

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Severe vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY.

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13 CRPF troopers injured in Budgam accident

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, OCT 17

At least 13 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers were injured in a road accident at Pakherpora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday morning, officials said.

An official told the news agency that a CRPF vehicle fell into a gorge at Khaygam crossing near Police Post Pakherpora this morning.

He said that several troopers were injured in the incident, who were evacuated to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile several officials from CRPF and police including IG CRPF, SSP Budgam, DYSP Chararisharif and other officers reached the spot to assess the situation post accident.

An official from CRPF said that in the incident, several jawans were injured who were evacuated to the nearby hospital, among which few were shifted to Srinagar hospital for specialized treatment.

He said 12 of the troopers are stable while one other is in critical condition and is undergoing treatment.

Chief Minister Omar advocates PM relief fund, Awas Yojna for Kishtwar fire victims

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCT 17

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday visited the fire-affected families of Marwan area of Kishtwar and advocated Prime Ministers' Relief Fund and PM's Awas Yojna for over 80 families whose homes were razed to rubble by the deadly blaze.

Omar also said that the J&K government has increased the assistance to the affected families. The Chief Minister, along with deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, visited Marwan area earlier today, where almost 80 structures were razed to rubble due to the deadly blaze on October 16. Addressing the fire affected people, Omar said what was the fun of going for DG recruitment when there are no shelters on the head of people of Marwan.

"We will ensure that at least two fire-stations are set up in the area and also keep an ambulance ready here to meet challenges," Omar said.

The Chief Minister strongly advocated the



PM Relief Fund and PM's Awas Yojna for over 80 fire affected families. "It's very unfortunate that my first visit was supposed to be like this. I believe all the affected families should be covered under PM's Awas Yojna. The J&K government had announced some assistance for the victims. I have raised the amount today," he said.

Omar said let the people

of Marwan get their houses rebuilt after DG recruitment will be done in the area as promised by him in the election campaign. On Wednesday, a deadly blaze left almost over 80 families in the Marwan area of Kishtwar homeless. Even as the local administration has started investigations to ascertain the cause of fire and also announced relief for

the affected families, the Chief Minister's visit along with deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary provided a relief of sorts to the people of Marwan. "We are happy to see the Chief Minister here. This gives a clean signal that there is someone who really cares for us," said a local of Marwan, whose house was turned into ashes in the blaze.

After nearly 4 years, Stage set for Rajya Sabha polls in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 17

The elections for the four Rajya Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir will be held after nearly four years following the swearing-in of the National Conference-led government on October 16.

Sources in knowhow of the political dynamics post the formation of government, the National Conference-Congress is expected to win three Rajya Sabha seats.

The alliance won a majority in the just-held Assembly polls in the Union Territory, getting

48 of 90 seats.

Other parties, including CPI-M, AAP and five Independents are supporting the alliance, pushing the overall tally to 55. The BJP, which finished second with a best-haul of 29 seats, could get one Rajya Sabha seat.

National Conference supremo Farooq Abdullah is likely to be nominated to Rajya Sabha while BJP may send one of its senior leaders to the Upper House, they added.

Former Deputy Chief Ministers Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta, who were denied tickets for

Assembly polls, are the frontrunners for the BJP's Rajya Sabha nomination, sources further said.

The last Rajya Sabha polls in the erstwhile state were held in 2015 and the four seats have remained vacant since 2021 after the elected members completed their six-year tenures.

In the Assembly polls held after a decade in Jammu and Kashmir, the National Conference won 42 seats, Congress 6, BJP 29, PDP 3 and one each by the People's Conference, CPI-M and AAP. Seven independents also emerged victorious.

Lt Governor meets families of victims of terrorism

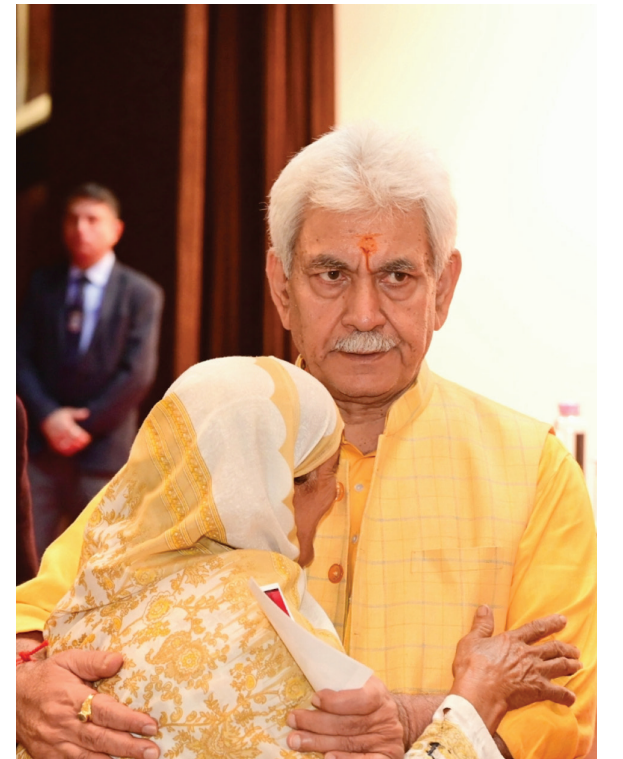
J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 17

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today met the family members of victims of terrorism from across North, Central and South Kashmir, at Raj Bhawan.

The family members whose loved ones were brutally killed by various terrorist groups in the past narrated the horrific incidents and sought the intervention of Lt Governor for resolution of their long pending issues.

Paying homage to the martyred civilians, the Lt Governor assured every necessary support and assistance to the families who despite suffering immense personal loss, hardships and pain, were excluded from mainstream of development for several decades.

"Instead of compassion and support, the terrorism-affected families were marginalized, and their voices went unheard. I will try my best to ensure justice, welfare and rehabilitation of these fami-



lies," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor said the security forces and J&K Police is determined to dismantle terror ecosystem.

Our security forces and J&K police is committed to completely neutralise terror groups and terror

ecosystem sponsored by the neighbouring country. At the same time, we will ensure that families targeted by terrorists and who were left behind are provided with all the assistance, support and their rights are protected, he said.

Supreme Court agrees to hear petition seeking statehood restoration to J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 17

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to consider a petition, seeking a time-bound restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

According to news agency, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan file the application before three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, requesting it be listed.

Sankaranarayanan highlighted the need for a time-bound restoration of statehood in the Article



370 matter and asked for an urgent hearing. The chief justice agreed to consider the request.

The application was filed as a miscellaneous application in the case

related to Article 370 of the Constitution, where the Supreme Court had upheld the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

Although the court

did not directly rule on the constitutionality of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019, which changed the region's status to a Union Territory, it had directed that statehood be restored "as soon as possible," without specifying a timeline.

Applicants Zahoor Ahmed Bhat, a college teacher, and Khurshid Ahmad Malik, an activist, noted that despite the assurance of statehood restoration, the Union Government has taken no action in 11 months following the judgment.

Panchayat, Municipal polls unlikely this year

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 17

In an indication that Panchayat and urban local bodies polls are unlikely to be held this year, the Jammu & Kashmir government has extended the term of the "Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission" constituted for recommending reservation to other backward classes in these bodies.

The government has extended the term of the commission to December 31, 2024, an order issued by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs said this evening, as per news agency.

With extension in tenure of the panel, which was constituted on July 30 this year, the Panchayat and urban local bodies' polls are unlikely to be held this year.

The three-member panel comprises of Justice(retd.) Janak Raj Kotwal, Raj Kumar Baghat (retired IAS officer) and Prof. (Dr.) Mohinder Singh Bhadwal(former dean SKUAST Jammu).

As per its terms of reference, the Commission is empowered to conduct an empirical study and investigation in the context of the representation of backward classes in all local bodies before the upcoming general elections of the local bodies.

It will submit its recommendations regarding proportional reservation for backward classes, Local Body-wise (Urban & Rural) in accordance with the amendments made in the Union Territory's local bodies last year to facilitate reservation for OBCs in them.

R&B's AEE Sopore caught red-handed while accepting bribe: ACB

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 17

Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday said to have caught AEE PWD (R&B) Division Sopore red handed for demanding 2 per cent commission & accepting bribe of Rs 25000 from contractor.

As per a statement issued to the news agency, Anti-Corruption Bureau received a complaint from a contractor [complainant] against AEE PWD (R&B) Division Sopore namely Mubarak Ahmad Ganie alleging therein that said AEE is demanding commission @ 2% as bribe from him for processing his current bill as well as on previous bills cleared by him.

"It was alleged by the

contractor/complainant that he was executing a work titled Construction of Lecture Block G+2 of GDC Sopore under supervision of PWD R&B division sopore for which CC 8th bill was prepared & checked by the concerned JE but when he approached AEE Mubarak Ahmad Ganie for further processing his bill for payments, AEE demanded his commission @ 2% as bribe from contractor on current bill as well as on previous bills of contractor checked /cleared by him," the statement reads.

It added that the complainant further alleged that AEE is refusing to process his bill further unless his commission @2% is paid by complainant [contractor] to him,as complainant was

not interested in paying bribe to AEE, under these circumstances complainant approached ACB with his written complaint and requested for legal action against AEE Mubarak Ahmad Ganie for demanding commission 2% from him and for not processing his pending bill for payments without receiving said 2% commission.

"On receipt of the complaint, the allegations were verified discreetly by the Anti Corruption Bureau. The complaint and subsequent discreet verification report prima facie discloses commission of offence punishable under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) on the part of Sh Mubarak Ahmad Ganie, AEE PWD (R&B) Division Sopore,

District Baramulla," the statement added.

Accordingly, the statement said that a case under FIR number 13-2024 under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) was registered against Mubarak Ahmad Ganie, AEE PWD (R&B) Division Sopore, District Baramulla at PS ACB Baramulla & investigations were put into motion.

"During investigation, a trap team headed by Dy.SP rank officer was constituted at PS ACB Baramulla. The team laid a successful trap and accused AEE was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs. 25000/- from contractor [complainant] at PWD R&B office Sopore District Baramulla on 16-10-2024.

Hope Centre will restore statehood to J&K very soon: Farooq Abdullah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 17 (UNI)

National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Thursday hoped that the central government will restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir very soon.

"Talk of statehood has already been round the corner and the Supreme Court has also said that they will take up the application moved today for listing it for hearing very soon", Farooq told media persons in Srinagar.

An application has been moved for listing in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Centre to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir in a time-bound manner within two months.

Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan mentioned the matter before Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud seeking listing of the application. "There is an MA in the



NC President said "it will take time for us to move to court again to put up our case".

The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said that "there is a huge unemployment and poverty in Jammu and Kashmir that has to be addressed on priority basis".

"What we have mentioned in our manifesto will be implemented and Jammu and Kashmir will move forward towards peace and prosperity", he said.

When asked that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has directed the police not to create a green corridor for him when he is travelling by road, Farooq said "running of sirens will not be allowed now. we are all the same people and traffic should not be hindered".

The NC President also said that those who are moving on two wheelers without helmets would be checked now.

Financial literacy camp held at Kupwara

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 17

The District Fund Office Kupwara on Thursday organized a Financial Literacy Camp at Kupwara.

Participants from different departments including DDOs, representatives of the DDOs and general public were provided financial literacy at the event.

During the camp, experts from the Finance Department and other line departments provided threadbare awareness to the participants regarding the functioning and working of various online applications operated by J&K Finance Department which include the Janbhagidari portal, Treasury Net, BEAMS, JKPaySys, Mera Vetan, Genprofit, GP fund, SLI, DLL, e-tendering, Gem portal etc.

Detailed Training was imparted to participants as to how to access these



platforms and take maximum benefit through these applications.

Literacy camp focused on topics such as budgeting, saving, investment, managing debt, and understanding financial products like insurance and retirement plans.

The Chief Accounts Officer, District Fund Office Kupwara also spoke on the occasion and said that the main aim of financial

literacy camp organized by fund office Kupwara is to educate participants on managing personal finances, understanding key financial concepts and bridging the technological gaps.

He said that such financial literacy camps empower the individuals to achieve financial independence and security, helping them to navigate economic challenges and

opportunities confidently.

He highlighted the importance of online platforms offered by the Finance Department in easing out the pay and accounting work of the DDOs.

Other speakers also deliberated on different topics of financial literacy. Feedback and question answer sessions proved very beneficial for the participants.

Traffic Police Rural Jammu launches special road safety awareness drive

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 17

Traffic Police Rural Jammu today launched special drive on National Highway and interior locations in the areas of Kathua and Samba Districts to aware the general public and drivers of matadors/auto PSV and truck drivers regarding importance of following traffic rules and regulations to ensure hassle free/noise free vehicular movement.

The awareness drive was launched by Dy. SP (T) Samba-Kathua Sukhdev Singh and assisted by DTI Kathua Inspector Pawan Singh; DTI Samba Inspector Ajaz Pervaiz; DTI Bari Brahmana Inspector Kapil Manhas and Incharge DTI Billawar SI Kartar Nath on the directions of M. Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic J&K and Dr. Mohamad Haseeb Mughal, DIG



Jammu Range.

The main objective of the special awareness drive was to educate the general public, transporters and drivers/vehicle operators regarding traffic rules and regulations. The move further aimed to restrain visible traffic violations by the vehicle operators including using pressure(honking) horns, overloading by trucks, dumpers tippers and long route buses on NHWs/SHWs/interior locations, besides over speeding, rash & negligent, stunt driving, wrong parking on

roadsides, plying without

crash helmets/seat belts. Traffic Police Rural Jammu under the close and effective supervision of SSP Traffic Rural, Jammu Vinay Kumar continuously launched awareness drives for road users/transporters unions/drivers/ motorists in routine manner for effective traffic management.

SSP (Traffic) Rural Jammu stressed on the traffic cops to ensure proper discipline, accountability and transparency in traffic management system, so that the violators could

be handled strictly under the provisions of Motor Vehicle Act/rule

Vinay Kumar also appealed to the owners of the vehicles, transporters and agents to extend full cooperation to the traffic cops to keep a close check on the traffic violators/violations is maintained. "The general public, as a whole, has to participate in this process and to take responsibility for hassle free movement of vehicles for the convenience of themselves and other road users," he added. The officer especially advised the youth to ensure wearing of crash helmets, while driving bikes / two wheelers including the pillion rider and avoid triple riding for their safety / security.

SSP Traffic Rural further said that special enforcement drives will get more stringent in coming days.

3rd UTRC meeting held at Ramban



JI NEWS SERVICE RAMBAN,
OCTOBER 17

As per NALSA's annual calendar for the year 2024, today, the District Legal Services Authority, Ramban under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority, convened the 3rd meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) here today at District Court Complex.

The meeting was held to expedite the identification and review of prisoners belonging to district

Ramban, who are lodged in District Jail Udhampur and are eligible to be considered for bail as well as to accelerate the regular functioning of the committee and review the state of all eligible under-trial prisoners (UTPs)

The meeting was chaired by Deepak Sethi, Chairman (Principal District & Sessions Judge), District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ramban and attended by the key members of the Under Trial Review Committee.

The committee reviewed the cases of the eligible UTPs shortlisted by the Secretary (Sub-Judge), District Legal Services Authority Ramban, Priyanka Mahajan. The Committee took up and discussed 10-cases, however, none of the cases was recommended for immediate release.

The meeting was attended by Secretary DALSA, Additional District Commissioner, Additional Superintendent of Police, Public Prosecutor, Deputy LADC and Assistant LADC.

DC Poonch reviews implementation of HADP at District Level Committee Meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCTOBER 17

District Development Commissioner, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of District Level Committee here in the conference hall of the DC office to review implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) in the district.

Officers from stakeholder departments, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Sericulture, Fisheries, floriculture etc presented a thorough update on the current status of program registrations across varied components, departmental approvals and project deployments. The DDC,

who is also the Chairman of District level Committee (DLC), accorded approval to 343 proposals in favour of eligible persons of the district.

The DC emphasized that the HADP is a major step towards creating a sustainable and profitable agricultural ecosystem. "The programme aims to empower farmers with knowledge and tools that can help them enhance their productivity and profitability while also contributing to the overall growth of the agriculture sector", he added. The meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, ACR, Officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and other concerned departments.

Kashmir Marathon: Div Com directs Officers to put all arrangements in place by evening

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 17

In order to ensure smooth and hassle free conduct of 'Kashmir Marathon', the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Thursday enjoined upon all concerned Officers to ensure that all the arrangements are put in place by evening itself.

The Div Com issued these directions in a meeting of concerned Heads of Departments while reviewing overall preparation for the historic event.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Dr Owais Ahmad; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi ud din Bhat; Director Tourism Kashmir, Director Floriculture, Director Health, officers of KPDC, R&B, Traffic, Police and other concerned departments.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed officers to dump all the required material at the site of Starting & Finishing venue at Polo Ground by today evening. He also directed for enough barricading at the venue and along the route.

He instructed them that all the facilities shall be presentable with clear signages besides marking the route of Marathon.

The health department was directed for operation of triage centers at TRC & SKICC besides establishment of 17 health stations, deployment of 15 ambulances at different



locations and beds at Polo Ground for medical assistance in case of exigency.

While laying emphasis on effective communication, he instructed for usage of Walkie-talkie by nodal officers and communication system of Police to ensure instant flow of information for immediate necessary action.

Div Com directed for establishing the Control Room at TRC manned by the staff of Traffic Police, Security Officers, Health, Tourism, SMC and SDRF Departments.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed Traffic Police to issue advisory regarding

Traffic Movement for the action day.

Bidhuri also directed for uninterrupted supply of electricity at Venue and live demonstration of cultural activities, Handicraft activities and display of stalls by Agriculture & Horticulture Departments.

He instructed the concerned for coloring of speed breakers, operation of water fountains and issuance of duty roster for the staff.

The meeting was informed that all the volunteers have been provided training regarding their assigned roles.

KVK Kathua-IFFCO organise Rabi Kissan Mela cum seminar on efficient use of Nano fertilisers

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, OCTOBER 17

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kathua, under the administrative control of SKUAST-Jammu, today organised Rabi Kisan Mela in collaboration with IFFCO Jammu to familiarise farmers about latest agriculture techniques to increase production of Rabi Crops.

More than 500 farmers participated in the event including farm women besides former Sarpanches and Panches of the different panchayats of Hiranagar tehsil participated in the mela.

The mela was inaugurated by Dr B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, in the presence of Dr S K Gupta, Director Research; Dr Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu, S. Sukhpal Singh Sidhu, State Marketing Manager and Dr. Ramesh Verma General Manager, IFFCO, New Delhi, Satish Sharma, Joint Director (Extension), Department of Agriculture, Jammu and Dr. Vishal Mahajan, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Kathua. Dr B. N. Tripathi along

with the dignitaries inspected different stalls of agriculture and allied sectors like Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture, Fisheries and KVK besides stalls of private players dealing with agriculture inputs, farm machinery and organic products were also installed during the event. The stalls displayed and highlighted various farmers' welfare schemes and programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr B. N. Tripathi emphasized upon the role of KVKs for bringing positive change in the lives of farmers through technological interventions in the field of agriculture. He stressed upon the adoption of integrated and diversified farming systems for better returns under diverse agro-climatic zones. He suggested farmers to have sustained contact with KVK for advancement of their knowledge and skills.

He emphasized upon the role of women in development of agriculture. He highlighted the role of women for promoting diversification in agriculture through adoption of enterprises

such as mushroom, beekeeping, vegetable, floriculture and value addition. He discussed the role of high-tech agriculture in enhancing the income from farming under a changing climate scenario.

Dr S K Gupta deliberated upon the recent farm technologies recommended by the University. He discussed the research initiatives in various fields and suggested farmers to harness benefits by adopting high yielding varieties recommended by the University. While emphasizing upon the role of Kisan melas for farmers, he discussed innovative schemes offered by the department for enhancing farmers' income.

Dr Amrish Vaid discussed the role of the extension system of the University in providing an efficient seed production programme of the University. He suggested undertaking proactive steps for skill development of farmers.

Earlier, Dr Vishal Mahajan, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Kathua, discussed various programmes being organized by KVK Kathua for the benefit of farmers.

S. Sukhpal Singh Sidhu discussed the initiatives taken by IFFCO for increasing agricultural production. He informed about the nano-fertilizers technology, especially Nano Urea Plus and Nano DAP launched by IFFCO for increasing effectiveness of fertilization. Satish Sharma underlined the projects under HADP implemented by the government of Jammu and Kashmir. While emphasizing upon the role of Kisan melas for farmers, he discussed innovative schemes offered by the department for enhancing farmers' income and stressed upon the need for engaging rural youths in agriculture for a sustainable and profitable future of farming.

During the mela, technical lectures were delivered by Vivek Verma on Nao fertilizers and its efficacy, Dr Vishal Sharma on production technology of rabi crops, Dr Anamika Jamwal on pre-seed treatment and Mushroom production technology, Dr Berjesh Ajrawat on crop insurance and new schemes launched by the Government and Dr. Gurdev Chand on vertical farming.

Queries of farmers were attended and suitable recommendations were made by experts.

An exhibition was also organized during the mela in which district departments, including Agriculture, Sheep Husbandry, Floriculture, Animal Husbandry etc and private agencies like IFFCO showcasing their products and technologies and schemes related to seed, chemicals, implements etc.

During the exhibition, CAO Sanjeev Rai apprised the VC that in a few years Kathua has taken the lead in Mushroom and Honey production. The main attraction of the mela was the Hydroponic unit which was demonstrated by the Division of Plant Physiology, SKUAST-J which is helpful for soil less culture and for exotic vegetables. Besides, women self help groups of agriculture also showcased products like pickles and canned vegetables.

Progressive farmers of the area appreciated the event and suggested that such events should also be organized in border areas for awareness of farmers regarding various schemes.

DC Shopian felicitates 23 Panchayats for achieving TB- Mukt status

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 17

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today felicitated different Panchayats of the district for achieving 'TB-Mukt Panchayat status' for the year, 2024, during a felicitation ceremony held at Meeting hall of DC Office Complex.

A total of 23 Panchayats of the different blocks of district which qualified as TB Mukta Panchayats as per set parameters received appreciation certificates for their contribution in making panchayats TB-free.

While addressing the gathering of BDOs, Pan-



chayat Secretaries and others, DC appreciated efforts of Panchayat Secretaries whose critical role ensured the recognition. Their responsibilities including administrative tasks, implementing government schemes at the grassroots level, facilitating the smooth functioning of the Panchayats was noted and applauded.

Earlier, DTO Shopian

briefed about the implementation of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme in the district. She highlighted the efforts and achievements made so far.

CMO, Shopian, Dr. Arshid Hussain Tak; MS, DH, Shopian, BMOs and officers from the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme were also present.

Implementation of HADP, PMFME schemes reviewed in Rajouri

DC seeks speedy processing of cases, completion of pending E-KYCs

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 17

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to review and approve cases under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) and the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme.

The meeting, attended by key district officials, underlined the need for timely processing of cases and release of subsidies to beneficiaries.

The DC emphasized the importance of ensuring that all PM-Kisan beneficiaries in the district possess Kisan Credit Cards (KCC). He directed the concerned departments to facilitate the issuance of KCCs to eligible farmers and complete the pending E-KYCs of beneficiaries at the earliest to ensure seamless access to financial assistance under various



agricultural schemes.

A detailed review of cases under the PMFME scheme was also conducted, with the DC noting that several cases are pending due to issues related to land documentation. He stressed the need for resolving these issues promptly to avoid delays in approving applications and directed the departments to provide assistance to beneficiaries in completing the necessary paperwork.

The DC also laid special emphasis on mega cooperative and micro-irrigation projects, highlighting their potential to transform the agricultural landscape

In addition, the DC reviewed the progress of the Rural Business Services (RBS) being provided by the Horticulture Department and called for measures to strengthen these services. He directed the District Marketing Officer to launch a comprehensive awareness campaign to inform the public about the marketing avenues available for local fruit and horticultural produce, thereby increasing the reach of Rajouri's agricultural products to larger markets.

of the district. He urged the departments to fast-track approvals and release of subsidies to beneficiaries.

A major focus of the meeting was on promoting apiculture (beekeeping) as a viable livelihood option in Rajouri. The DC directed the concerned officers to identify potential blocks where apiculture could be promoted and to extend necessary support to farmers interested in this sector. He emphasized the need to create a robust ecosystem for apiculture in the district, which could significantly enhance the income of local farmers.

ADDC Raj Kumar Thapa, along with the Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, DFO, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, AD Fisheries, Area Marketing Officer (Horticulture Planning & Marketing), Lead Bank Manager, District Development Manager (NABARD), BDO Rajouri, and DPM NRLM were present in the meeting and shared updates on the schemes under their purview.

25 day training program in Premium Banking commences at GCW Parade



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 17

The Department of Economics and the Training & Placement Cell of Government College for Women Parade, under the IQAC initiative, has hosted a 25-day intensive training program on "Premium Banking" for Semester-5 students, beginning from today.

This collaborative effort with ICT Academy Chennai and Infosys foundation aims to enhance students' knowledge and skills in the banking sector, preparing them for future opportunities in the financial services industry.

The inaugural session held today was marked with Lighting of the Lamp followed by a welcome address by Prof. Sonia Bhat and a briefing of the session by Prof. S.S. Parihar wherein he highlighted that 62 students have enrolled for the course and that the daily

training sessions shall run from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM thereby completing the 100 Hrs Skill development and hands-on practice program.

Dr Archana Agarwal, the resource person for the training has been deputed from New Delhi. She is professional and an expert in multiple skills.

During the training period Prof Pooja, Prof Sonia, Prof Sukhwinder, and Dr Reenu shall act as mentors and Dr Ajay shall provide the technical support. All the trainees shall be given a certificate that shall help them in their placement drives.

The Chief Guest Dr. Ravinder Tickoo on the occasion underscored the need and importance of such training initiatives under NEP-2020 upskilling and reskilling the youth to pursue their career advancement. The session ended with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Sukhwinder Kaur.

Entrepreneurship Awareness Program held at Govt Polytechnic College Reasi



JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, OCTOBER 17

An insightful event aimed at promoting awareness among students on entrepreneurship was organized by Government Polytechnic College Reasi in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

The session, led by Abhilash Kumar Braroo, JKEDI's (District Nodal Officer) imparted valuable knowledge and inspiration to students to focus on the significance of entrepreneurship in today's evolving job market. The event attracted more than 90 students, in addition to the entire faculty members making it a well-attended and highly engaging session.

Braroo encouraged the students to adopt an entrepreneurial mindset, emphasizing the opportunities available for young innovators and problem solvers in this region. He highlighted how entrepreneurship not only contrib-

utes to economic development but also fosters self-reliance, critical thinking & leadership qualities.

Through real-life examples and success stories, Braroo demonstrated how individuals from various backgrounds have transformed their ideas into successful ventures. He urged students to take advantage of the various schemes and support systems available through JKEDI and other government programs. His motivational talk stressed the importance of perseverance, creativity and taking calculated risks, which are vital traits for any aspiring entrepreneur.

Principal Government Polytechnic College Reasi, Er. Vinay Gupta expressed appreciation for the session, such initiatives are essential for encouraging students to explore career paths beyond traditional employment options.

The event was a resounding success, leaving the attendees more informed and inspired to take bold steps toward entrepreneurship.

DDC Shopian chairs District Implementation Committee meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 17

The District Implementation Committee (DIC) under PM Vishwakarma scheme met today at Mini Secretariat Shopian in order to facilitate second tier verification and selection of beneficiaries of the district.

The meeting was chaired by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar.

During the meeting, 1960 cases of artisans were submitted; out of 1956 cases were approved

for selection for benefits under the scheme.

The scheme offers various benefits to people engaged in 18 recognised trades including barber, tailor, basket maker, boat maker, potter, washerman, mason, carpenter, cobbler, toy maker, gold Smith, etc.

The scheme offers skill upgradation through training, provision of tool kits incentive worth Rs15,000, credit support in the form of collateral free loans, marketing support and incentive for digital transactions to the approved beneficiaries engaged in these 18 trades.

PIL Filed on Illegal Import of Refurbished Medical Devices into India: Concerns and Policy Violations

- Calls for clear guidelines to ensure refurbished devices meet stringent safety and performance standards, protecting patients and healthcare providers
- Regulatory gaps leave refurbished equipment inadequately monitored, posing risks to patient health in critical medical settings
- Import of refurbished devices, including surgical robots, into India without MoEFCC approvals poses serious regulatory violations and risks to patient safety

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

The growing trend of refurbished medical equipment presents significant risks to patient safety and raises important questions about the reliability and effectiveness of these devices, which are vital to the healthcare system. The Patient Safety and Access Initiative of India Foundation (PSAIIIF) had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court of Delhi, citing numerous violations and non-compliances in the import of refurbished medical devices. As per the directions passed by the Court, recently PSAIIIF received responses from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Medical devices, including refurbished ones, are governed by stringent regulatory vigil under the Medical Device Rules, 2017, in India. These regulations aim to ensure that medical devices meet rigorous safety and efficacy standards before entering the market. However, a growing trend of importing refurbished devices, such as CT scanners, MRI machines, ultrasound equipment, laboratory devices, and surgical robotics, without appropriate certification has been observed. This creates a loophole that compromises India's self-reliance and poses

potential risks to patient safety. Associations such as AiMeD, FICCI, and several domestic companies opposed the import of refurbished medical equipment in India, urging the government to take decisive action.

The illegal import of refurbished medical devices into India without obtaining the necessary approvals is a pressing issue that raises significant concerns for public health, regulatory integrity and India's self-reliance. This practice not only undermines the established medical device framework but also poses serious risks to patients who rely on these products for their health and well-being. In response, PSAIIIF had initially filed a Writ Petition before the Delhi High Court highlighting these issues. The petition had impleaded several respondents, including the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, DGHS, MoEFCC, DGFT, and Intuitive Surgical India Pvt Ltd.

Speaking on the matter, Professor Bejon Kumar Misra, the Founder of PSAIIIF, said, "The petition had been filed seeking issuance of directions to the Respondents to identify and furnish a list of all second-hand and refurbished High-End And High-Value (HEHV) Used Medical Equipment other than Critical Care Medical Equipment that have been imported into India since 2019 without permission

of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and for directions to Companies including the Intuitive Surgical to immediately recall all such Refurbished HEHV Medical Equipment that are installed without prior approval as per the Rules and Regulations and stop the import of Refurbished HEHV Medical Equipment including the systems that are at customs cleared and not installed at customer locations until the Government inter-ministerial committee of Respondents decides on implementation of policy framework that would regulate the import of such devices."

The petition presented substantial evidence, citing one company—Intuitive India Private Limited, a subsidiary of Intuitive Surgical Inc.—which allegedly imported refurbished equipment worth over INR 250 crores since 2019, presumably without the required MoEFCC approval. The petition's core contentions stress that the import of medical devices, particularly refurbished HEHV devices, was not permitted before 2023. Even after the DGHS notification in June 2023 that allowed for the import of select devices under strict conditions, the approval of MoEFCC was mandatory.

The Delhi High Court had directed PSAIIIF to file representations with the respondents, granting the liberty to approach the court again if the

responses were unsatisfactory. Professor Misra confirmed that PSAIIIF recently received responses from both MoEFCC and DGHS. According to MoEFCC's 133rd meeting in May 2024, Intuitive India received approval to import only one refurbished Da Vinci X robot in 2019, yet continued to import equipment worth over INR 250 crores in subsequent years without approval. Professor Misra further stated, "Since the responses have been received pursuant to court order, no statements can be made on the same until conclusive legal advice is taken on the same."

Further, MoEFCC recently granted more approvals in 2024, despite DGHS's stance that imported equipment should not be allowed if equivalent devices are manufactured in India under the "Make in India" policy. Professor Misra pointed out that this inconsistency undermines domestic manufacturers' confidence and threatens the government's "Make in India" policy, leading to what he terms an "Unmake in India" campaign.

This illegal importation not only violates India's regulatory standards but also jeopardizes patient safety. Immediate action is needed to enforce compliance, raise public awareness, and encourage cooperation among stakeholders to ensure that only safe, certified medical devices are available in the Indian market.

DC reviews implementation of 'UMEED' scheme in Poonch District



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCTOBER 17

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today convened a meeting to take a detailed stock of implementation of 'Umeed' scheme under J&K State Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKSRMLM).

The DC informed the members of SHGs and female participants that "SAATH" rural initiative is aimed at helping women to become self-reliant by covering them under the scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the JKRLM District Nodal Officer

and Block Programme Officers to rope in maximum women under the scheme to provide them the means for sustainable livelihood.

The DC asked the concerned officers to link the Self Help Groups with vibrant markets to enable them to get maximum returns from the sale of their products.

The meeting was attended by ACD Poonch, District Programme Manager NRLM, Block programme Managers NRLM, other officers besides male as well as female beneficiaries of rural areas of the district.

District Level Rent Assessment Committee meeting held at Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, OCTOBER 17

To finalise Rent Assessment Cases of the buildings in use of different Government Departments, a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, here today.

As many as 10 rent cases of buildings presently used by Government Departments includ-

ing School Education, Handicraft, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Health and Police Department were put forth before the Committee for fixing of monthly rent. After detailed deliberation, the Committee approved 8 cases and put 2 on hold for technical deficiencies. The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Samy, ACR Anshumali Sharma, ASP Iftikhar, XENS, AD handicraft Ujwal Samy, CEO, CMO and other officials.

Inter-Division UT Level Cricket U17 Boys continues in Kathua



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, OCT 17

Inter-division UT level cricket tournament for U17 years boys continues on second consecutive day in Kathua. Today morning Kashmir division won the toss and choose to bat first. Kashmir division batsmen played marvelously and scored 186 runs in allotted 20 overs

at the loss of 5 wickets. Abbaas Gulzar made fifty runs in 46 balls hitting 6 fours. Bhat Talak scored 36 runs in 16 balls, with 3 sixes and 2 fours. While chasing the target Jammu division could score only 107 runs in 20 overs at the loss of 9 wickets. Samit Bashir took 3 wickets in 3 overs conceding 15 runs and Kashmir won the match by 79 runs.

Kathua admin hosts free Surgical Camp at Bani

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, OCTOBER 17

A free surgical camp is currently underway in Bani to provide specialized medical services to over 2,000 beneficiaries in the hilly region.

Organized by the Department of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with SOS Memorial Trust Delhi began running on October 13 and will continue till Oct 19, 2024. The camp offers a range of comprehensive medical care, targeting 40 major and minor surgeries, with a particular focus on orthopedic and gallbladder procedures. The use of modern equipment has facilitated efficient service delivery, ensuring that patients receive high-quality care. The District Adminis-

tration, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas, along with Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina and Block Medical Officer Dr. Dev Raj, has played a pivotal role in the seamless execution of the camp. Dr. Raina has actively engaged with patients throughout the event, receiving positive feedback regarding the treatment and care provided. "This initiative highlights the success of public-private partnerships in making health-care more accessible to underserved communities," stated Dr. Raina. He also praised the contributions of the SOS Memorial Trust and expressed optimism for future collaborations to further enhance healthcare services in the region.

DC Jammu reviews preparations for annual Jhiri Mela



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 17

Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the annual Jhiri Mela.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Shishir Gupta, Superintendent of Police (Rural) Brijesh Kumar Sharma, Mela Officer and other concerned district officers from different departments. The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for seamless coordination among all departments to ensure the

safety and convenience of the large number of devotees expected to attend the mela. He stressed the importance of making adequate arrangements for drinking water, sanitation, healthcare and security.

The Jhiri Mela, celebrated annually, draws thousands of pilgrims and tourists to the Marh area, necessitating well-structured logistical support. The Deputy Commissioner directed the officials to complete all arrangements well in advance, including traffic management and crowd control, to facilitate smooth proceedings.

Register online for Yuva Sangam Phase V - be an ambassador for your state

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, 17 OCT 2024

Thousands of youth across India stand a chance to represent their states/Union Territories by participating in Yuva Sangam, a unique initiative launched by the Ministry of Education under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) programme. This is the 5th phase of Yuva Sangam and online registrations are open till 21st October, 2024. Interested candidates in the age group of 18-30 years, mainly students, NSS/NYKS volunteers, employed/self-employed persons, etc. may register through the YUVA SANGAM portal before the deadline. Off campus youth, including those enrolled for online courses, in skilling institutions etc are also urged to register.

"It is an exciting oppor-

tunity for students and young professionals to learn about the country, its people and even about themselves through this transformative journey of over 5-7 days. Yuva Sangam allows participants to experience the diversity of India firsthand, recognise the cultural-social similarities and challenges, and develop inclusive solutions to address problems or tap opportunities through their professional/academic areas of expertise," said a senior officer of the Ministry of Education.

The motive is to deepen ties between India's vast regions through exposure and understanding and this initiative will play a critical role in nation building by nurturing a next generation of citizens who are aware and empathetic.

The idea of a sustained

and structured cultural connect between people of different regions was mooted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas held on 31st October 2015 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. To crystallise this idea, the EBSB programme was launched on 31st October 2016. The origins and evolution of EBSB along with activities, special initiatives and campaigns organised under the programme are available in the e-Book (<https://ekbharat.gov.in/JourneySoFarCampaign/index.html>)

Through Yuva Sangam tours, participants will deep dive into local heritage, geography, development landmarks and recent achievements of their paired states. Multi-dimensional exposure will be encouraged in

five broad areas - the 5 Ps viz; Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development), Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect), and Prodyogiki (Technology).

The initiative aligns with key themes in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by focusing on experiential learning and imbibing knowledge of the rich diversity of India on a first-hand basis. It is an ongoing educational cum cultural exchange with celebration of diversity at its core wherein participants gain an immersive experience of diverse facets of life, natural landforms, development landmarks, engineering and architectural marvels, recent achievements, and the opportunity to interact and deeply engage with the local youth in the host State/UT.

SBI Seri Drives CSR Initiative to Transform PS Bhatoli with Rs 4.5 Lakh Investment in Infrastructure, Education

JINNEWSERVICE
BHADERWAH, OCT 17

State Bank of India, Seri has initiated a CSR activity for which Primary School, Bhatoli has been selected. State Bank of India has identified gaps which the students of primary school are facing which are mainly: Sanitation, Security, Quality Care, Infra-

structure and Quality Education.

"Taking in consideration of that we have determined the requirements like School border fencing, Washroom renovation, drinking water facility, furniture, overall renovation of school building, heaters, carpets and projector. The entire costing of which was approx-4.5 Lakh was

approved and disbursed to concerned authorities in due course". SBI official added

SBI regional authorities especially Regional Manager Sh. Rajeev Chhabra and Seri Branch Manager Sh. Dikshant Gupta have mentioned how a little contribution from different stakeholders of the society can help in a big way.

"These efforts will not only lead to development of youth but also society as a whole. They also put emphasis on how State Bank Of India remains on forefront in terms of CSR activity and shared a vision where State Bank will continue to contribute towards society whenever an opportunity comes." SBI official added.

CU Jammu launches Implementation Phase of SCDPM 4.0 Initiative



JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 17

The Central University of Jammu has officially launched the implementation phase of the Sustainable Campus Development and Performance Management (SCDPM) 4.0 initiative, following a comprehensive preparatory period that began in August. This crucial phase, mandated by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, will run from 2nd October to

31st October 2024.

During the preparatory phase, the university focused on establishing vermicomposting and vermiwash systems, laying the groundwork for a sustainable waste management strategy. Approximately 32 kgs of vermicompost was obtained till 17th October 2024. During the implementation phase, vermicompost was sold at Rs 30/Kg. This initiative aligns with the university's commitment to environmen-

tal sustainability and ecological balance. The implementation phase is being spearheaded by Nodal Officer Prof. Richa Kothari, with coordination efforts led by Lt. Dr. Pankaj Mehta, Dr. Dinesh Kumar and Dr. Ankit Tandon. Together, they aim to ensure a smooth transition into this vital phase of the SCDPM initiative.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble vice Chancellor, Central university of Jammu congratulated the entire team involved in

this project. "This initiative not only enhances our campus sustainability but also sets a benchmark for other institutions to follow," he stated.

The university is optimistic that the SCDPM 4.0 implementation will contribute significantly to its sustainability goals and foster a greener campus environment. As the month progresses, stakeholders will continue to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of this significant initiative.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANS.

LINE MAINTT. DIV-V, JKPTCL, JAMMU.

Jammu & Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(e-mail-xengcdjmu@gmail.com) Ph. No. & fax No. 0191-2437028

INVITATION FOR e-BIDs

e-NIT No.: TLMD-V/J/ 20 of 2024-25

Dated: 16/10/2024

The Executive Engineer, Transmission Line Maintenance Division-V JKPTCL, Ambedkar Chowk, Railway Road, Jammu, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, invites e-bids under two bid system i.e. Technical bid and Financial bid through UT of J&K website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from Registered 'A' Class Electrical Contractors with Relevant Experience for the below mentioned works in accordance with the terms and conditions and specifications described in the tender document on turnkey basis.

The tender document is available at the above referred website. Interested bidders may download the e-bid document, submit their e-bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

Scope Of the Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost Of Tender Document
Replacement of 33KV VCB's and 1 set of CTs at 132/33KV Grid Station Sidhra	Rs 25.00 lacs	Rs 50,000 (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) In shape of Demand Draft in favour of The Executive Engineer, TLMD-V, JKPTCL, Jammu

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 16-10-2024 (04:00 PM onwards)
B	Pre-Bid meeting time and venue	19/10/2024 at 12:00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer TLMD-V, JKPTCL, Jammu
C	e-Bid submission start date (Submission of tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	17-10-2024 from 10:00 AM
D	Last date for submission of hard copy of e-bid	After opening the financial bid only, the lowest bidder (L1) is required to submit/furnish the hard copies of bid along with the original copy of CDR/EMD and tender documents.
E	e-Bid submission end date & Time	06-11-2024 up to 4:00PM
F	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	11-11-2024 at 2:00PM
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time	Shall be communicated to the Qualified Bidders separately.
H	Estimated cost	Rs 25.00 lacs
I	Venue of opening of technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of Executive Engineer TLMD-V, JKPTCL, Ambedkar Chowk, Railway Road, Jammu.
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 50,000/-

Period of Completion: 90days after the issue of LOA

SD/-

Executive Engineer,
Trans. Line Maintt. Div. V
JKPTCL, Jammu

DIP/J-2249-P/24

Date: 17-10-24

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
AGROSTOLOGY WING, FOREST DEPARTMENT, SIDHRA
Contact:- 0191-2662672
Email:- dcfagrostology@gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

S. No	E-NIT No. and date	Name of work	Advertised cost (Rs.)	Cost of document (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Bid start Date	Bid end date	Bid opening date
1	05 of 2024-25 Dt. 16-10-2024	Repair and Renovation of Seed Store / Staff Shed by way of Distempering, Painting, Plumbing and Electric works located in Agrostoplogy Complex Sidhra, during F.Y. 2024-2025	164970	500	3300	16-10-2024 at 05:00 pm	23-10-2024 at 10:00 am	23-10-2024 at 12 Noon

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Sd/-
(Suresh Kumar Sharma),JKFS
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Agrostoplogy Wing, Forest Deptt;
Jammu.

No: Ag/J/Tender/ 728-29
DIP/J-5702/24
Date: 17-10-24

Dated:- 16-10-2024

Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division Udhampur
(E-mail- xenmdudh@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders are invited in two cover system, from reputed and registered firms for the job mentioned below:-

S.NO.	Description of work	N.I.T No	Estimated/ Approved Cost (In Lacs)	Earnest Money/ Performance Security	Cost of tender documents	Time of completion	Eligibility Criteria of Bidder	Tender Receiving Authority
01	General Repairs to Snow clearance machine SNOW CAT 2013 for snow clearance season 2024-25 Tender ID 2024_PWDJK_260436_1	E-NIT No. MHDU/TS/ 64 of 2024-25 Dt.:- 16/10/2024 Due on:- 28/10/2024	1.14 (Lac)	Earnest Money 2% of estimated amount, amounting to Rs. 2280/- only shall be submitted by all Participating Bidder in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG. Performance Security 5% of the contract value shall be submitted by the lowest Bidder before the allotment of work order in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG.	Rs. 200/- (Fixed Amount) in the shape of challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to MH-0058(PWD) Misc. Revenue and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on e-tendering portal OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in shape of e-challan through Account No. 002801020000009, J&K Bank, Udhampur, of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Udhampur)	10 (Ten days)	Registered/ Reputed Mechanical firms having sufficient experiences for the similar nature work	Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Udhampur

Position of Funds:- (Available) Position of AA/Tech. Sanction:- (Accorded)

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities can be seen / downloaded from the J&K govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in

No: MHDU/TS/ 1851
Dated:- 16/10/2024

Sd/-
(Er. Daljeet Singh)
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospital Division
Udhampur

DIP/J-5740/24
Date: 17-10-24

DC reviews implementation of HADP in Samba District



JIN NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 17

District Development Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district. The meeting was held in the conference hall of the DC Office Complex, Samba.

At the outset, Chief Agriculture Officer S. Madan Gopal Singh provided a comprehensive update on the advancements made under HADP.

Key initiatives included the promotion of vegetables and exotic vegetables through Open and Hi-Tech Protected Cultivation, Beekeeping, and the development of rain-fed areas. Additionally, efforts to promote the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants, as well as millet, mushroom, com-

mercial floriculture, and oilseed production, were emphasized to diversify the income streams of the farmers.

The DDC reviewed the list of eligible beneficiaries for final selection and approval under the various programmes of Agriculture and Allied Departments who had applied through the HADP portal. A total of 815 beneficiaries were selected for benefits under different schemes of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme.

The District Development Commissioner stressed the importance of scaling up allied sector schemes, including Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Horticulture, Horticulture Planning & Marketing, and Sericulture. He urged the departments to extend the benefits to more farmers to maximize the impact of the HADP across the district. Rajesh Sharma also

called for collaborative efforts among all stakeholders to foster sustainable agriculture and rural development in the district. He emphasized the importance of involving banks in prioritizing the sponsorship of loan cases, ensuring proper support to beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Samba, Assistant Commissioner Development Samba, Chief Agriculture Officer Samba, Divisional Forest Officer (T) Samba, Chief Horticulture Officer Samba, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Samba, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Samba, Assistant Director Fisheries Samba, District Officer HPM, Deputy Registrar Co-Societies Samba, District Development Manager NABARD Samba, District Head KVK Samba and other members of the committee.

Career Counselling workshop held at S.P. College, Srinagar



JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 17

The Postgraduate Department of Biochemistry at S.P. College, Srinagar, organized a career counselling workshop titled 'Career Options for Life Science Students in the USA.'

The event featured Dr. Sameer Ahmad Guru, a Postdoctoral Research scientist at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), USA, as the keynote speaker.

Dr. Sameer delivered

an insightful presentation on various national and international fellowships available to students, explaining the application process and the preparations required to successfully secure these fellowships.

He stressed the importance of focused study, encouraging students to dedicate more time to reading relevant literature and books while limiting time spent on social media, which he noted is negatively impacting the quality of education.

Furthermore, Dr. Sameer urged students to apply for short-term summer training programs at research institutions. He emphasized that these opportunities would be invaluable in helping students select the right research field for their future careers.

The workshop concluded with a lively Q&A session, during which students interacted with Dr. Sameer to clarify their queries and concerns.

CME program on 'Immunology CME: Latest Developments and Techniques' held at GDC Pulwama

JIN NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, OCTOBER 17

The Department of Biotechnology, Biochemistry, and Clinical Biochemistry at Government Degree College Pulwama organized the Continuing Medical Education (CME) 2024 programme on the theme 'Immunology CME: Latest Developments and Techniques.'

The event was attended by I/c Principal, Prof. Irfana, who served as the patron for the day. In her welcome address, she emphasized the vital role of immunology in addressing emerging health threats and ensuring public safety.

Organizing Secretary, Dr. Niyaz Ahmad Naikoo, provided an overview of the CME program, highlighting the objectives and relevance of the session.

Resource persons for the CME delivered insightful lectures on various aspects of immunology.

The first session featured a lecture by Dr. Shaida Andrabi, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry,

University of Kashmir, on 'Flow Cytometry and Immunohistochemistry.' Dr. Andrabi discussed in detail the importance of these techniques in disease diagnosis.

The second lecture was delivered by Dr. Syed Hussain Mir, Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir. His talk focused on 'Principles and Modalities of Immunodiffusion Techniques: RIA, ELISA, ELISPOT, and Western Blotting.' Dr. Mir compared the various immunological techniques, highlighting their diagnostic applications in healthcare.

Dr. Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat, Consultant in Biochemistry and Immunology at Unipath Specialty Laboratory, Srinagar, delivered a lecture on 'Immunological Markers, Diagnostics, Immunotherapy and Drug Targeting.' His presentation covered the latest advancements in immunological diagnostics and their clinical

implications.

Dr. Muzammil A. Makhdoomi, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at Govt. Degree College Ganderbal, spoke on 'Immune Regulation, Immune-Unresponsiveness, Tolerance, and Autoimmunity.' His talk provided a detailed overview of immune system regulation and its role in autoimmune diseases.

The final lecture of the day was delivered by Dr. Shahid M. Baba, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Vocational Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST). He discussed 'Immuno-Inflammatory Mechanisms and Hypersensitivity Reactions,' offering a comprehensive explanation of different types of hypersensitivity.

At the end of the event, certificates were distributed to the registered participants, recognizing their active involvement in the program.

Nearly 150 faculty and students from various colleges participated in the CME-2024 event.

GDC Vijaypur organises five day training programme on ASER

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 17

Government Degree College Vijaypur, in collaboration with Pratham Education Foundation, Jammu and Kashmir, initiated a five day training programme to develop research and data collection skills among its students.

The main aim of training programme was to involve the students in the collection of data for ASER (Annual Status of Education Report). Training of students in research and data collection not only enhances their research skills but also empowers them to actively participate in important assessment tasks, like; In Preparing the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER).

ASER is a largest citizen-led household survey of children's education in rural India and it aims for continuous improvement in our Education system. Resource persons from ASER Baby Rani (Master Trainer), Suresh Kumar (Master Trainer) and Sahil (Master Trainer) initiated the programme in the college campus on 17-10-2024. The programme was initiated under able guidance of Principal Dr. Vandana Verma.

DDC Chairman inaugurates newly constructed additional block at GHSS Dradhu



JIN NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 17

The much-anticipated 10-room additional block at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Dradhu was inaugurated today by Dhananter Singh Kotwal, Chairman District Development Council (DDC). The significant infrastructure project, aimed at enhancing educational facilities has been completed by the Public Works Department (PWD) at an approved cost of Rs 1.20 crore.

The inauguration ceremony was held in presence of Harvinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Yudvir Singh Thakur, DDC West, and Sangeeta Bhagat, Vice Chairman DDC. Also in attendance were Ashok Kumar Sharma, Ex-Sarpanch and National Awardee, who

contributed to the project's success with his leadership and vision for educational growth in the region.

The construction of this additional accommodation at GHSS Dradhu is a step towards meeting the class room requirement of the growing student strength and improving the learning environment. The project reflects the administration's commitment towards investing in educational infrastructure, ensuring that students in rural areas have access to better facilities and opportunities.

This initiative is expected to greatly benefit the local youth, providing enhanced classroom space and improved educational infrastructure, which will in turn contribute to the holistic development of the students.

Power shutdown

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 17

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Rangoor, Dadyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 18 from 7 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Ward No. 1, 3, 4, Kharote, AIR, Hospital, Shaheedi Chowk, Nagri Adda, Changran, Sherpur, Padyari, Nagri, Saidpur, Airwan and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 19 from 7 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Industrial Units- Kohinoor, Balaji, SICOP Industry, SIDCO, Old Industry Hatlimorh and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 19 from 7 am to 9 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Main Bazar, Ward No. 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Parli wand, Basantpur, RTIC Basantpur, Dhanna, Thein and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 19 from 7 am to 10 am. Likewise, the power supply to Hatli, Bijjat, Khanyara, Jagatpur, Maroli, Tridwan

and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 19 from 7 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Salehar, Khour, Makhampur, Kool, Kalian, Rathana, Jinder Mehlu, Biaspur, Kotli, Kalyana, Sai Kalan, Nikowal, Kang, Simbal, Kullian, Badyal, Kadyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 22 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Barui, Nardiwal, Mandrian, Kha, Maira, Thatar Mundh, Payan and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 21, 23 and 25 from 7 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Satwari, Ashok Nagar, Airforce, M.H. Mil. Cantt., Belicharana and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 23 and 25 from 7 am to 11 am.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Dadyal, Nanga and its adjoining areas will remain affected on October 18 from 7 am to 10 am.

Department of Defence Production conducts 1,444 cleanliness drives under Special Swachhta Campaign 4.0

JIN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

In line with the month-long Swachhta Campaign 4.0, Department of Defence Production (DDP) with the main emphasis on instilling cleanliness practices and reducing delays in Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) & attached offices, have conducted 1,444 cleanliness drives, up until October 16, 2024. By the mid-campaign, the Department has achieved following milestones:

Reviewed 16,599 files/records and segregated it for weeding out Space of more than 3.80 Lakh sq. feet is freed by disposing approximately 1.5 lakh metric ton of scrap/unused items Revenue of more than Rs 6 crores earned by scrap disposal About 99 public grievances disposed A count of 82 public grievances appeals have been disposed

DC Samba inspects National Highway maintenance work



JIN NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, OCTOBER 17

Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today conducted an inspection of the ongoing work on the National Highway stretch from Gaghwal to Bari Brahmana, stressing the importance of timely completion to ensure public safety and facilitate smooth travel.

Accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh, traffic police officials, and representatives of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the maintenance and construction activities along the highway.

He directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work, pri-

oritize key sections and ensure that the road is maintained to the highest standards.

During the inspection, the DC instructed the agencies to install clear signboards at diversions, immediately address pot-holes, and take necessary measures to safeguard the convenience of commuters. The progress of flyover construction at various locations was also reviewed, with Rajesh Sharma urging construction companies to complete the work within the stipulated timeline and in a planned manner.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that public safety must remain the top priority and called for coordinated efforts to minimize travel disruptions.

Free Medical Camp organised by GMC Doda at Bharderwah Village



JIN NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, OCTOBER 17

The Department of Community Medicine Government Medical College (GMC) Doda organized a free medical camp here today at Panjgrani Malothi, as part of its ongoing health outreach activities.

The camp was held under the guidance of Principal Dr. Rakesh Bahl and the close supervision of HoD Medicines Dr. Suresh Kotwal. This initiative aimed to provide essential healthcare services to the local population, demonstrating GMC Doda's commitment to community welfare and public health.

A total of 180 patients received free medical consultations and medicines during the camp by a medical team. The local residents expressed gratitude

for the free healthcare services, recognizing the valuable efforts of GMC Doda in reaching remote areas with much-needed medical attention.

The camp was led by Dr. Khalid Khurshid, In-Charge Medical Officer, RHTC Bhalla, and supported by Dr. Arusa Anjum (Junior Resident) along with a dedicated team of paramedical and field staff. Additionally, over 50 patients received free ophthalmic consultations from an Ophthalmic Technician from UHTC Ghat, addressing eye health needs in the community.

This initiative is part of GMC Doda's continuous efforts to improve public health in the region by extending medical services to underserved areas, reinforcing their commitment to promoting healthcare access for all.

DC Poonch inspects Heritage Library, interacts with subscribers, assures better facilities

JIN NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, OCTOBER 17

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today visited District Institute of Professional Excellence & Career Counseling Centre cum Heritage Library here at Poonch Fort to oversee the functioning of the Library and facilities available there for the students. The DC inspected different compartments of

the Library and met with students there to redress the issues raised by the students. Responding to the demands put forth by the students, the DC issued on-the-spot instructions regarding maintenance of washrooms and better internet and drinking water facilities. To make the initiative more productive, the Deputy Commissioner announced 2 additional WiFi connections for students.

Drug Abuse Awareness Program held at GHSS Bhalwal

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 17

The National Incredible Literacy Mission J&K conducted an Drug abuse awareness programme in collaboration of Directorate of School Education Jammu, involving school students of Govt. Higher Secondary School Bhalwal. Here to create awareness on drug and substance abuse and its negative fallout on the individual. The program was conducted in the school premises.



According to NILM Chairman Thakur K.D. Kurhan, the aim of the programme is to empower students to say no to drugs and create awareness of substance abuse by helping them channel their energies into cre-

ative pursuits. NILM staff members who deliver lecture during program included Sandhya Hans, Neeraj, Tania Dogra and Aarti Sahu. During the event school staff members also actively participated in the event.

Notice

I, Nishu Gupta S/o Sh. Ram Lal Gupta R/o Shakti Nagar, Jammu is having a Son namely Prakrit Gupta, who has Completed his 10th class examination from G.D Goenka Public School, Jammu Inadvertently by mistake my name is his School record with GD Goenka Public School, Jammu has been recorded as Nihu Gupta, instead of Nishu Gupta. I want to correct my name in the School record of my above said son. If anybody have objections kindly approach Principal/ officer concerned of GD Goenka Public School Jammu within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

EDITORIAL

A lesson in political strategy for Congress!

The induction of Satish Sharma as a Minister in Omar Abdullah's Cabinet has starkly illuminated the shifting dynamics of Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape. The despondency etched on the faces of Congress leaders, from President Mallikarjun Kharge to J&K Pradesh Congress Committee chief Tariq Hameed Karra at the oath taking ceremony of the Omar Abdullah led government, speaks volumes about the party's miscalculations and missed opportunities. Sharma's journey from an independent candidate to a minister is a tale of rebellion against a party that, for too long, failed to recognize emerging leadership within its ranks. Denied the Congress mandate in the Chhamb Assembly segment—largely influenced by former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand—Sharma took matters into his own hands. His victory, which relegated Chand to a distant third, underscores a crucial point: voters are keenly aware of who represents their interests, and the Congress party's failure to support a capable candidate has cost them dearly. The Congress party's reluctance to adapt its strategies in the face of changing electoral realities has led to a self-inflicted wound. By sidelining Sharma, the party not only lost a potential leader but also handed the National Conference a significant advantage. Instead of embracing fresh talent, the party clung to established figures, thereby alienating a segment of voters eager for new representation. Sharma's induction into the council of ministers symbolizes a strategic move by Omar Abdullah, who appears to have deftly navigated the political currents to fortify his government. The choice to prioritize an independent MLA over a faction-ridden Congress speaks volumes about the National Conference's assessment of its coalition dynamics. While the Congress leadership has cited external factors—such as the denial of statehood and a perceived lack of support from the Centre—the core issue remains: the party has not positioned itself as a viable contender in Jammu and Kashmir. The Congress's decision to extend outside support rather than actively join the ministry further illustrates its diminished role. This decision, particularly in light of their demands for ministerial berths, reveals a party caught in a cycle of negotiation without substantial influence. As the National Conference secures a majority, the Congress risks becoming irrelevant, relegated to the status of a "non-performing liability." Moving forward, the Congress must reassess its approach if it hopes to regain a foothold in the region. Acknowledging and nurturing young leaders like Satish Sharma rather than sidelining them is essential. The political landscape is evolving, and voters are increasingly discerning; they demand representatives who genuinely reflect their concerns and aspirations. Moreover, the party must forge a clearer stance on key issues like statehood restoration, not only to resonate with the electorate but also to restore its credibility. By taking decisive action and aligning itself with the needs of the people, Congress could revitalize its image and possibly reestablish itself as a formidable force in Jammu and Kashmir politics. Satish Sharma's rise is a clarion call for the Congress party. It is a reminder that the political arena is unforgiving to those who ignore the pulse of the electorate.

Stubble burning crisis needs practical solutions

BISWAJEET BANARJEE

The Supreme Court has taken a strong stance against the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) for its failure to control stubble burning, a major contributor to air pollution in Delhi-NCR. The court's rebuke, delivered during a hearing on October 3, emphasised the need for effective ground-level interventions and questioned why the Commission had not implemented any provisions of the relevant Act to curb pollution from crop residue burning. Stubble burning, especially in the northern states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, has been a major environmental challenge for years.

Farmers often resort to burning crop residue after harvesting paddy and wheat due to the increasing mechanisation of farming, the use of combined harvesters, a shortage of labour, and rising labour costs. This practice, prevalent in October and November following the paddy harvest, results in the release of large amounts of particulate matter into the atmosphere, contributing to the hazardous air quality in Delhi-NCR.

The Supreme Court's criticism of the CAQM reflects a broader frustration over the Commission's inability to effectively tackle this issue. Despite being set up three years ago to address pollution in the National Capital

Region and surrounding areas, the CAQM has been criticised for its slow pace and lack of tangible outcomes. The court particularly highlighted that the Commission meets only once every three months, a frequency deemed inadequate for addressing a recurring crisis like stubble burning.

Moreover, the Commission has issued only 82 directives since its inception, a number that the court described as insufficient to deal with the scale of the problem. A significant concern raised by the Supreme Court is the lack of adequate staffing within the pollution control boards of Delhi-NCR and other affected states, including Uttar Pradesh. The court ordered that these vacant posts be filled by April 30, 2025, to improve monitoring and enforcement capabilities. Effective staffing is critical for implementing measures on the ground, particularly when dealing with farmers who rely on a quick and cost-effective way to clear their fields.

Despite repeated interventions from both the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Supreme Court, stubble burning incidents continue to surge. Last year alone, more than 33,000 incidents of stubble burning were recorded in Punjab, even after explicit instructions to engage with farmers to explore alternatives. The lack of a coordinated effort between the state



governments and the CAQM has only exacerbated the pollution crisis during the winter months.

Turning Stubble into a Resource: While the focus remains on the failures of the CAQM and the continued challenges in states like Punjab, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a notable example of how stubble can be managed more sustainably. The state has successfully implemented initiatives that transform stubble into an energy resource and natural fertiliser, benefiting both the environment and the agricultural community.

The key to this transformation has been the establishment of Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants that convert crop residue into energy and high-quality compost. This approach has not only addressed environmental concerns but has also created an additional income stream for farmers, who sell stubble as raw material for the CBG process. In this way,

stubble has shifted from being a burden to becoming a valuable asset in Uttar Pradesh's rural economy. As of last year, Uttar Pradesh led the country in CBG production, with ten operational plants. Currently, 24 CBG units are active, and another 93 are under construction. The state aims to have more than 100 CBG plants operational soon, a goal endorsed by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. During a March 2024 announcement, he highlighted the state's plan to double its bio-coal and bio-diesel production by 2025. The success of CBG production in Uttar Pradesh has been bolstered by the Uttar Pradesh State Bio-Energy Policy 2022, which offers various incentives for establishing bio-CNG and CBG units using agricultural waste.

The policy aims to set up CBG plants in every district, providing local solutions for managing stubble

while promoting energy self-sufficiency. A significant milestone in this journey was the inauguration of a CBG plant in Dhuriyapur, Gorakhpur, on March 8, 2023, by Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The plant, built for Rs 165 crore, processes 200 metric tonnes of straw, 20 metric tonnes of press mud, and 10 metric tonnes of cattle dung daily. It produces 20 metric tonnes of biogas and 125 metric tonnes of organic manure, contributing to higher agricultural yields while reducing dependency on chemical fertilisers. This initiative allows farmers to diversify their income sources and play a crucial role in the energy sector. By reducing the practice of stubble burning, the state is making strides in environmental protection. The Yogi Adityanath government has expressed confidence that the enhanced production of bio-coal and

biodiesel will help reduce air pollution in the region over the next five years.

The Supreme Court's critique of the CAQM underscores the urgency of finding a balanced approach to stubble burning that respects both environmental concerns and the practical challenges faced by farmers. Uttar Pradesh's model of converting stubble into a resource could serve as a blueprint for other states grappling with similar issues. However, the broader challenge remains: implementing such solutions at scale requires consistent policy support, adequate resources, and a willingness to engage with farmers directly. The court's directive for the CAQM to improve its approach and for state governments to fill vacant posts by 2025 is a step towards accountability.

Yet, the real test will lie in translating these directives into action before another winter brings the familiar, suffocating haze back to the skies of Delhi-NCR. The question remains whether the CAQM, in partnership with state governments, can adapt and adopt innovative solutions like those seen in UP. Without swift and sustained efforts, the region risks facing another year of deteriorating air quality, leaving millions to grapple with the health consequences of inaction.

(The views expressed are personal)

Reviving Family Bonds

RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJI

Small family, Happy family (Chhota Parivar-Sukhi Parivar) & 'Hum Do Hamare', these two jingles coined by the administration had changed the family planning scenario in India over the years. But it's so ironic that despite becoming the first country to adopt a national policy for limiting a great Indian proclivity, India is expected to overtake China in 2034. At the time of independence, there were 345 million Indians. The world took 454 years to go from 345 million in 1310 AD to a billion, but India took just 52 years. Looking at the above facts and figures one wonders as to what would be the societal structure in a country that takes the burden of a population of a billion people. Sadly, the situation is quite grim, because today we see fewer families and more individuals living their lives on

their terms with an 'I care a damn attitude' which is quite common in the metropolis.

Our forefathers were brought up with strong family values, but with passing time and ever-changing scenarios, today those core values have been left behind to adopt new so-called modern values. It's so unfortunate that today very few of us know the importance of living or growing up in a family. One must understand the fact that a family is the first school where the literate and the illiterate have got their first lessons in the art of living and values, traditions, customs and conventions. Also in a family, everyone feels secure and protected. Everyone feels strong because of the strength of the family. Everyone feels that others welcome him or her. Everyone feels a kind of support, sustenance and encouragement. It is, therefore, essential to help and facilitate the growth of good supportive families for founda-



tion as a family tradition rather than promoting an individualistic lifestyle for the sake of the next Gen & future to come.

There is some kind of magnetic force that holds the members of a family together. In other words, it is a feeling of closeness and belongingness in the mind of every person and the feeling of acceptance on the part of the whole group that gives it the nomenclature of a family. This feeling of acceptance is always based on the feeling of mutual love, loyalty and trust and also

understanding and accommodation. Today we see that families are splitting up.

Certain values like mutual affection, love & genuine caring that make a family work are vanishing because everyone wants to live an independent life without any kind of family interference. However, if the younger ones continue to give regard to the elders and the elders continue to give love to the younger ones, then the family life will continue to be undisturbed and everyone will act responsibly. But, if each one gives up their responsibility and the feeling of concern for others, then cracks would appear and get deeper. Hence to preserve the family structure & tradition, one needs to have tolerance, sobriety & humility because family is very essential to civilised life, be it a spiritual family or the society as a family or of nations. Hence we should consider family as a place where we can work for physi-

cal, mental, moral and spiritual growth and can create an environment where others also can grow. A family can change a person into a great leader, disciplinarian, soldier, criminal or scholar by encouraging or discouraging, supporting or condemning certain positive or negative traits in him.

We must, therefore, pay attention to the transformation of families because families are the breeding grounds for good or bad human beings. So, let us awaken people to observe family values such as mutual love, trust, acceptance, accommodation, consideration and care for the wellbeing of others, the spirit of adjustment, tolerance, responsibility and cooperation because if these family values flourish, the nation and the whole humankind will flourish too.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

Urbanisation and youth: Building a healthier future amid rapid growth

ASHWAJIT SINGH

Urbanisation, an engine for economic prosperity and resources, sits at the centre of modernity and impacts health outcomes. With rapid urbanisation, the UN projects that by 2050, 7 of 10 people will live in cities, and the youth will likely be the most dominant population. The future will be forged by the ever-increasing global youth, who are integral to playing a dynamic and revolutionary role in creating and building strong, prosperous, sustainable, and vibrant societies. In recent years, international organisations have emphasised the meaningful involvement of youth as vital to accelerating progress towards the SDGs while development continues to grow globally.

The approach also coincides with this year's message of World Habitat Day,

which focuses on "engaging youth to create a better urban future." However, while we work towards engaging the new generation in planning their urban present and future through participatory processes and local leadership opportunities, ensuring their healthy livelihood is imperative. Urbanisation's positive attributes also mask the inequalities that exist within it. Not all city residents experience or can access these benefits equally. For instance, 40 per cent of India's population will reside in the urban setup by 2030, with 24 per cent being the youth (15-29), making it a relatively young country. Although rapid urbanisation will continue to improve India's average household socio-economic condition and child health status, it is expected to disproportionately affect the health of urban youth, who are likely to become

more vulnerable to health challenges.

Urbanisation without accounting for the primary healthcare amenities results in significant health disparities. As gentrification grows with urbanisation, a large chunk of the youth is likely to reside in urban slums and low-income areas. These areas carry distinct health challenges that are influenced by broader socio-economic determinants such as poverty, education and employment.

Youth from low-income families and areas are more likely to face barriers to accessing education, which in turn limits job opportunities and perpetuates a cycle of poor health outcomes.

These informal settlements may sit adjacent to an affluent neighbourhood. Still, the people living there lack access to safe water and sanitation infrastructure, becoming



hotspots for waterborne and vector-borne diseases due to flooding, open sewers, and overcrowding. With such poor hygiene, increased rates of malnutrition among children and young adults worsen the burden of diseases.

In addition to infectious diseases, urban youth in lower-income areas are increasingly exposed to non-communicable diseases such as diabetes

and hypertension, which are often exacerbated by poor diet, stress, and lack of access to early diagnosis or regular health check-ups.

These substantial regional disparities affecting urban youth's living and health conditions are also caused by the inequitable distribution of clinics and healthcare centres, which limits care options. According to

NFHS-3, only 39.9 per cent of urban poor children get full immunisation compared to 65.4 per cent of urban non-poor children. Lower vaccination rates and a lack of awareness of ongoing health issues negatively impact school attendance and cognitive development.

The National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), launched in 2013, has been instrumental in meeting

the regulatory, reformatory, and developmental public health priorities for urban settings.

Over the years, NUHM has improved access to healthcare, allowing the urban poor to choose public over costly private services. Among the other initiatives to focus on urban youth health, the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2021 outlines a 10-year vision for youth development by 2030, aligning with the United Nations' SDGs.

The NYP prioritises youth health as essential for India's holistic growth and progress by addressing critical health components of urban youth and acknowledging mental health. Further, India's pioneering step towards building inclusive health that benefits all and focuses on the youth also found prominence in the recent G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration in 2023.

The report encompasses ways to eliminate hunger and malnutrition and advance with more health collaborations, especially when facing challenging mental health. While policies like NUHM and NYP have made strides in addressing urban youth health, more needs to be done and implemented to improve primary healthcare.

Many urban healthcare centres still struggle with understaffing, lack of resources, and accessibility issues for slum-dwelling youth. To ensure that India's urban youth thrive, it is crucial to increase investments in health services, prioritise mental health care, and continue engaging youth in the decision-making process for urban development.

(The writer is the Founder and Managing Director of IPE Global; views expressed are personal)

400 cr India manufactured vaccine distributed worldwide in last year: Health secy

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

India manufactured 400 cr vaccines in the last one year -- half of the total vaccines developed and distributed globally, said Union Health Secretary Purna Salila Srivastava.

Addressing the annual India Leadership Summit 2024, organised by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, Srivastava said that India has emerged as a global leader in pharmaceuticals. The country is the third-largest producer and a key supplier of generic medicines.

The Health Secretary said that India manufactured half of all vaccines



that were distributed across the globe.

"In the last one year alone, of the 800 crore vaccine doses manufactured and distributed across the world, 400 crore doses were manufac-

tured in India," she noted. Srivastava added that besides supporting healthcare systems worldwide, India has also made a notable contribution to the US healthcare system.

"India has the highest

number -- 25 per cent of the total number -- of US FDA-approved pharmaceutical plants outside of the US," she said. The country also leads in vaccine production, with a significant share of global manufacturing, underscoring its role as the "pharmacy of the world", she said.

Further, she noted that India has reformed medical education to ensure a robust healthcare system. The reforms include the replacement of outdated regulatory frameworks with the National Medical Commission Act and related laws.

This has not only led to a significant increase

in medical and nursing college numbers and enrollment but has also addressed disparities in healthcare professional availability.

This is because of continuous efforts by the government which has progressively improved the quality, scale, and cost-effectiveness of healthcare in India, Srivastava said.

"It is a testament to our expanded healthcare services that the out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE), which is borne entirely by the households, has declined by 25 percentage points as a share of total health expenditure between 2013-2014 and 2021-2022," she said.

Baby with CMV infection successfully treated in Manipal Hospital, Bhubaneswar

AGENCIES
BHUBANESWAR, OCT 17

Manipal Hospital, Bhubaneswar has successfully treated a premature baby born at just 28 weeks, weighing less than 900 gms diagnosed with congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection. The newborn was admitted to Manipal Hospital Bhubaneswar with declining health that puzzled the medical team.

Dr. Janaki Ballava Pradhan, Consultant in Pediatrics and Neonatology, alongside his dedicated team, including Dr Abhilipsa Acharya, Consultant - Neonatologist & Pediatrician, conducted a

series of comprehensive blood tests and further evaluations.

Their relentless efforts led to the discovery that the baby was suffering from congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection—a rare but serious condition capable of impacting newborns.

Congenital CMV infection is a viral disease transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, with potential repercussions including fetal liver failure, growth failure, and even death.

Early maternal screening during pregnancy can significantly aid in the diagnosis and treatment of such conditions.

Recognizing the urgen-

cy of the situation, Dr. Pradhan's team promptly initiated appropriate antiviral treatment. Thanks to their expertise and swift intervention, the baby overcame the infection and was discharged from the hospital in good health.

The journey did not end there. Over the course of two years, the medical team at Manipal Hospital Bhubaneswar conducted regular follow-ups to monitor the baby's progress.

Hospital sources on Thursday said the child is now thriving, showcasing the life-saving impact of early diagnosis and timely medical intervention.

New nasal drug delivery method can reduce TB bacteria in brain by 1,000x

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

In a first, scientists at the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have developed a unique way through the nose to deliver tuberculosis (TB) medicines directly to the brain.

TB that affects the brain is called Central Nervous System Tuberculosis (CNS-TB) and is one of the most dangerous forms of TB, often leading to severe complications or death.

The novel nose-to-brain (N2B) drug delivery utilises the olfactory and trigeminal nerve pathways in the nasal cavity and effectively bypasses the challenging blood-brain barrier (BBB).

While traditional treat-

ments involve high doses of oral anti-TB drugs, they often fail to achieve effective concentrations in the cerebrospinal fluid as the BBB limits the medicines from entering the brain.

To counter this, the INST team used nanoparticles made of a natural material called chitosan, which bypassed the BBB and delivered TB medicines directly to the brain via the nose. Chitosan is a biocompatible and biodegradable material. The chitosan nano-aggregates could hold TB drugs like isoniazid (INH) and rifampicin (RIF). Importantly, chitosan -- known for its mucoadhesive properties -- sticks to the nasal mucosa, which helps the nano-aggregates stay in place and prolongs the time they can release the drug, enhancing its therapeutic effectiveness.

"In mice infected with TB, the nasal delivery of these nano-aggregates reduced the number of bacteria in the brain by nearly 1,000 times more than in untreated mice," said the team in the paper, published in the journal *Nanoscale* (Royal Society of Chemistry).

The new treatment method also helps reduce the inflammation caused by the infection, an advance that has the potential to greatly improve treatment for people suffering from brain TB and could help in faster recovery.

According to scientists, the novel method could be applied to treat other brain infections, neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, brain tumours, and epilepsy by enabling efficient drug delivery to the brain.

How India is fighting against lymphatic filariasis

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

Mass drug administration (MDA), social mobilisation via self-help groups (SHS), and public health workers like ASHAs are playing a significant role in reducing lymphatic filariasis cases in India, experts said on Thursday.

Lymphatic filariasis (LF), commonly known as elephantiasis (Haatipaoon), is a debilitating disease transmitted by the bite of a Culex mosquito that breeds in dirty or polluted water. It is one of the world's leading causes of long-term disability. While not fatal, it significantly impairs quality of life, leading to severe physical debility and imposing substantial social and economic burdens on affected individuals, their families, and entire communities.

To fight the disease, endemic to the country, the government has taken an extensive measure to combat and control the disease by running a massive MDA campaign.

Launched nationwide in 2004, to help control and eliminate neglected tropical diseases, the MDA achieved a remarkable 82.5 per cent coverage in 2023. It involves a door-to-door administration of preventive medications in endemic areas.

"Lymphatic filariasis (LF) is a complex disease that has multifaceted social, environmental, and economic determinants. We cannot eliminate it by working in silos; it requires a collaborative effort from various sectors working together seamlessly. Acknowledging this, the government has made inter-sectoral convergence a central

part of its strategy to eliminate LF," Rajshree Das, Senior Director, PCI India, told IANS. PCI works as a technical assistance partner to the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

In March 2023, then Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya called for eliminating lymphatic filariasis three years ahead of the global target through the five-pronged roadmap by 2030. In August this year, the government launched the second phase of the bi-annual nationwide MDA campaign for lymphatic filariasis elimination. It targets 63 endemic districts in Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Das noted that if LF is left untreated, it can prog-

ress to chronic symptoms including lymphoedema (tissue swelling) or elephantiasis (skin/tissue thickening) of limbs and hydrocele (scrotal swelling) leading to disability.

"Lymphatic filariasis is the second most disabling disease in the world after leprosy. In India, till 2023, 6.19 lakh cases of lymphoedema and 1.26 lakh cases of hydrocele were reported from endemic districts," Dr Aruna Sharma, practitioner development economist and retired GOI secretary, told IANS. Sharma, who worked extensively on panchayat-level governance models and across ministries, also called for using technology and inclusive education to spread awareness about the disease to make a holistic approach towards disease elimination.

Meanwhile, the experts

noted another major component of India's strategy to eliminate LF -- Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP).

"India's MMDP strategy involves distributing MMDP kits for home-based morbidity management of lymphoedema, providing hydrocele surgeries in CHCs, district hospitals and medical colleges, as well as distributing disability certificates to eligible patients," Das said, adding that these facilities are available free of cost.

Das noted that frontline workers like ASHAs, community leaders, Women's Self-Help Groups, Schools, National Service Scheme, and civil society organisations have come together and worked tirelessly to mobilise communities and encourage participation in the MDA rounds.

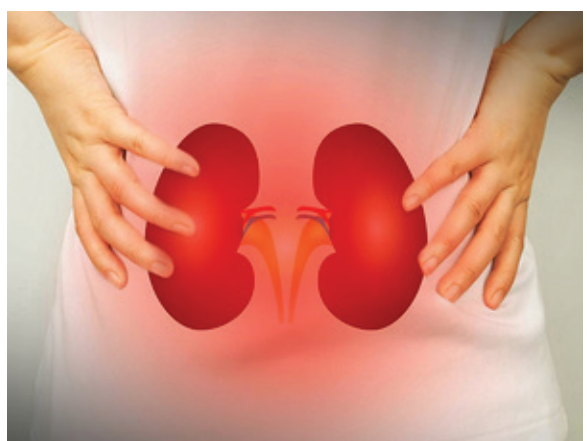
Study explains how PFAS exposure worsens kidney function

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

People with increased exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS -- found in water, food, and people through products such as Teflon pans, waterproof clothing, stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, and food packaging -- were found to have a worse kidney function, according to a study on Thursday.

PFAS are often called "forever chemicals" because once they accumulate in the environment or the human body, they take a very long time to break down.

The researchers from the University of Southern California examined 78 participants, aged 17 to 22, and showed that PFAS



causes changes in the gut microbiome which then damages kidney function.

Their results, published in the journal *Science* of the Total Environment, showed that changes to the gut microbiome and related metabolites due to PFAS are responsible for up to 50 per cent of the decrease in kidney

function four years later.

"Our findings are an important piece of the puzzle about the many different health risks of PFAS, which can provide policymakers with information that helps them develop policies to protect the public from exposure to these chemicals,"

said Jesse A. Goodrich, Assistant Professor of population and public health sciences at USC's Keck School of Medicine.

The analysis also revealed two separate groups of bacteria and metabolites whose function to lower inflammation in the body was hindered because of high PFAS exposure. They were responsible for 38 per cent of the change in kidney function, and 50 per cent of the change respectively.

The team also found a decline in anti-inflammatory metabolites, the bacteria that produce them, while inflammatory metabolites increased. This indicated inflammation and oxidative stress as a potential mechanism for a decrease in kidney function.

Baby with CMV infection successfully treated in Manipal Hospital, Bhubaneswar

AGENCIES
BHUBANESWAR, OCT 17

Manipal Hospital, Bhubaneswar has successfully treated a premature baby born at just 28 weeks, weighing less than 900 gms diagnosed with congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection.

The newborn was admitted to Manipal Hospital Bhubaneswar with declining health that puzzled the medical team.

Dr. Janaki Ballava Pradhan, Consultant in Pediatrics and Neonatology, alongside his dedicated team, including Dr Abhilipsa Acharya, Consultant - Neonatologist & Pediatrician, conducted a series of comprehensive blood tests and further evaluations.

Their relentless efforts

led to the discovery that the baby was suffering from congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection—a rare but serious condition capable of impacting newborns.

Congenital CMV infection is a viral disease transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, with potential repercussions including fetal liver failure, growth failure, and even death.

Early maternal screening during pregnancy can significantly aid in the diagnosis and treatment of such conditions.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Dr. Pradhan's team promptly initiated appropriate antiviral treatment.

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tion, the baby overcame the infection and was discharged from the hospital in good health.

The journey did not end there. Over the course of two years, the medical team at Manipal Hospital Bhubaneswar conducted regular follow-ups to monitor the baby's progress.

Hospital sources on Thursday said the child is now thriving, showcasing the life-saving impact of early diagnosis and timely medical intervention.

Dr. Janaki Ballava Pradhan, Consultant in Pediatrics and Neonatology, Manipal Hospital Bhubaneswar, expressed his gratitude for the team's collective efforts, stating,

"This case highlights the indispensable role of prenatal screening in detect-

ing potential health risks early on.

He said "Our ability to identify and treat congenital CMV infection in this baby was crucial in ensuring a positive outcome and we are overjoyed to see the child flourishing today."

Manipal Hospital Bhubaneswar offers advanced Level-3 NICU and PICU facilities, 24-hour emergency care with a retrieval system, transport incubators and ventilators, peritoneal dialysis, and a Kangaroo Mother Care unit.

The successful treatment of this newborn serves as a beacon of hope and emphasizes the importance of early diagnosis and intervention in neonatal care.

KVB announces H1, Q2 results, register healthy performance

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, OCT 17

Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) on Thursday announced that it has achieved a healthy performance with the Balance sheet size as of September 30, 2024 at Rs 112,573 crore as against Rs 98,434 crore as of September 30, 2023, a growth of 14.36%.

Announcing the Q2 and half yearly results of the current fiscal, KVB MD and CEO B.Ramesh Babu said Total business as on 30th September 2024 stood at Rs 1,76,138 crore, registering a Y-o-Y

growth of 14.74%, up by Rs 22,622 crore from Rs 1,53,516 crore as on September 30, 2023.

Total deposits stood at Rs 95,839 crore, a YoY growth of 15.37% up by Rs 12,771 crore from Rs 83,068 crore, while Total advances stood at Rs 80,299 crore, growth of 13.98%, up by Rs 9,851 crore from Rs 70,448 crore.

Commenting on the results, Mr Ramesh Babu said "We have achieved another strong quarter of performance, guided by our three key metrics: growth, profitability, and asset quality."

"The bank's performance indicators align with our guidance, demonstrating consistent and steady growth."

"It's encouraging to see inclusive growth in our RAM (Retail, Agriculture, and MSME) verticals, continuing the strong start we made last quarter", he said.

"I am confident that the same will be maintained in the ensuing quarters, he said, adding "our total business crossed Rs 1,76,138 crore. The inclusive growth from all the business segments has supported for reaching net profit of Rs 932 crore for the half year",

Mr Ramesh Babu said. The PPOP for the half year increased by 21.46% to Rs 1,562 crore, as compared to Rs 1,286 crore for corresponding half year of the previous year.

Net interest income increased by 15.01% to Rs 2,084 crore vis-à-vis Rs 1,812 crore for corresponding half year of the previous year, Net interest margin stands at 4.12% down by 1 bps as compared to 4.13%. Cost of deposits has increased by 45 bps and stands at 5.52% as compared to 5.07%. Yield on advances grew to 10.09% by 36 bps as com-

pared to 9.73%, Operating expenses for the half year was Rs 1,383 crore as compared to Rs 1198 crore and Cost to income ratio stands at 46.95% (48.22% for H1 of previous year)..

On Q2 performance, Mr Ramesh Babu said Net profit for the quarter registered a robust growth of 25.13% and stood at Rs 473 crore from Rs 378 crore during corresponding quarter of previous year.

PPOP for the quarter increased by 27.90% to Rs 816 crore, as against Rs 638 crore, Net interest income increased by 15.85% to Rs 1,060 crore vis-à-vis

Rs 915 crore, Net interest margin stood at 4.11% as compared to 4.07%. Cost of deposits went up by 40 bps and stands at 5.56%. Yield on advances grew to 10.08% by 32 bps as compared to 9.76%. Operating expenses for the quarter was Rs 716 crore as compared to Rs 616 crore and Cost to income ratio stands at 46.72% (49.14% for Q2 of previous year).

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) as per Basel III guidelines was at 16.28% as on Sep 30, 2024 (16.84% as on September 30, 2023) as against a regulatory requirement of 11.50%.

Happiest Health launches initiative, honours Paralympian

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, OCT 17

Happiest Health, a leading health and wellness knowledge company, launched its 'Health Champion' initiative today, designed to honour individuals who have triumphed over significant health challenges.

The programme also seeks to recognise caregivers who have played a key role in supporting those overcoming adversity, acknowledging them as symbols of hope and inspiration for people across the country. At the launch

event, Paralympic gold medallist Nitesh Kumar was named the Health Champion of the Year 2024. Kumar and Happiest Health Chairman, Ashok Soota, jointly unveiled the initiative, with members of the senior management and the media present.

Nitesh Kumar, reflecting on his achievement, said, "Winning a Paralympic gold medal is an incredible honour, but inspiring others is equally fulfilling. I encourage everyone to stay physically active, take care of their health, & continue striving for improvement."

India reveals Canada sitting on 26 extradition requests, slams Trudeau govt for failing to rein in extremists

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday revealed that there are 26 extradition requests pending with the Canadian government since last more than 10 years, including those of some hardcore Khalistani extremists and criminals wanted by India.

"There are 26 extradition requests pending with the Canadian side. These are over the last decade or more. Along with it, there are several provisional arrest requests which are also pending with the Canadian side of several criminals. Some of the notable ones, who have been charged with terror and related crimes, are Gurjeet Singh, Gurjinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Lakhbir Singh Landa and Arshdeep Singh Gill. We

have shared the security-related information with the Canadian government," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said during a weekly media briefing.

The extradition requests include those of Lawrence Bishnoi gang, with the Indian government requesting the Justin Trudeau government to arrest them or take due action against them as per the law.

"So far no action has been taken by the Canadian side on our requests. This is very serious. Also we find it very strange that the people we asked to be deported, on whom we asked action to be taken, we are being told - the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) is blaming the Indian side - that these people are committing crimes in Canada



for which India is to be blamed. So, this is a contradiction which we don't understand," the MEA spokesperson added.

India also expressed deep concerns over the attacks on several journalists in Canada who have been reporting on Khalistani extremism in the country. These Indian-

origin journalists, including Rishi Nagar, Sameer Kaushal and Deepak Punj, have been attacked for reporting or criticising Khalistani-related violence.

According to Canadian MP Chandra Arya, another anti-terrorism investigative journalist Mocha Bezirgan has received death threats for his fearless reporting

on Khalistani extremism in Canada.

However, as has been the case with vandalization of Hindu temples and continued attacks on Hindus in Canada, the Trudeau government has failed to take any action, so far.

"These are clear examples of intimidation and violence by those who openly espouse extremist and separatist ideology. It is also an example of what afflicts Canada today and reveals the sources of such violence, shifting the blame to India does not work in any manner," said Jaiswal.

In what has been one of the lowest points in relations between the two countries, New Delhi on Monday decided to withdraw its High Commissioner and "other targeted diplomats and officials"

from Canada following Trudeau's continued "hostility" towards India.

The MEA had stated earlier this week that India has conveyed to Canada that it reserves the right to take further steps in response to the Trudeau Government's support for extremism, violence and separatism against India.

"India-Canada economic ties are robust and strong. We have a large diaspora in Canada. Our students form the largest cohort of international students in the country. Several large Canadian pension funds have invested in India and Canada remains the major beneficiary of these linkages and ties. The current crisis in the relationship has been precipitated by the Trudeau government's baseless allegations," asserted the MEA spokesperson on Thursday.

Resign on Valmiki Jayanti & atone for tribal board scam: K'taka BJP to Siddaramaiah

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, OCT 17

The Karnataka BJP on Thursday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to resign on the auspicious occasion of Maharshi Valmiki Jayanti to atone for the Tribal Board scam.

Addressing a press conference at the party office, BJP leader and former Chief Minister D. V. Sदानanda Gowda, displaying a copy of the charge sheet issued by Justice Gajana Bhatt, pointed out that the judiciary, through a bail order, has shown that an individual has committed a wrongdoing. He claimed that CM Siddaramaiah had "admitted" his mistakes and faced mounting pressure to resign.

The ED charge sheet mentions that former minister B. Nagendra paid for the purchase of a car, flight

tickets for family trips, petrol and diesel expenses, and salaries of household staff.

There is also an allegation that Rs 200 was paid per vote to ensure the victory of the Ballary MP E. Tukaram.

The BJP leader charged that funds from the Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation were also allegedly used for the Telangana Lok Sabha elections. "During a recent visit to the Yellamma temple, CM Siddaramaiah offered prayers in his wife's name, seemingly seeking atonement for his sins. When he visited the Chamundeswari temple during the Dussehra festival, for the first time in 40 years, he humbly applied kumkuma (vermillion) on his forehead, which indicates a realisation has dawned upon him," Gowda chided.

Haryana CM Saini, 13 ministers take oath in presence of PM, HM Shah and 18 CMs

AGENCIES
PANCHKULA, OCT 17

A low-profile non-Jat but Other Backward Classes (OBC) face Nayab Singh Saini, 54, took oath as Haryana Chief Minister on Thursday for the second time amidst a galaxy of NDA leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

With this, the BJP has formed the government for a record third consecutive term after securing an absolute majority, defying an anti-incumbency of 10 years.

The Council of Ministers, comprising 11 Cabinet ministers and two Ministers of State (Independent Charge), also took the oath of office in a 45-minute ceremony.

Two women Cabinet ministers -- Arti Rao, the daughter of Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh, and Shruti Choudhry, the granddaughter of former Chief Minister Bansi Lal, are first-time legislators.

Shruti Choudhry and her mother Kiran Chaudhary, now a Rajya Sabha MP, had joined the BJP, leaving the Congress after a bitter fight with former Chief Minister Bhupinder Hooda.

Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the

oath of office and secrecy to Saini, a protégé of former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, and his ministers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP's top leadership and 18 National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Chief Ministers attended a mega political gathering in Panchkula, near the state capital Chandigarh, in the run-up to Assembly polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

Earlier, the Supreme Court dismissed a petition seeking a stay on the swearing-in ceremony. The apex court observed that it cannot restrain an elected government from taking the oath and warned the petitioner of imposing a fine.

The Haryana Cabinet, which can accommodate a maximum of 14 ministers, including the Chief Minister, comprised two ministers belonging to each of the OBCs, Jats, Yadav, the Scheduled Caste and Brahmin and one each of Punjabi, Rajput, Gujar and Vaish communities.

The Council of Ministers who took the oath as per their seniority were seven-time legislator Anil Vij, a prominent Punjabi-Khatri face; Krishan Lal Panwar, the six-time legislator



belonging to the Scheduled Caste from Israna in Panipat district; four-time legislator Rao Narbir Singh, an Ahir leader from Badshahpur in Gurugram district; Mahipal Dhanda, a Jat legislator from Panipat (rural); and two-time lawmaker Vipul Goel, a Vaish community legislator from Faridabad. They all were ministers in the previous two BJP governments from 2014.

The other ministers are Congress turncoat and four-time Member of Parliament Arvind Sharma, a Brahmin lawmaker from Gohana in Sonapat; Shyam Singh Rana, a legislator from Radaur in Yamunanagar district who left the BJP in 2020 and rejoined the party in July; former Deputy Speaker Ranbir Gangwa Ranbir, the legislator belonging

to backward class from Barwala in Hisar district; Krishan Bedi, a scheduled caste (Balmiki) legislator from Narwana in Jind; Shruti Choudhry, a Jat MLA from Tosham in Bhiwani district; Arti Rao, a legislator from Ateli in Mahendergarh district; Rajesh Nagar, a Gujjar legislator from Tigaon in Faridabad district; first-time legislator Gaurav Gautam, who won the Palwal constituency, defeating Karan Singh Dalal of the Congress by a margin of 33,605 votes.

Nagar and Gautam took oath as the Ministers of State (Independent Charge). All, except Shruti Choudhry, took oath in Hindi. She took an oath in English.

Chief Ministers of several NDA-ruled states, including Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and

Andhra Pradesh, were in attendance.

A day earlier, Saini along with Union minister Shah met Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and staked a claim to form the next government. Saini was unanimously elected as the leader of the BJP legislature party.

Ahead of taking the oath of office, Saini and his wife Suman Saini offered prayers at Valmiki Temple here on the occasion of Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti and reiterated his promise that "his doors are open round the clock and common man can approach him with their issues".

"This morning, I met nearly 150 people at my residence before coming to the temple," he told the media after paying respects to Maharishi

Valmiki, his first public engagement where the temple priest presented him the Ramayana, one of the most popular epics of all time.

Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti is celebrated to honour the birth of Maharishi Valmiki, the revered sage and author of the Ramayana.

After paying obeisance at Maharishi Valmiki, Saini and his wife offered prayers at Gurdwara Shri Nada Sahib and Mansa Devi Temple, both in Panchkula.

From the day he took over the reins of the state in March this year, Saini has kept his house open for the public and he has been known as, "Saini mera banda hai" (Saini is my man, I know him).

When asked about his electioneering assertion that "charpais", eco-friendly cots commonly used in rural areas, would be kept at his official residence in Chandigarh for the visiting public, Saini, accompanying party state President Mohan Lal Badoli, jokingly replied, "They (charpais) have already been placed."

He said the people have expressed faith in PM Modi and the double-engine government. "In the coming times, our government will work strongly with

PM Modi to take Haryana forward rapidly."

Saini was brought in March this year to counter the anti-incumbency wave against incumbent Manohar Lal Khattar for his nine-and-a-half-year helm. In his 56 days of governance, Saini claimed to have done so much development that Congress leader Bhupinder Hooda did in 10 years as the Chief Minister.

During electioneering, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had even praised Saini by saying, "Very few people can achieve this kind of popularity in such a small time. There is a reason why our chief minister has achieved it. Anybody from Haryana can meet him. He is a simple man. You all can see how he has risen from a backward class community and reached here, yet he maintains his simplicity and humble nature."

Elaborate security arrangements were made for the swearing-in ceremony which took place at Parade Ground in Sector 5 in Panchkula amid the presence of around 50,000 people.

The BJP won the Assembly elections by winning 48 seats in the 90-seat Assembly of Haryana. The Congress won 37 seats, while

the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) secured two and three Independents were elected. All three have extended unconditional support to the government.

Born in 1970, Saini entered politics almost 30 years ago. He was elected as an MLA from Narayanagarh in the 2014 Assembly polls. He was inducted into the Cabinet in 2016.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Saini contested and won from the Kurukshetra constituency, defeating Congress' Nirmal Singh by a huge margin.

Saini was keen to re-enter the poll fray from Karnal, the seat he won in the June bypoll when he replaced Khattar as the Chief Minister.

However, the BJP leadership opted for Ladwa, which came into existence in 2007, the safest seat for Saini as the party polled 47.14 per cent of the votes in the June parliamentary polls.

Saini won the Ladwa seat by 16,054 votes, defeating his nearest rival and Congress candidate Mewa Singh.

Eight out of 10 ministers in the previous Saini's Cabinet faced defeat. The two who won were Mahipal Dhanda and Mool Chand Sharma.

Fertilizer shortage can impact wheat production in MP: Digvijaya Singh

AGENCIES
BHOPAL, OCT 17

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh on Thursday said the BJP government has failed to provide adequate fertilizers to the farmers in the state.

He said that Madhya Pradesh has received merely 4.5 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of fertilizer against the demand of around 9 lakh metric tonnes.

Addressing a press conference along with Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Jitu Patwari at party headquarters in Bhopal, Singh asserted that as the wheat showing season has already arrived, the upcoming 15 days will be crucial for the farmers.

He warned that further delay in the supply of DAP fertilizer could severely impact wheat sowing, and urged the state government to provide adequate



fertilizers to the farmers. "Madhya Pradesh is facing a huge shortage of DAP fertilizer. The state has received merely 4.5 lakh MT DAP, which is less than 50 per cent of the total fertilizer required. The next 15 days are very crucial for the farmers," the former Chief Minister said.

Notably, grappling with a severe shortage of DAP,

the farmers in several districts in Madhya Pradesh have been forced to buy fertilizer from the black market at much higher prices or go for some other supplements.

DAP fertilizer is black-marketed and available at Rs 1900 per packet (50 kg), while its MRP is Rs 1300, the farmers union claimed.

The former Chief Minis-

ter said that in the absence of the DAP, the government is supplying NKP fertilizer, which is substandard and is not effective.

Meanwhile, he also blamed the Centre for the shortage of DAP fertilizer. He said at present, the demand of DAP fertilizer in the country has crossed over 100 lakh MT, out of which, 4 lakh MT is produced every month.

He claimed that DAP's production was 20 per cent less this year. "India imports around 5 lakh MT DAP to meet its demand. This year, between April and August, 16 lakh tonne DAP fertilizer has been procured from overseas countries, while 32.5 lakh MT was produced during the same period," the former Chief Minister said.

DAP (Diammonium Phosphate) is largely an import-oriented farm product supplied to the states by the Central government.

Number of women voters increases in Jharkhand, may play decisive role in 32 out of 81 seats

AGENCIES
RANCHI, OCT 17

Women are set to be a major force in the Assembly elections of Jharkhand, as voters list data shows a significant rise in female voters.

In the 2019 Assembly elections, there were 914 females for every 1,000 male voters. This number has now increased to 981 females per 1,000 male voters, a rise of 67 women voters.

In the recent Lok Sabha elections, an encouraging increase has also been observed in the number and ratio of women voters in the state. During the Lok Sabha elections held in May-June, the number of females per 1,000 male voters was 963. Now, an additional 18 women per 1,000 men have been added.

According to the updated voters list, Jharkhand has a total of 1,31,44,236 male voters and 1,28,99,019 female voters.

Out of the state's 81 seats, 32 have more female voters than male voters.

These constituencies include Borio, Barhait, Littipara, Pakur, Maheshpur, Shikaripara, Nala, Jamtara, Ghatshila, Potka, Jugsalai, Saraikela, Kharsawan, Chaibasa, Majhgaon, Jaganathpur, Manohar-



pur, Chakradharpur, Tamar, Khijri, Hatia, Kanke, Mandar, Torpa, Khunti, Sisai, Gumla, Bishunpur, Simdega, Kolebira, Lohardaga, and Manika.

Out of these 32 seats, 28 are reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST) or Scheduled Castes (SC). In the Majhgaon constituency of Kolhan division, the number of female voters exceeds male voters by 9,000, while in Jaganathpur, the difference is around 8,000.

Additionally, eight other consti-

tuencies have between 4,000 and 7,000 more women voters than men. This demographic shift indicates that women are likely to play a decisive role in around 40 per cent of the seats in Jharkhand.

Among the new voters in the 18-19 age group, women have again taken the lead. The state has 5,18,319 male voters in this age group, compared to 6,65,818 female voters. This means that 56 per cent of the new voters are women while 44 per cent are men.

President Droupadi Murmu highlights similarities between cultures of Mauritania & India

AGENCIES
NOUAKCHOTT (MAURITANIA),
OCT 17

President Droupadi Murmu has said that there are many similarities between the cultures of Mauritania and India such as women's clothing, respect for ancestors, and strong family ties.

She made this remark while addressing the Indian community in Nouakchott, the capital city of Mauritania on Wednesday.

President Murmu said that this first-ever state visit to Mauritania will help lay the foundation for closer bilateral cooperation between the two countries across various sectors.



The President also said that India can contribute to the development of Mauritania through agriculture, health, education, and skill development.

"India can contribute to Mauritania's development journey through human resource development, infrastructure construction, agriculture, health, education, skill development, and digital innovation.

All of you are an important part of this process of cooperation," President Murmu said.

"There are many similarities between the cultures of Mauritania and India. For example, clothing, especially women's clothing, is similar; there is respect for ancestors; family ties are strong; there are joint families; children are taught social values," the President said.

It is the first visit by an Indian President to the African country.

She arrived in Mauritania on the second leg of her three-nation visit to Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi from October 13 to 19.

"We are rapidly moving towards our goal of making India a 'Developed India' by the year 2047, and our overseas family is a very important factor in this process," she added.

President Murmu also met with the Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and Mauritians Abroad of Mauritania, Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug.

President Murmu arrived in Mauritania on Wednesday. She was

warmly received by the President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.

President Murmu arrived in Mauritania from Algeria. On the final day of her state visit to Algeria on Tuesday, she visited the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Tipasa, the Royal Mausoleum of Mauretania, and Hamma Garden.

These historical sites, situated in and around the coastal city of Tipasa, provided President Murmu with a unique glimpse into Algeria's rich cultural and historical legacy.

The President was accompanied by Algeria's Minister of Culture Soraya Mouloudji and Tipaza Governor Aboubakr Boucetta.

Nigerian President confirms over 100 killed in gasoline tanker explosion

AGENCIES
ABUJA, OCT 17

The death toll of a gasoline tanker explosion in Nigeria's northern state of Jigawa early this week exceeded 100, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu's spokesman said.

A statement issued on Wednesday evening by Bayo Onanuga, a senior presidential spokesman, on behalf of Tinubu, described as "devastating" the night inferno in Majiya, a town in the Taura local government area of Jigawa late Tuesday.

According to the statement, the Nigerian leader directed a delegation of senior officials to condole with the families of the deceased, assess the situation at the scene of the



incident, and visit scores of injured people in the hospital.

He also directed that emergency aid, including medical supplies, food, and shelter, be extended to the victims receiving treatment and others affected by the tanker fire, reports Xinhua news agency.

While assuring the citizens of the government's better commitment to the swift and comprehensive review of fuel transportation safety protocols across the country, Tinubu

further directed the road safety police to strengthen night travel measures, such as increased patrols, stricter enforcement of safety regulations, and other highway safety mechanisms to prevent recurrences of the incident. Earlier, the police had confirmed at least 90 people were killed and 50 others injured following the explosion. The victims were mostly people who had rushed to the scene to collect gasoline after the tanker lost control and overturned, a police spokesman earlier told Xinhua news agency.

A mass burial for the deceased was held Wednesday morning, said Shi'isu Lawan Adam, the spokesman for the police in Jigawa.

2,367 killed, 11,088 injured by Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon: Health Ministry

AGENCIES
BEIRUT, OCT 17

The death toll from Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon since the beginning of the Hezbollah-Israeli conflict on October 8, 2023, reached 2,367, while injuries went up to 11,088, the Lebanese Health Ministry said.

Meanwhile, the death toll from Israeli airstrikes on different areas in Lebanon on October 15 reached 17 while injuries stood at 182, the Ministry added on Thursday.

It noted that three people were killed and 92 others wounded in the south, while nine were killed and 49 injured in the Nabatieh governorate, Xinhua news agency reported.

It added that five people were killed and 26 injured in the Bekaa Valley. In the Baalbek Hermel governorate, 15 people were wounded.



Since September 23, the Israeli army has been conducting an unprecedented, intensive air attack on Lebanon in an escalation with Hezbollah.

Since October 8, 2023, Hezbollah and the Israeli army have been exchanging fire across the Lebanese-Israeli border amid fears of a broader conflict as the war between Hamas and Israel continues in the Gaza Strip.

The aerial campaign is an escalation from a year of cross-border warfare

between Israel and Hezbollah since the start of its offensive on the Gaza Strip, in which Israel has killed over 42,400 people, most of them women and children, since a Hamas attack last year.

Despite international warnings that the Middle East was on the brink of a regional war amid Israel's relentless attacks on Gaza and Lebanon, it expanded the conflict on October 1 by launching an incursion into southern Lebanon.

India rebukes Canada PM's no 'hard proof' admission, says responsibility for damage lies with Trudeau alone

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

As Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau testified before a Commission of Inquiry, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said what it has heard only "confirms" New Delhi's consistent stand that Canada has "presented us no evidence" in support of the serious allegations Ottawa chose to level against India and Indian diplomats.

The MEA also held Trudeau's "cavalier behaviour" responsible for damaging India-Canada relations.

"What we have heard today only confirms what we have been saying consistently all along -- Canada has presented us no evidence whatsoever in support of the serious allegations that it has chosen to level against India and Indian diplomats,"



said MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal in an official statement on Wednesday night in response to Trudeau's comment on Wednesday.

"The responsibility for the damage that this cavalier behaviour has caused to India-Canada relations lies with Prime Minister Trudeau alone," he added.

Earlier on Wednesday, Trudeau, testifying before Canada's foreign interference inquiry, said India has been insisting on evidence over allegations levelled by Canada regarding

the killing of Khalistani terrorist Nijjar but his government had provided just intelligence, "not hard evidentiary proof."

"Behind the scenes (we're trying) India to cooperate with us. Their ask was...give us the evidence you have on us. Our response was it is within your security agency. You should be looking into how much they know, you should be engaging... 'No, no but show us the evidence'. At that point, it was primarily intelligence, not hard evidentiary proof. So

we said let's work together..." Canadian PM said.

The ties between India and Canada soured after Trudeau alleged in the Canadian Parliament last year that he has "credible allegations" of India's hand in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

India has denied all the allegations, calling them "absurd" and "motivated" and has accused Canada of giving space to extremist and anti-India elements in their country.

Nijjar, who was designated a terrorist by India's National Investigation Agency in 2020, was shot and killed outside a gurdwara in Surrey in June last year.

The recent diplomatic row erupted when Canada labelled India's High Commissioner and other diplomats as "persons of interest" in the investigation of Nijjar's death.

India on Monday expelled six Canadian diplomats hours after it summoned Canada's Charge d'Affaires Stewart Wheeler and conveyed that the "baseless targeting" of the Indian High Commissioner and other diplomats and officials in Canada was completely unacceptable.

MEA said earlier that it was underlined to Canada's Charge d'Affaires that in an atmosphere of extremism and violence, the Trudeau government's actions endangered their safety and the government had decided to withdraw India's High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma and other targeted diplomats and officials.

The Indian government conveyed that India reserves the right to take further steps in response to the "Trudeau government's support for extremism, violence and separatism against India".

Canadian MPs intensify demand for Trudeau's resignation, assert his time is over

AGENCIES
OTTAWA, OCT 17

As Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau continues to walk on thin ice, both at home and abroad, many leaders from his own party and several Members of Parliament are now planning to go beyond just publicly expressing dissatisfaction with his leadership and officially demand his resignation in the coming days.

On Thursday, Canada's leading daily The Globe and Mail reported that at least 20 MPs have agreed to put their names on a demand to oust Trudeau - a move which it said appears to be "quickly snowballing into a serious effort" to force him out.

The newspaper said that caucus members are expected to present within days an official demand that Trudeau steps down from party leadership.

"Three Liberal MPs have told The Globe and Mail that they anticipate the demand to be presented in two steps: first, in writing as soon as this weekend, laying out the fact that constituents are telling MPs that Mr. Trudeau needs to go; and second, in an open microphone session at the party's next caucus meeting in Ottawa, on Wednesday," it detailed.

On Wednesday, long-time Charlottetown Liberal MP Sean Casey openly called for Trudeau's resignation as the head of the party.

"People have had enough. They've tuned him out and they want him to go," Casey told CBC News Network in an interview.

"The message that I've been getting loud and clear - and more and more strongly as time goes by - is that it is time for [Trudeau] to go. And I



agree," he added.

Casey, during his interview with Power & Politics' show host David Cochrane, stated that there is a "high level of anxiety" in the Liberal caucus over Trudeau's leadership.

"I would say it's wider than meets the eye. There are a lot of people who have concerns," he said.

Trudeau, who testified at the public inquiry into foreign interference in Canada's electoral pro-

cesses and democratic institutions, drew further criticism by claiming that he has the names of Conservative parliamentarians who are involved in foreign interference.

In a stinging response, Carleton MP Pierre Poilievre, who is running to be Prime Minister of Canada, challenged Trudeau to release the names of all MPs that have collaborated with foreign interference.

"Justin Trudeau is doing what he always does: He is lying. He is lying to distract from a Liberal caucus revolt against his leadership and revelations he knowingly allowed Beijing to interfere and help him win two elections," Poilievre said in a strong statement after the Canadian PM's testimony.

"If Justin Trudeau has evidence to the contrary, he should share it with the public. Now that he has blurted it out in general terms at a commission of inquiry, he should release the facts. But he won't - because he is making it up," the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada added.

Earlier this year, another Liberal MP Ken McDonald had voiced his concerns when asked if Trudeau was the right leader to lead Liberal Party.

Interestingly, in the same testimony on Wednesday, Trudeau had

admitted that Ottawa had only some intelligence inputs and no "hard proofs" before he first accused India of killing Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, last year.

India has made it clear several times that Trudeau has been working on a "deliberate strategy" - of smearing India for political gains.

"What we have heard today only confirms what we have been saying consistently all along - Canada has presented us no evidence whatsoever in support of the serious allegations that it has chosen to level against India and Indian diplomats.

The responsibility for the damage that this cavalier behaviour has caused to India-Canada relations lies with Prime Minister Trudeau alone," said Randhir Jaiswal, the spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday.

Australia: Debris that forced closure of Sydney beaches identified as 'tar balls'

AGENCIES
SYDNEY, OCT 17

Thousands of mysterious black balls of debris that washed ashore and forced the closure of two Sydney beaches have been identified as a phenomenon known as "tar balls."

Authorities on Wednesday night confirmed that the golf-ball-sized pieces of debris are a hydrocarbon-based pollutant consistent with the makeup of tar balls, which are formed when oil comes into contact with debris and water as a result of an oil spill or seepage at sea.

The popular Coogee beach in eastern Sydney in the state of New South Wales (NSW) was closed on Tuesday after lifeguards found the balls washed ashore along the length of the beach, reports Xinhua news agency.

The local Randwick City

Council on Wednesday closed the nearby Gordons Bay Beach after additional debris was found and warned the public not to go near or touch the balls.

Randwick Mayor Dylan Parker said in a statement on Wednesday night that the council was working with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and ports and transport agencies to safely remove and dispose of the material.

"Our community is rightfully very protective of our natural environment, and this has been a very concerning incident," he said.

"We have engaged an expert occupational hygienist and a specialist waste removal contractor who are currently systematically removing the debris from the beaches in accordance with an agreed safe work method statement developed with the NSW EPA."

South Korea expresses regret over Japanese leaders sending offering to war-linked shrine

AGENCIES
SEOUL, OCT 17

South Korea on Thursday expressed regret over Japanese leaders sending offerings to the notorious war-linked Yasukuni Shrine, seen as a symbol of the militaristic and colonial past of Japan.

The foreign ministry said in a statement that

the government expresses deep disappointment and regret over the fact that responsible leaders of Japan once again sent offerings to or visited the Yasukuni Shrine, which glorifies Japan's war of aggression and enshrines war criminals, reports Xinhua news agency.

The ministry urged leaders of Japan's new cabinet

to squarely face history and demonstrate through action their humble reflection and sincere remorse for Japan's past acts, noting this will become an important foundation for the establishment of future-oriented South Korea-Japan relations based on mutual trust.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who

took office on October 1, sent the ritual offering of a masakaki tree under his name as prime minister on the occasion of the shrine's autumn festival, according to his office on Thursday.

The Yasukuni Shrine, located in central Tokyo, honours 14 convicted Class-A Japanese war criminals from World War II.

Lahore college rape case: One dead, dozens injured as massive violence rocks Pakistan

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, OCT 17

Violent protests by students continue to spread across Pakistan's Punjab province after reports of alleged rape of a private college student in Lahore went viral on social media.

On Thursday, angry students of different colleges in Rawalpindi took

to the streets and blocked main highways, protesting against the alleged rape of a Lahore college student by a security guard. Police authorities have arrested at least 150 violent protesters while using tear gas to disperse the students.

Major protests and rallies are being taken out in various parts of the Punjab province for the

past four days with students and their representative bodies slamming the provincial government of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for trying to cover up the whole incident and claiming that it never occurred.

As per the latest reports, at least one student protester has lost his life while

over 28 have been reportedly injured due to clashes with the security guards of the college and police.

"The college management has deliberately deleted the CCTV footage to hide the incident. The provincial government is trying to term the whole incident as fake. We will not tolerate this at any cost."

Alternative fuels can drastically cut logistics costs, air pollution: Nitin Gadkari

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

Highlighting the importance of biofuels in achieving energy independence while tackling air pollution caused by stubble burning, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, said on Thursday that the logistics costs in the country can be drastically reduced by using alternative fuels such as methanol, ethanol and bio-CNG.

Addressing the 'International Methanol Seminar and Expo' in the national capital, the minister emphasised two key concerns -- rising pollution and fossil fuel imports.



Gadkari underscored the urgent need to reduce these imports for self-sufficiency, which amounts to about Rs 22 lakh crore, especially in light of global geopolitical uncertainties. "India is making significant strides in the biofuel

sector, especially in methanol. NITI Aayog's efforts to promote methanol are yielding success, given its affordability and pollution-free nature. Low-quality coal, which is available in a few states, is also being used in making methanol,"

he told the gathering.

Gadkari highlighted the concept of converting waste into wealth, adding that materials like used tyre powder and plastic are being utilised in road construction, which helps in the reduction of bitumen imports. The initiative of using crop waste is also helping to increase the incomes of farmers across the country.

Emphasising the significance of waste-to-energy technologies, particularly the production of bio-CNG from rice straw, the minister said this approach has shown promise in 475 projects, with over 40 already up and running in states such as Punjab,

Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka.

"The conversion ratio of rice straw to Bio-CNG is roughly 5:1 in tonnes," said the minister, urging for additional research into more efficient biomass sources and cost-effective transportation methods for biomass.

On the stubble burning problem in Punjab and Haryana that causes severe air pollution every year, the minister said we can currently process one-fifth of the parali (stubble) but with better planning, we can reduce the seasonal air pollution from stubble burning by using parali as raw material for alternative fuels.

IT major Infosys logs 4.7 pc increase in Q2 net profit at Rs 6,506 crore

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

IT major Infosys on Thursday reported a 4.7 per cent increase in net profit (year-on-year) in the July-September period (Q2 FY25) to Rs 6,506 crore from Rs 6,212 crore in the year-ago quarter.

The IT bellwether's revenue clocked a growth of over 4 per cent (quarter-on-quarter) at Rs 40,986 crore from Rs 38,994 crore in the same quarter last fiscal.

Infosys has also raised its full-year revenue growth guidance to 3.75-4.5 per cent.

The company declared an interim dividend of Rs 21 per share (a 16.7 per cent increase from last



year) and fixed November 8 as the payout date. The H1 FY25 revenues grew at 2.9 per cent (year-over-year) in constant currency. Operating margin for H1 was at 21.1 per cent.

"We had strong growth of 3.1 per cent quarter-on-quarter in constant current in Q2. The growth

was broad-based with good momentum in financial services," Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh said.

Free cash flow for Q2 was at \$839 million, growing 25.2 per cent (year-over-year). The total contract value (TCV) of large deal wins was \$2.4 billion, 41 per cent being net new.

Maruti Suzuki India crosses production of 1 crore units at Manesar facility

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

Leading automaker Maruti Suzuki India Limited on Thursday said it has crossed the 1-crore cumulative production milestone at its Manesar facility in Haryana.

With this, the facility became the fastest among Suzuki's global automobile manufacturing facilities, to reach the milestone in just 18 years, the company said in a statement.

"As we reach this important landmark, I thank our customers for placing their trust in us. I also thank all our employees, business associates and government of India for their continued support," said Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director and CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited.

Spread over 600 acres, the Manesar facility began operations in October 2006. The company manufactures Brezza, Ertiga, XL6, Ciaz, Dzire, Wagon



R, S-Presso and Celerio at this facility.

According to Maruti Suzuki India, these models are sold in domestic market and are exported to regions like Latin America, Middle East, Africa, and neighbouring countries in Asia. Maruti Suzuki's first passenger car to be exported to Japan, the Baleno, was also manufactured at this facility. Takeuchi said the feat at

Manesar facility is a testament to India's manufacturing capability and their commitment to the larger national goal of 'Make in India'.

"With a strong focus on local manufacturing of components, since inception, the Company has been able to establish a vast supply chain in India. Through our large-scale manufacturing facilities, we have been able to pro-

vide direct and indirect employment to millions of people," said the automaker's CEO.

Maruti Suzuki's overall production capability stands at about 2.35 million units per annum. Since inception, the company has produced over 3.11 crore vehicles (as on October 6).

In August, Maruti Suzuki India sold 184,727 vehicles, up from 181,343 units sold in the same month last year. The figure included domestic sales of 148,061 units, sales to other original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) of 8,938 units and exports of 27,728 units.

In the six months of current fiscal (April-September), Maruti Suzuki India sold 1,063,418 units, up from 1,050,085 in the same period last fiscal. The export figure for the first six months of FY25 was 148,276 units, up from 132,542 units in the last fiscal for the same period.

Wipro's net income grows 21 pc YoY in Q2, announces 1:1 bonus share

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, OCT 17

IT major Wipro on Thursday reported net income in the July-September period (Q2 FY25) at Rs 3,209 crore -- a 6.8 per cent quarterly growth and 21.3 per cent annual growth.

The company also announced a 1:1 bonus share issue.

Gross revenue was Rs 22,300 crore (\$2,662.6 million), an increase of 1.5 per cent (on-quarter) and a decrease of 1.0 per cent (YoY).

IT services segment revenue was at \$2,660.1 million, an increase of 2.0 per cent (YoY) for the quarter ending September 30.

The Board of Directors recommended the issue of bonus shares to shareholders (including stock dividends to ADS holders) in the ratio of 1:1 (1 equity share for every 1 equity share held), subject to the approval of shareholders.



The company said in a statement that it expects revenue from the IT services business segment to be in the range of \$2,607 million to \$2,660 million for the ongoing festive quarter (Q3 FY25).

"Based on strong execution in Q2, we met our expectations for revenue growth, bookings, and margins. We continued to expand our top accounts,

large deal bookings surpassed \$1 billion once again, and Capco (acquired by Wipro in 2021) maintained its momentum for another consecutive quarter," CEO and Managing Director Srinu Pallia said. He said that the company will continue to invest in strategic priorities and build a strong AI-powered Wipro. The earnings per share

for the quarter was at Rs 6.14, an increase of 6.8 per cent (on-quarter), announced the company.

Chief Financial Officer Aparna Iyer said the operating cash flow continues to be robust at 132.3 per cent of net income in Q2. "As a result, cumulatively in the first half of this year, we generated nearly \$1 billion in operating cash flow," she mentioned.

1,600 metric tonnes onions to arrive in Delhi-NCR via rail route: Centre

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

The government on Thursday announced that 1,600 metric tonnes (MT) of onions are set to arrive from Nashik in Delhi-NCR via the rail route by October 20 to stabilise the prices of the staple food in the festive season.

The Department of Consumer Affairs said that 42 covered wagons (approximately 53 trucks) with onions, procured by the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd (NCCF) under the price stabilisation fund, was being shipped by rail by the Kanda fast train from Nashik to Delhi-NCR.

The department said that it is the first time that



bulk transport of onions by rail rake has been adopted under price stabilisation intervention. Once it reaches, the stocks will be released in Delhi-NCR which will substantially increase the availability to consumers during this festive season.

"Railways as a mode of onion transportation is set to gain importance as more destinations are

being added to bolster the pace of disposal. Shipments by rail rake to Lucknow and Varanasi will be scheduled in the next few days," Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said.

The Secretary also said the recent surge in tomato prices is because of excess rains and high moisture levels in major tomato-producing areas of Andhra

Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.

"The supply situation is set to improve in coming days with increased arrivals from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh which would bring down the tomato prices," she said.

The department has also requested Indian Railways to allow transportation of onion rakes from Nashik to multiple locations across the northeastern region which would include New Jalpaiguri (Siliguri), Dibrugarh, New Tinsukia, and Changsari. The government had procured 4.7 lakh tonnes of rabi onion for the price stabilisation buffer this year, and started the release from September 5 through retail sales at Rs 35 per kg and also through

bulk sales in major mandis across the country.

About 92,000 MT of onion in the buffer has been dispatched from Nashik and other source centres to date to consuming centres through trucks by road transport. So far, the NCCF has covered 77 destinations in 21 states and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) covered 43 destinations in 16 states in their onion disposal drives. The government said that average retail prices of onions in major states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Jharkhand and Telangana have come down in recent days in comparison to the level in the first week of September.

Seven out of 10 Indians think gold as a safe asset: Survey

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

Seven out of 10 (70 per cent) Indians consider gold as a safe asset that positively influences their savings habits, a survey report said.

According to the Moneyview survey, "over 85 per cent of the 3,000 respondents consider gold a valuable asset for wealth preservation, with its intrinsic value and historical performance continuing to drive consumer confidence".

The survey further said that investors particularly in the age group of 25-40 years, invest in gold via both the physical and

digital way, as part of their regular financial strategy to build wealth for retirement and other long-term goals. "70 per cent of respondents reported that their perception of gold as a safe asset positively influences their savings habits," the survey said.

In the digital era, the appeal for gold is increasingly driving investors towards digital tech platforms that offer easier access to gold.

The survey further said: "Assured purity, insured storage, affordable investment due to availability of Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) options, and safety among others are

some of the key drivers for digital gold investments across India." According to the survey data, "over 75 per cent of respondents under the age of 35 prefer digital gold to physical gold, citing its liquidity and convenience as major factors". More than 50 per cent of the respondents believe that the ability to purchase gold in fractional amounts through digital platforms is one of the most lucrative features driving them towards changing their investment habits. Nearly 65 per cent of millennials surveyed expressed a preference for digital gold due to its ease of access and convenience.

Over 5 in 10 Indian companies in TMT sector implement AI at full scale: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

More than five in 10 (55 per cent) of organisations in the technology, media and telecommunications (TMT) sector have successfully implemented artificial intelligence (AI) at full scale for select use cases, according to a report on Thursday.

While 32 per cent of organisations are currently in the process of gradually scaling their AI

initiatives and 13 per cent are still in the initial planning stages of adopting AI technologies, according to the report by KPMG in India launched at the 'India Mobile Congress 2024'.

About 55 per cent of respondents anticipate that 30-50 per cent of their product or solution portfolios will be AI-led, with expectations that these AI-driven offerings will contribute 10-30 per cent of incremental

revenue, the findings showed.

"The TMT industry stands at the cusp of a remarkable transformation, driven by the rise of artificial intelligence.

As the global landscape rapidly embraces a digital-first future, AI is emerging as a transformative force, reshaping not just the TMT industry but all other industries," said Akhilesh Tuteja, Partner and National Leader-TMT, KPMG in India.

Nestle India's net profit falls to Rs 899 cr in Q2, Manish Tiwary appointed new India MD

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

Nestle India's net profit fell marginally to Rs 899 crore in the second quarter (Q2) this fiscal, from Rs 908 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, according to the company's quarterly financial results on Thursday. The FMCG company reported revenue from operations at Rs 5,104 crore, compared to Rs 5,037 crore a year ago, a rise of 1.3 per cent.

The company saw continued accelerated growth



by almost 38 per cent in the quarter, primarily driven by quick commerce and fuelled by brands such as Kitkat, Nescafe, Maggi, and Milkmaid. The company said that the growth was supported by premiumisation, new user

acquisition, festive participation and targeted digital communications.

Nestle India Chairman and Managing Director Suresh Narayanan said that despite a challenging external environment with muted consumer

demand and high commodity prices, especially for coffee and cocoa, "we remained resilient in our pursuit to deliver growth".

"This quarter, 5 of our top 12 brands grew at double-digit. However, some key brands witnessed pressure due to softer consumer demand and we focus on them and have in place robust action plans," he said. "It is heartening to note that in the last 9 months, 65 per cent of our top 12 brands, including Maggi noodles, showed positive volume growth," Narayanan said.

Meanwhile, the company announced the appointment of Manish Tiwary as Managing Director of Nestle India to succeed Narayanan, who will retire on July 31, 2025.

"The Board of Directors has approved Manish Tiwary's appointment as 'Non-retiring Director' and 'Managing Director' (Key Managerial Personnel) of the Company w.e.f. 1st August, 2025 for a term of five consecutive years, subject to approval of the shareholders," the company said in a regulatory filing.

1st Test: Conway scores 91 as New Zealand end day two at 180/3, lead India by 134 runs

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, OCT 17

Opener Devon Conway dazzled with his eye-catching boundaries before falling nine runs short of a century as New Zealand ended day two's play in the first Test against India at 180/3 in 50 overs and lead by 134 runs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Thursday.

After bowling out India for 46 - their lowest total at home in Tests and third lowest overall in the format, thanks to Matt Henry's 5-15 and William O'Rourke's 4-22, New Zealand were ushered into the lead, thanks to Conway's knock, with the highlight



being his takedown of Indian spinners.

He hit 11 fours and three sixes in his 91 off 105 balls before being castled by Ravichandran Ashwin. At stumps, which came a little earlier due to bad

light, Rachin Ravindra (22 not out) and Daryl Mitchell (14 not out) ensured New Zealand continued to swell their lead and set themselves up for a mammoth day three.

Resuming from 82/1

in the final session, Will Young began by firmly hitting four boundaries off Kuldeep Yadav. The misery increased on India as captain Rohit Sharma put down tough chances twice at slip of Ravindra Jadeja's bowling.

It was followed by the team giving Young a life when a throw went to the wrong end and Rishabh Pant hobbling off the field after being hit on side of right knee by a sharply spinning in delivery from Jadeja, which evaded Conway's attempted drive, with Dhruv Jurel taking keeping duties.

Conway then showed his solidness on the front

foot and back foot by hitting Kuldeep for six and four, before Young gave a top-edge on a sweep off Jadeja to fine leg and fall for 33. Three overs later, Ashwin struck when Conway went for a pre-mediated sweep, but got into a tangle and saw the fuller ball rattle the stumps. Ravindra and Mitchell looked impressive in their stay at the crease before stumps came on a great day of Test cricket for England.

Brief Scores: India 46 in 31.2 overs (Rishabh Pant 20; Matt Henry 5-15) trail New Zealand 180/3 in 50 overs (Devon Conway 91; Ravindra Jadeja 1-28) by 134 runs

Ruud and Paul progress into Nordic Open quarterfinals

AGENCIES
STOCKHOLM, OCT 17

On his first appearance at the Nordic Open since 2019, Norway's Casper Ruud prevailed 6-3, 7-6(3) for a hard-fought win against Lorenzo Sonego to enter the quarterfinals of the ATP 250 tennis tournament.

The second seed also became the first Norwegian player to record a match win in Stockholm tournament history. Ruud, who is currently seventh in the ATP Live Race To Turin, took another step towards qualification for the ATP Finals.

"I haven't won many matches lately, so this was a nice win. It was great to



get my first win in Stockholm," said Ruud.

The 25-year-old will next face seventh seed Tallon Griekspoor, who edged past British qualifier Jacob Fearnley 7-6(0), 6-3.

"It's going to be really tough, Tallon is a great player, especially indoors. He has big weapons, a big serve. I am just going to do

my best," he added.

Fourth seed Tommy Paul clinched a personal-best 42nd win of the season with a 6-2, 7-6(2) victory over Laslo Djere. The American, who won the title in Stockholm in 2021, had to rally back from a break down in the second set, but managed to cross the line in one hour, 38 minutes.

Denmark Open: Sindhu scripts remarkable comeback against Yan Yue to reach QF

AGENCIES
ODENSE, OCT 17

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu staged a remarkable comeback to defeat China's Han Yue in the round of 16 of the Denmark Open Super 750 tournament on Thursday. Sindhu overcame a first-game deficit to outlast the fourth seed and World No. 7, winning 18-21, 21-12, 21-16 in a gruelling match that lasted over an hour.

The Indian shuttler, ranked World No. 18, entered the contest with a strong 6-1 head-to-head record against Han Yue, but the match didn't start in her favour.

In the first game, Han's precision and power saw her take an 11-9 lead at the mid-game interval, and she extended that advantage to 18-13 as Sindhu struggled to find her rhythm. Despite saving four game points, Sindhu couldn't stop Han from



clinching the opener with a blistering cross-court smash.

Refusing to back down, Sindhu made a strong start in the second game, reeling off three quick points. Han's unforced errors began to mount, and Sindhu capitalised, leading 11-6 at the interval. With renewed confidence, she dominated the rest of the set, closing it out 21-12 to force a decider.

The third game saw Han once again take the upper hand, leading 11-7 at the break. However, Sindhu

launched a spirited fight-back, winning four consecutive points, including a thrilling 29-shot rally that brought the crowd to its feet. From 15-16 down, the Indian star pressed top gear, winning six straight points to clinch the match and secure her place in the quarterfinals.

Earlier in the tournament, Sindhu had an easier outing in the first round, where she led 21-8, 13-7 against Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po before her opponent retired from the match.

ISL 2024-25: Early high-flyers Bengaluru FC, Punjab FC face-off in 'top-of-the-table' clash

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, OCT 17

The 2024-25 Indian Super League (ISL) season is shaping up to be an exhilarating one, marked by a surprising reversal of fortunes for the top two teams in the league. As the international break ends, all eyes are on the upcoming match between Bengaluru FC and Punjab FC at Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Friday, currently sitting at the top of the table.

Last season's 10th and 8th-place finishers, respectively, these two sides have defied expectations to emerge as frontrunners in the ongoing campaign. Notably, these two sides are the only teams yet to face a defeat in this edition, making this clash even more significant.

Under the tactical guidance of Gerard Zaragoza,



Bengaluru FC have started the season in impeccable form, achieving defensive solidity with four consecutive clean sheets - a record-equaling feat in ISL history. They could become the first side to maintain five consecutive clean sheets at the start of a season.

Their last season's struggles seem like a distant memory as the team has found a perfect balance in both defence and attack.

They have scored 3+ goals in their last two home games. If they manage to repeat this against Punjab FC, it will mark their longest such streak in the league's history.

Punjab FC, building on the momentum from the second half of last season, have continued to rise. With three wins in three games this season, the team is just one point behind Bengaluru FC and

has a game in hand. Their success is characterised by a robust attacking style, with a high volume of chances created and a significant number of late goals (50% of goals after the 85th minute), showcasing their relentless mentality.

They, too, remain unbeaten, adding extra weight to this highly anticipated showdown.

In their two ISL meetings, Bengaluru FC went down to Punjab FC in one match and shared the spoils in the other fixture.

Head coach Gerard Zaragoza knows the pedigree Punjab FC hold and wants to fetch all three points from the game.

He said, "It will be a tough game for us because Punjab is a good team. Of course after us, they are the best defensive team, at least till now. They have

good players up front to score goals. But the reality is we will play at home and we hope a lot of people will come to cheer for us. We hope to get three points from the game."

Panagiotis Dilmperis, on the other hand, is considering the clash against Bengaluru FC as just another away game. He insisted that the focus would be on grabbing the three points rather than the weightage of the clash.

He informed before the fixture, "The two teams from the top of the standings will play tomorrow. But we are still at the beginning of this big championship. For us, it's a regular away game against a good team with good players, good coach and a certain plan. Our plan is to leave the stadium with three points."

Sports Minister chairs meeting on Draft National Sports Governance Bill 2024 with IOA, NSFs

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a stakeholders consultation meeting with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), National Sports Federations (NSFs), and National Sports Promotion Organisations (NSPOs) on the Draft National Sports Governance Bill 2024 here on Thursday.

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse, Indian Olympic Association president P.T. Usha and representatives of Mission Olympic Cell and Sports Control Boards of Central Ministries were also present in the meeting.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will continue to engage with various stakeholders as the draft bill progresses towards finalisation, ensuring that the voices of athletes, administrators, experts, and the public are incorporated in shaping a progressive and sustainable sports governance framework for India, it said in a release.

Representatives of various NSFs, NSPOs, and IOA were also in attendance. They shared their perspectives on the proposed governance reforms, athlete welfare measures, and the promotion of transparency in the

administration of sports. The discussions also focused on key issues such as safeguarding athletes' rights, streamlining the functioning of sports bodies, and enhancing India's global sports standing.

The minister assured the stakeholders that their inputs would be carefully considered in refining the draft bill. He reiterated the ministry's vision to make India a global sports powerhouse by creating an environment that encourages fair play, inclusivity, and the holistic development of athletes.

"The Draft National Sports Governance Bill 2024 Bill is a milestone in our mission to build

a robust and transparent sports governance structure in India that aligns with international standards, including the Olympic and Paralympic Charter.

"The active involvement of various stakeholders and public is crucial for shaping policies that reflect the aspirations of our sports community," Mandaviya was quoted in a release.

"The Draft Bill is a crucial step towards realising the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, where sports thrive as a pillar of national pride and growth.

"By empowering athlete-centric federations, introducing the Safe

Sports Policy, and establishing an Appellate Sports Tribunal, we are building a robust framework that not only elevates our athletes but also strengthens India's position on the global sports stage," said the Minister.

The Draft National Sports Governance Bill 2024 establishes a comprehensive framework to promote the development and welfare of sports persons, ensure ethical governance, and provide effective dispute resolution mechanisms. The meeting aimed to gather insights, suggestions, and feedback from various stakeholders to create a law that benefits Indian sports.

Smith, Starc named in NSW squad, to play Sheffield Shield match after 3 years

AGENCIES
SYDNEY, OCT 17

Australian Test stars Steven Smith and Mitchell Starc will play their first Sheffield Shield matches in more than three years as the duo have been included in a 13-player New South Wales squad for the second round of the 2024/25 Sheffield Shield against Victoria at the MCG on Sunday.

Smith and Starc will join Nathan Lyon in the squad that also includes World Cup winner Sean Abbott and former Test seamer Jackson Bird. Moises Hen-



riques will captain the team that also have Josh Philippe, Ollie Davies and Sam Konstas.

Starc last played Shield for NSW in the final of

the 20/21 season, where the side went down to Queensland, while Smith last represented the state in first-class cricket in the 19/20 summer.

Fraser-McGurk vows to 'knock the door down' for Sheffield Shield spot after early omission

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

Australia batting sensation Jake Fraser-McGurk, known for his white-ball prowess, expressed disappointment at missing selection for South Australia's first two Sheffield Shield matches but remains confident about his ability to succeed in the red-ball format.

At 22, Fraser-McGurk is already a key figure in Australia's limited-overs set-up, and his recent inclusion in the national ODI squad for the upcoming series against Pakistan

reflects that potential. However, the talented right-hander is determined to prove himself in first-class cricket.

Fraser-McGurk, who was part of Australia's white-ball campaign in the UK last month, acknowledged that missing pre-season red-ball training with South Australia (SA) had cost him a chance to feature in the early rounds of the Shield competition. Daniel Drew and veteran Jake Lehmann, both coming off strong performances, were preferred in the middle order, leaving Fraser-McGurk on the

sidelines.

"Pretty disappointed with the first two selections, but that's the way cricket is," McGurk told reporters in Adelaide as quoted by cricket.com.au. "It's one of those ones where you've got to knock the door down in that format, but I definitely think I can do that."

"You've also got to give props to the guys that banged that door down in the previous (Second XI) games. They're making big hundreds so they're well and truly deserving their spot. I'll be sure to try and knock the door down



come next selection."

In the Shield match against NSW last week, he was benched in favour of another middle-order contender Daniel Drew, who struck 130 and 24 not out in SA's debut Toyota Second XI match against Queensland last month.

Travis Head, a Test batter, was also available.

Due to paternity leave, Head will miss South Australia's upcoming Shield match against Queensland, which begins in Brisbane on Sunday. Veteran Jake Lehmann, who scored 173 against a Jhye Richardson-

led Western Australia assault last week, is anticipated to take Head's spot.

The omission hasn't diminished Fraser-McGurk's ambition.

He is hopeful of breaking into the Shield side by the fifth round in December and knows the path forward involves strong performances at the Premier Cricket level, where he will represent West Torrens.

The youngster is also keen to capitalise on his opportunity with Australia's white-ball team against Pakistan, where he is expected to open

the batting alongside Matt Short.

Last season, South Australia experimented with Fraser-McGurk as a red-ball opener, but coach Ryan Harris admitted the move wasn't ideal. Harris believes the right-hander's natural position in the longer format is in the middle order, likely at number six, where he can better utilise his attacking game.

"One of my priorities is trying to crack into that Shield team and really cement my spot in that middle-order. For me it's just sort of a tempo

difference, not really a technique difference. It's spending some time out there in the middle and I was lucky enough to get that chance last week in the Second XI. A lot of my time goes into developing my red-ball game."

Having struggled at times during Australia's recent tour of the UK, Fraser-McGurk is looking to regain form in the upcoming ODI series. He finished the tour on a high with a half-century against England, but knows consistency will be key if he is to cement his place in both formats.

MD JK Rural Livelihoods Mission conducts Tour of Shopian District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 17

Dr. Shubhra Sharma, Mission Director (MD) Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) today conducted a tour of District Shopian to review ongoing initiatives and interact with the local Cadre and Self Help Groups (SHGs).

The interaction was held at the District Mission Management Unit (DMMU) in Shopian, where she engaged with the SHGs, discussing their progress, challenges and future plans.

During her visit, the Mission Director inspected several livelihood activities initiated by the SHGs in District Shopian. These included the JKRLM-NABARD Rural Mart, an Apple Grading Unit, a Tailoring Unit and a Wool Shop, all established under the ini-



tatives of JKRLM Shopian. These units are contributing to income generation and skill development in the district, supporting local communities to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

A key highlight of the tour was the inauguration of a newly established Computer Lab at DMMU Shopian. This facility will serve as a significant resource for SHG mem-

bers, offering digital literacy and training opportunities to enhance their skills, particularly in areas like financial management, online marketing and e-commerce.

The Mission Director was accompanied by State Mission Managers and District Managers from Shopian during the tour.

The visit underscores the Mission's commitment to fostering self-

reliant rural communities and supporting SHG-led livelihood projects across Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

The Mission Director's interaction with the SHG members and her encouragement for digital empowerment and local enterprise development marks a positive step toward realizing the vision of self-sustainable rural economies.

YSSD Doda organises Inter Zonal District Level Youth Festival

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 17

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Doda organized an Inter Zonal District Level Youth Festival here today in the Indoor Stadium. The event was held under the direction of Director General Youth Services and Sports J&K UT, Rajinder Singh Tara, and was guided by Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu Ved Prakash.

The festival witnessed the presence of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Doda, Sunil Kumar and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) Training of Trainers (TOT) Jugnu Bhagat.

Before the start of the event, the DYSSO addressed the participants, offering them guidance for the competition and extending his best



wishes. He encouraged them to display their talent with full enthusiasm in the festival. The festival provided a platform for youth to showcase their skills in various cultural and creative categories.

Approximately 120 participants, both students and non-students, from all 10 zones of the district, competed in the festival. They displayed their talent in local folk songs, folk dances, painting, handicrafts, essay writing, speech, solo singing, and

solo dancing. The vibrant performances highlighted the rich cultural heritage and creativity of the youth of Doda.

A screening committee, consisting of experts Zafferullah Khan (BM), Anjum Reiz (PET), and Ravinder Singh (PET), was tasked with selecting the best contingent from the event. The selected participants will represent the district at the Division Level Youth Festival, further promoting talent and cultural expression.

Power Shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 17

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out erection of poles in connection with augmentation of conductor 0.05 ACSR to 0.1 ACSR of 33KV Awantipora- Airfield Line, the shutdown will be observed to Quil LIS Stage-1st on 23, 24, 26, 27, 29 and 30th October from 09 am to 05:00 am, and no area shall remain affected.

Similarly, to carry out the augmentation of 33KV Pampore-Pulwama line, the power supply to Kadlabal and Wagoora area shall remain affected from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 20 and 22nd of October, 2024.

Also, to carry out branch cutting of 33 KV Nihalpora- Gulmarg line the power supply to Tangmarg main and Kulhama areas shall remain affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 21st of October, 2024.

Principal District & Session Judge Srinagar chairs 3rd Quarterly UTRC meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 17

As per the UTRC meeting schedule issued by National Legal Services Authority for the year 2024, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, held its third quarterly Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting on Thursday in the office chamber of the Principal District & Session Judge (Chairman DLSA) Srinagar.

The meeting, chaired by Jaffer Hussain Beg, Principal District & Session Judge (Chairman DLSA) Srinagar, brought together key stakeholders from the judiciary, administration, police and medical fraternity to address the crucial issue of ensuring fair and expedited trials for under trial prisoners.



The committee meticulously reviewed nine cases, engaging in thorough discussions and deliberations to understand the specific circumstances of each individual. Through thoughtful consideration, the committee formulated tailored recommendations aimed at expediting the judicial process and upholding the

principles of equity and justice.

Jaffer Hussain Beg, highlighting the importance of UTRC gatherings, emphasized their role in safeguarding the rights of under trial prisoners and strengthening the criminal justice system. He underscored the need for consistent initiatives like these to

ensure a fair and efficient legal process for all.

The meeting was attended by distinguished dignitaries, including Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary DLSA Srinagar; Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Sheikh Zulfikar Azad, SSP, Central Jail Srinagar; Shabir Ahmed Khan, S.P South; Meena Gowhar, Public Prosecuting Officer, Srinagar; Dr. Zeenat, Sr. Medical Officer, Central Jail Srinagar; Saad Ganie, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel Srinagar and Zulf Tasneem, Deputy Legal Aid Counsel Srinagar.

DLSA Srinagar remains committed to upholding the rights of under trial prisoners, ensuring that they receive fair and speedy trials. The UTRC meetings are a testament to this commitment and a crucial step towards achieving this goal.

Health Deptt Baramulla, J&K AIDS Control Society organize Comprehensive Health Camp in Sopore

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 17

An Integrated Health Camp was conducted today at Village Seelu in the medical block of Sopore by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Baramulla in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society under the Intensified IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaign.

The camp was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Shabir Ahmad, alongside Dr. Abdul Rouf, Project Director, AIDS.

The camp saw an impressive footfall of 1,122 people, of which 630 individuals were screened for various communicable diseases, including Hepatitis, HIV and Tuberculosis. The health camp



aimed to raise awareness about the prevention and control of these diseases, with health experts conducting informative sessions for the attendees.

In addition to screenings, the camp also provided consultations with specialist doctors, ensuring a wide range of medical services was available. Free medicines were distributed to those in need, further contributing to the

camp's outreach and support for the local population.

This initiative underscores the ongoing efforts of the health department in Baramulla to improve public health awareness and provide essential healthcare services to underserved communities.

The collaboration with the J&K AIDS Control Society highlights the

importance of continuous education and proactive health measures in fighting communicable diseases across the region.

Dr. Monika Wali, Head of the IEC Division, J&K and Ladakh; Dr. Bhajan Kour, District Health Officer (DHO); Dr. Zulfikar, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Sopore and other health officers and officials of the district were present at the event.

DC Rajouri constitutes teams for inspection of Pharmaceutical Shops: six establishments penalized for violation of norms

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 17

In a move aimed at ensuring strict compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks governing the sale of pharmaceutical drugs, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, has constituted dedicated teams to conduct inspections of pharmaceutical shops across the district. The inspections focused on verifying the implementation of computerized billing systems, the presence of CCTV cameras, and the maintenance of sale records for Schedule HI and NRX drugs, as mandated by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and other related regulations.

The initiative was launched in light of growing concerns regarding the potential misuse of restricted drugs and the need for enhanced monitoring and accountability in the pharmaceutical sector. The inspection teams, comprising officials from the district administration and the Health Department, were tasked with thoroughly



examining the practices followed by pharmacies in maintaining accurate sales records for Schedule HI and NRX drugs, which include habit-forming substances that require careful regulation.

During the inspections, a number of violations were identified, particularly related to the inadequate maintenance of

sale records for Schedule HI drugs. Several pharmaceutical shops were found to be non-compliant in keeping proper documentation, which is crucial for monitoring the sale and distribution of these sensitive drugs. Furthermore, many establishments were detected with gaps in the implementation of the computerized billing

system and non-functional CCTV cameras- both being necessary measures to prevent the unlawful sale of restricted drugs. Six pharmaceutical firms were penalized for failing to adhere to the stipulated conditions of their licenses. The functioning of these establishments was suspended for a period of four days as a punitive measure.

In addition to the penalties, the district administration has issued advisory guidelines to all pharmaceutical shops, reiterating the importance of maintaining proper sale records, ensuring the functionality of CCTV cameras, and adopting computerized billing systems. These measures are expected to bolster the monitoring of pharmaceutical sales and reduce the potential for the misuse of restricted drugs in the district.

The inspections will continue in the coming weeks, with follow-up checks to ensure that the suspended firms have rectified the violations and that other shops are adhering to the regulations.

MP, Er. Rashid reviews Jal Shakti Department Works in Baramulla PC

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 17

The Member Parliament (MP), Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, Er. Abdul Rashid today chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to review the works under the Jal Shakti Department across the Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency.

The meeting was attended by the Member District Development Council, Muzaffar Ahmad; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Chief Engineer, PHE Jal Shakti Kashmir, Sanjeev Malhotra; Chief Planning Officer Baramulla, Executive Engineers from all PHE divisions of Baramulla, Kupwara, and Budgam, and members of the civil society.

At the outset, the Chief Engineer provided a comprehensive update of the schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Baramulla PC, informing the chair that more than 85% of the households have been provided potable tap water connections under the slogan 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal.'



It was further reported that work on the remaining 15% of the schemes is progressing rapidly, with the goal of providing every household with a water connection at home, as envisioned under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The MP conducted a division-wise review of the ongoing schemes under the Jal Shakti Department, emphasising the critical importance of completing these projects within the stipulated time frames to ensure that the intended benefits of these schemes reach the general public. The meeting also discussed

various issues that are incurred in the execution of water supply schemes (WSS) projects, and it was informed that significant strides are being made in expediting the completion of pending work with an effort aiming to bring about potable water at the disposal of the wider society. Speaking on the occasion, Er. Rashid directed the officers from the Jal Shakti department to coordinate effectively with Forest, Revenue and other departments to resolve any existing bottlenecks delaying the execution of any WSS for achieving the ambitious

goal of 100% saturation as outlined by the JJM. Meanwhile, the MP impressed on the officers to expedite the work on filtration plants that are under construction across the Baramulla PC, directing them to ensure timely delivery without any delays. Additionally, he instructed the officers to conduct site visits following the completion of the projects. He stressed the importance of on-site assessments to identify and resolve any issues that may be hindering the continuous supply of water.