.

In August 2022, the first round of training was organised for more than 390 resource persons who cascaded the life skill development training to 8,500+ teachers from 1,100+ Government High and Higher Secondary Schools in Jammu, benefiting more than 2 lakh students. This year, along with offline training, online trainings and webinars have also been designed to equip resource persons to support heads of schools and teachers effectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Ashok Sharma, Director of School Education Jammu, acknowledged the Bharti Foundation and applaud-

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECH RURAL DIVISION JAMMU NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 103 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural Division Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/individuals for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Est. cost (in Lakh)	Cost of document / tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of 5000 GPH x 250 mtrs head HC pump set as standby and LT control panel along with cables and allied works at P/s Majra Kotli (Suketar) under UT Capex Budget-2023-24.	11.00	1000/-	02% of the est. cost i.e 0.22 lac	180 days	180 days
2.	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of 6000 GPH x 180 mtrs head HC pump set as standby with cables and allied works at T/well cum P/s Delni Kasana under UT Capex Budget-2023-24.	6.00	500/-	02% of the est. cost i.e 0.12 lac	180 days	180 days
3.	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of 6000 GPH x 75 mtrs head sub. pump set including standby along with cables and allied works at T/well Sainik School Nagrota under UT Capex Budget-2023-24.	4.50	200/-	02% of the est. cost i.e 0.09 lac	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing: 11/09/2023

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 11/09/2023 (12:00 P.m)
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 11/09/2023 (12:00 P.m) to 20/09/2023 (2:00 P.m).
- After opening the tender Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table (and for DIC/SSI registered firms as per Industrial Policy of J&K Govt.) payable at Jammu pledged in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mech. Rural Division Jammu.
- Bid security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for one year from the date of issuance of tender. The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of Treasury Challan/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural Division Jammu payable at Jammu.

DIP/J-8140/23

SD/
(ER. NARINDER SINGH)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECH. RURAL DIVISION
JAMMU

CANCELLATION/SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORINATION/REGULATION/ DIVERSION OF TRAINS DUE TO MAINTENANCE WORK AT JAMMU TAWI

In order to upgrade the infrastructure, Northern Railway will undertake the Maintenance work at Jammu Tawi Railway Station over Firozpur Division. To execute this work suitable traffic block from 15.09.2023 to 19.09.2023 will be taken. During this period following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS	
Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)
12469 Kanpur Central - Jammu Tawi Superfast Express	15.09.2023
12470 Jammu Tawi - Kanpur Central Superfast Express	14.09.2023
12491 Barauni - Jammu Tawi Mour Dhvaj Express	17.09.2023
12492 Jammu Tawi - Barauni Mour Dhvaj Express	15.09.2023
12265 Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Jammu Tawi Duronto Express	15.09.2023 & 17.09.2023
12266 Jammu Tawi - Delhi Sarai Rohilla Duronto Express	16.09.2023 & 18.09.2023
12413 Ajmer - Jammu Tawi Pooja Superfast Express	15.09.2023 to 19.09.2023
12414 Jammu Tawi - Ajmer Pooja Superfast Express	14.09.2023 to 18.09.2023
14606 Jammu Tawi - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Express	17.09.2023
14605 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Jammu Tawi Express	18.09.2023
04615 Pathankot - Udhampur Special Express	15.09.2023 to 19.09.2023
04616 Udhampur - Pathankot Special Express	15.09.2023 to 19.09.2023
06951 Pathankot - Udhampur Special Express	15.09.2023, 18.09.2023, 19.09.2023
06952 Udhampur - Pathankot Special Express	15.09.2023, 18.09.2023, 19.09.2023
04642 Pathankot - Jalandhar City DEMU Special Express	19.09.2023
06949 Jalandhar City - Pathankot DEMU Special Express	19.09.2023

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Short Terminate at/ Originate from	Date (s) (from originating station)
18101 Tatanagar - Jammu Tawi Express	at Amritsar	13.09.2023 & 15.09.2023
18102 Jammu Tawi - Tatanagar Express	from Amritsar	16.09.2023 & 18.09.2023
18309 Sambalpur - Jammu Tawi Express	at Amritsar	14.09.2023 & 16.09.2023
18310 Jammu Tawi - Sambalpur Express	from Amritsar	17.09.2023 & 19.09.2023
19223 Ahmedabad - Jammu Tawi Express	at Pathankot	14.09.2023 to 17.09.2023
19224 Jammu Tawi - Ahmedabad Express	from Pathankot	16.09.2023 to 18.09.2023
19224 Jammu Tawi - Ahmedabad Express	from Jalandhar City	19.09.2023
19225 Bhagat Ki Kothi - Jammu Tawi Express	at Pathankot	15.09.2023 to 18.09.2023
19226 Jammu Tawi - Bhagat Ki Kothi Express	from Pathankot	15.09.2023 to 18.09.2023
12237 Varanasi - Jammu Tawi Express	at Pathankot Cantt.	14.09.2023 to 18.09.2023
12238 Jammu Tawi - Varanasi Express	from Pathankot Cantt.	15.09.2023 to 19.09.2023

REGULATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Regulation	Date (from the Originating Station)
15655 Kamakhya - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	will depart 180 Minutes late from Kamakhya and will regulate 45 minutes in Ambala and 45 minutes in Firozpur Division	17.09.2023
12919 Dr. Ambedkar Nagar - S. M. Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	will depart 150 Minutes late from Dr. Ambedkar Nagar and will regulate 30 minutes in Ambala and 30 minutes in Firozpur Division	18.09.2023
12920 S. M. Vaishno Devi Katra - Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Express	will depart 120 Minutes late from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and will regulate 60 minutes in the route	19.09.2023
12471 Bandra Terminus - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	will depart 150 Minutes late from Bandra Terminus and will regulate 30 minutes in Ambala and 30 minutes in Firozpur Division	18.09.2023
12472 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Bandra Terminus Exp.	will depart 150 Minutes late from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and will regulate 60 minutes in the route	19.09.2023
19416 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Ahmedabad Express	will depart 70 Minutes late from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and will regulate 50 minutes in the route	19.09.2023

DIVERSION OF TRAIN		
Train No. & Name	Diverted via	Date (from the Originating Station)
12587 Gorakhpur - Jammu Tawi Amar Nath Express	Jalandhar Cantt.-Jalandhar City-Amritsar-Gurdaspur-Pathankot Cantt.	18.09.2023

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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DM Jammu flags off Digital Van to assist ISSS pension scheme applicants

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: District Magistrate Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya today flagged off a Digital Van dedicated to assist applicants of the ISSS pension schemes in the district.

The ISSS pension scheme provides for monthly financial assistance to elderly citizens, widows/divorcees and individuals with physical disabilities.

District Social Welfare Officer Mamta Rajput and other officers of the department were also present on the occasion.

As part of this initiative, special camps have been organ-



ised to address application-related issues within the ISSS pension scheme. These camps will primarily focus on pension cases rejected due to deficiency of certificates from various departments, including

Revenue, FCS&CA, Health and Social Welfare. In his address, District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya underscored the significance of this initiative, aimed at streamlining the application process and

extending much-needed assistance to potential beneficiaries. The Digital Van will serve as a mobile platform, effectively facilitating applicants in meeting the eligibility criteria for the ISSS pension scheme.

The District Magistrate urged all stakeholders to collaborate in ensuring that deserving beneficiaries avail the benefits of this drive.

This collaborative effort holds the key to make this initiative a resounding success.

Tehsil-wise camp schedules have been formulated for the period from September 14 to September 21, with camps running between 11 am and 4 pm in specific locations. In

Jammu, the Parade Ground will host the camp, while in Jammu West, the Tehsil Office Gole is the designated venue. Additionally, camps will be conducted at Nagrota, with locations at Panchayat Ghar Nadora and Panchayat Ghar Jagti, as well as in Dansal at Panchayat Ghar Dansal. These strategically planned camps aim to facilitate residents of their respective tehsils, providing assistance and services during the specified time frame.

Block-wise camps have been scheduled to organised at the respective BDO offices across Jammu district for various dates in September.

DMO Samba intensifies drive against illegal mining, seizes 6 vehicles

JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 12: In compliance with the directives of the Deputy Commissioner Samba, the District Mining Officer Samba has intensified efforts to combat illegal mining activities. In a recent operation, a total of 6 vehicles involved in illegal mining were seized.

The confiscated vehicles include 5 dumpers bearing registration numbers JK02DD 2239; JK14H 1494; JK19 7700; JK19A 0668 and JK19 A 2812, beside a tractor trolley bearing registration number: JK11B 2521.

One of the seized vehicles, laden with clay, has been handed over to the Vijaypur police station, while four vehicles loaded with sand have been delivered to the Mansar Chowki. Additionally, one tractor trolley has been surrendered to the Rakh Amb Chowki.

During the operation, a fine amounting to ₹56,100 was imposed on the spot for illegally dumped materials. Several more potential dump sites have been identified, and the penalty process is currently in progress. The activities of crusher unit holders and leaseholders are under scrutiny, and substantial penalties will be enforced in accordance with the law.

DC intervenes to make SAMAGRA Girls Hostel functional at Poonch

Reviews facilities, motivates girl students to avail accommodation to pursue their dreams

JI NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: Displaying a proactive approach, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary today ensured the well-being and comfort of students at the Girls Hostel Poonch by conducting a thorough review of the available facilities.

The building of Girls hostel was inaugurated in 2018 was not functional but this year it has been made functional with the intervention of Deputy Commissioner.

The Girls Hostel, managed by Samagra Shiksha, is meant to support students from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families who are pursuing their education in and around Poonch city. It offers comprehensive facilities, including boarding and lodging, to facilitate their educational pursuits.

During his visit, Chief Education Officer Bishamber Dass provided a detailed briefing to the Deputy Commissioner, highlighting the



outstanding facilities and services available to the students at the Girls Hostel. He emphasized that although the hostel has the capacity to accommodate up to 100 students it currently houses only 35 students.

The Chief Education Officer further stated that applications for hostel admission have been received, and the vacant seats are expected to be filled soon.

Interacting with the students and their parents, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of utilizing the Girls Hostel facilities for a seamless educational journey. He urged parents to encourage their daughters to

make the most of this opportunity, as it would enable them to concentrate on their studies without any concerns about accommodation and related expenses.

DC Poonch took the opportunity to interact with the hostel's inmates, attentively listening to their experiences and aspirations. His visit aimed to provide motivation and support to the girl students, assuring them of the district administration's unwavering commitment to their educational well-being.

DEPO Poonch, N.M Suri and Principal HSS Girls Poonch, Anjuman Shaheen were also present on this occasion.

Deputy Commissioner visits newly shifted Govt Girls Pahari Hostel in Kamsar Poonch

Inmates relocated to new building for improved living conditions

JI NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Yasin M. Choudhary today inspected the newly shifted Government Girls Pahari Hostel in Kamsar, Poonch. The hostel, previously located near SK Bridge, has been relocated to a rented building in an effort to provide improved living conditions to the inmates.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik, Tehsildar Haveli, Anjum Bashir Khan Khattak, and AD Handloom/Handicraft, who is temporarily holding the additional charge of Warden for the Government Girls Pahari Hostel, Shazia Rehman.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the newly rented building and interacted with the hostel inmates. During the visit, it was revealed that the previous building of the Government Girls Pahari Hostel was in dilapidated condition and was deemed unfit for accommodating the inmates.

Recognizing the urgent need for improved facilities, the decision was made to shift the hostel to a new building. Speaking about the relocation, Deputy Commissioner Yasin M. Choudhary stated, "The condition of the previous building of the Government Girls Pahari Hostel was so bad that it was not fit for inmates. Hence, we have taken the necessary steps to ensure the well-being of the hostel residents by relocating them to this new building."

DM Jammu reviews status of projects being executed by PWD

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: District Magistrate, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, today chaired a review meeting of the Public Works Department with the participation of senior officers from the department.

During the meeting, District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya underscored the paramount importance of connectivity for Jammu, emphasising its status as a significant and thriving city with substantial potential for development. He

stressed the executing agencies to receive ground-level support from the offices of the concerned Sub Divisional Magistrates, ensuring the expeditious execution of the projects. He also assured full support of the district administration to facilitate the execution of various projects.

Referring to the issue of potholes, the District Magistrate asked for prompt repair and renovation of roads. He emphasised a firm deadline of September end for the elimination of potholes throughout the



city, with the expectation that Jammu would be virtually pothole-free by that time. The DM also called for timely status reports on the progress of these

efforts. Furthermore, District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya called upon the Public Works Department officers to take a proactive and forthcom-

ing approach in their work, focusing on efficient execution. The meeting also included individual reviews of projects, including bridges, funded by NABARD, CRF etc.

Additionally, the District Magistrate urged the timely completion of languishing projects.

Those present at the meeting also included Additional District Development Commissioner, Ramesh Chander; ACR, Piyush Dhotra and AD Planning, Satish Sharma besides other officers.

J&K offers one of the lowest tariff rates to its consumers

JI NEWS SERVICE

SMART METERS KNOWN FOR ACCURATE ENERGY MEASUREMENT, DEPARTMENT DEMONSTRATED, PROVES AT PUBLIC PLACES, CONSUMER PREMISES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: In response to a news item published in local daily of Jammu and Kashmir on 12th September, the J&K Power Development department states that news report is factually incorrect and the department was not consulted before publication of this news item.

According to communique of JKPDD, the Hydro Power projects of Jammu and Kashmir have been developed in both State and Central sectors and the UT-owned plants contribute to 18 % of the total energy requirement. It adds that the allocations from Central Generating Stations (CGS) contributes to the majority (70%) of the power supply and remaining (12 %) is

sourced from Power exchange/private sector.

The communique further reads that power generation from the UT owned power plants, a major part of J&K's own electricity generation is produced from the Baglihar Hydro Electric Project (BHEP), which generates approximately 900 megawatts (MW) of power and the other locally owned power generation plants like Upper Sindh, Lower Jhelum, Chenani etc, collectively generate around 200-250 MW only. It adds that the total power generation of approximately culminates to 1100-1140 MWs through UT's own generating stations, which however, dips to around 200 MWs in winters due to low

water discharge in rivers, when the peak demand rises to more than 3000 MWs. The communique further reads that remaining requirement of the power during winters is met through the Central Generating Stations (CGS) located both within and outside the J&K's boundary.

The PDD further states that out of total installed capacity of 1140 MW in UT sector, the major share of around 1030 MW (88% of total capacity) is utilised in J&K, while the remaining 150 MW is sold outside the J&K to honour the agreements executed between J&K and other entities in the year 2009.

The communique adds that during last four-year period,

J&K has not added any PPA for selling power outside J&K i.e same quantum has been maintained as per the previous PPAs. It also reads that new PPAs have been signed for procuring power to the tune of 2845 MW for J&K, from different power houses (hydro and solar) being developed by CPSUs/JV of J&K & NHPC at nominal price, in the year 2023, thereby doubling the PPAs capacity/availability of power to J&K in the coming years.

In terms of tariff charges, Jammu and Kashmir offers one of the lowest tariff rates to its consumers in various categories, underscoring its commitment to providing affordable electricity to its residents,

it adds. The communique also reads that it is wrong notion that consumers are getting inflated bills after the installation of smart meters, rather smart meters are known for accurate energy measurement which has been demonstrated and proved by the department at several public places and consumer premises.

In addition, smart meters also provide the consumers with the access to real-time data on their energy usage (daily, monthly, and hourly), insights into their average daily consumption, comprehensive billing information, applied tariff rates, and other relevant information - all aimed at empowering consumers to make informed decisions about their energy consumption, the communique reads.

Public Outreach: DC Shopian visits Imam Sahib tehsil

Met DDC members, locals; redressed public issues on spot

JI NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today visited Imam Sahib tehsil of the district to take spot assessment of the issues concerning public, besides taking stock of ongoing developmental works in the area.

The DC interacted with the locals of the area and enquired about the status of various developmental and welfare services.

DDC Members, Ajaz Ahmed Mir and Jan Mohammad also met DC and interacted on various public interest issues.

The DC, while reviewing the status of road infrastructure in Imam Sahib, resolved a dispute on spot which was impeding the road construction work.

Several other concerns flagged-off by people and public representatives were addressed by the DC on the spot while some were referred to concerned executing agencies and authorities for redressal. Directions were issued to officers of R&B and Revenue for redressal of public issues at the earliest to ease the life of the general masses. Tehsildar, Imam Sahib, AEE, R&B and other concerned were present on the occasion.