

HEADLINES TODAY



Har Ghar Tiranga
13th-15th August 2022

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NEWS IN BRIEF

5 Persons Killed, 11 Others Injured As Temp Falls Into Gorge In Ramban

M S Nazki

Jammu, Aug 4: Five persons were killed and 11 others injured, nine of the critically, when a tempo they were travelling in met with an accident along Jammu-Srinagar highway near Kela Morh in Ramban district. Official sources told HT the tempo (JKO2AP0-533) skidded off the road and rolled down into a deep gorge. Five persons were killed and eleven others were injured in the accident. All the injured were shifted to hospital by rescuers comprising locals and police, they said. SHO Ramban Sandeep Charak told HT that five persons were killed and 11 others were injured in the accident. "Five of the critically injured have been shifted to Srinagar hospital and as many others to GMC Jammu. One person is admitted to Ramban hospital," he added.

MeT predicts mainly dry weather in J&K

Srinagar, August 04: The weather is likely to remain dry in the next 24 hours in J&K, the Meteorological (MeT) department said on Thursday. The weather was dry in the union territory during the last 24 hours. "Weather is likely to remain mainly dry in J&K during the next 24 hours", said the MeT department official. Srinagar had 17.8, Pahalgam 13 and Gulmarg 9.4 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature. Drass town in Ladakh region had 10, Leh 12.8 and Kargil 16.6 as the minimum temperature. Jammu had 26.3, Katra 23.1, Batote 19, Banihal 18.6 and Baderwah 18.5 as the minimum temperature.

Searches conducted in Rajouri villages

Rajouri, August 04: Army and Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday conducted searches in scores of villages in Kalakote area of Rajouri district. The searches were conducted on the basis of specific inputs regarding the presence of some suspects in the area. Officials said the operation was launched following specific inputs about the presence of some suspects in Kadriyan village of Kalakote. "Army and police conducted thorough searches in the area that were called off on Thursday evening," the officials added.

Non-local found dead beneath bridge in Budgam

Srinagar, August 04: A non-local was found dead under mysterious circumstances beneath a bridge in Chadoora area of Budgam in Central Kashmir today. Officials said some locals spotted the body of an unidentified non-local beneath Chadoora Bridge and accordingly informed the police. They said that body was shifted to sub-district hospital Chadoora for medico-legal formalities. Meanwhile, a police official said further investigation into the matter has been initiated.

Dead body of 14-years old boy recovered

Srinagar, August 04: Body of a 14-year-old boy was recovered on Thursday, a day after he drowned in Neeru Nallah in Doda district, officials said. Officials said the body of Shamoon Hussain (14) son of Noor Hussain of Chilli Bhalessa, at present Village Kungla Tehsil Bhalla, was recovered around 7 am. He had drowned a day earlier into the water body, they said.

As Mirwaiz completes 3 yrs in house detention, voices for his release goes shriller

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 04: Prominent political parties and leaders in Jammu and Kashmir demanded the release of separatist Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq who completed three years in house detention on Thursday. Mirwaiz, who is chairperson of a moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference and chief priest of the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, was detained along with major mainstream politicians on August 4, 2019, a day ahead of the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into two union territories, his party said. Jamia Masjid or the grand mosque is one of the biggest mosques in Kashmir and has been central to many important developments throughout the history of the

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

"Gun has Destroyed the Future of Our Youth"

J&K's Future Could have been Shaped by Utilising abundant Resources : LG Manoj Sinha

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 04: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha on Thursday said "given the enormous resources of the region, there was no need for the youth to pick up arms in 1990". "J&K has been bestowed with enormous resources and potential. "There was no need for the youth to pick up arms (in 1990). Even today, some people are not happy with the region's peace and they continue to misguide young boys," the LG said while addressing a gathering at Ranipora, Mattan, Anantnag. He said post 2019, the "pace of development has touched new heights". "Before 2019, only 6 km roads were constructed and today 20 kms are being constructed. Before 2019, only 2500 kms were macadamized and today 7500 kms of road are being macadamized per day," the LG said. He said farmers in J&K are "most happy people with their



income". "We are best UT after Punjab and Haryana as far as farmer's income is concerned," the LG said. He further said the J&K government is committed to the welfare of artisans. On the occasion, the LG inaugurated Rs 4.50 Cr Martand Chainstitch cluster. The cluster has been established by the J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB) under Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries being administered by Ministry of MSME (GOI), meant for development of clusters to make the tradi-

tional industries more productive and competitive. The LG said his government is committed to preserve the traditional arts. He acknowledged the grit and perseverance of the artisans which has let this master craft transfer from generation to generation. He ensured them that every effort would be made to make these traditional handicrafts more remunerative and lucrative for the artisan community. "There is heartfelt attachment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji towards all Indian trades and crafts. With the active support of the Central Government, the administration is extending every possible hand-holding support so that the age-old and pristine craftsmanship is preserved in its true essence. He outlined that he personally would be more than happy to materialize whatever this community desires to be done by his administration."

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Shahaena Banoo from Hariwath Gopalpora in Kulgam prepares a shawl embossed with 'Ayat-ul-Kursi' in seven days. UNI PHOTO

5.2 lakh jobs created, over 29k recruited since 2019 in J&K: MHA

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 04: Three years after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry of Home Affairs said 29,806 people were recruited by the Union Territory administration from 2019 onwards and that 5.2 lakh employment were esti-



mated to have been created through self-employment

schemes. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Wednesday shared these facts with the Rajya Sabha in a written reply, saying "the government of Jammu and Kashmir has carried out recruitment in the public sector from 2019 onwards totalling 29,806".

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COVID-19: Surge continues as J&K reports 779 positive cases, 01 more death

SYED TAJAMUL BUKHARI

Srinagar, August 04: Jammu and Kashmir reported 779 fresh positive cases of COVID-19 including 142 from Jammu and 637 from Kashmir divisions, thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 467422. One person has also succumbed to the virus in Jammu. Moreover, 727 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 297 from Jammu division and 430 from Kashmir division. According to the daily Media Bulletin

on novel Corona virus (Covid-19), out of 467422 positive cases, 4991 are Active Positive (1483 in Jammu Division and 3508 in Kashmir Division), 457657 have recovered and 4774 have died; 2345 in Jammu division and 2429 in Kashmir division. The Bulletin further said that out of 2618298 test results available, 467422 samples have tested positive and 25715566 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 10885 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

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Former Goa CS Primal Rai to head J&K RERA

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 04: Jammu and Kashmir Government has appointed former chief secretary of Goa, Primal Rai as the first head of Union Territory's Real Estates Regulatory Authority (RERA). The Housing & Urban Development Department has issued a notification appointing Primal Rai, a retired IAS officer of AGMUT cadre, as head of Jammu

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'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign a big hit in Jammu and Kashmir

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 04: The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is a big hit in Jammu and Kashmir with a large number of people joining the celebrations to mark the 75 years of India's Independence. The common citizens, politicians and soldiers are jointly campaigning to show patriotism toward the country. In Kupwara, the councillor of Ward 4 Lateef Ahmad hoisted the National Flag at his residence to mark the celebrations. People in the Kashmir Valley are willingly and enthusiastically hoisting flags at their buildings – be it homes, hotels or restaurants.



The Tricolour is also flying high in many public places like Lal Chowk in Srinagar and Kokila Chowk in Kishtwar. In Pulwama, the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign has gained momen-

Tiranga rally organized at Panchtarni

HT NEWS NETWORK

Panchtarni, August 04: As part of the ongoing 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, a massive Tiranga Rally was held today at Panchtarni Base Camp enroute Shri Amarnath Shrine. The rally witnessed a participation of about 3000 people and was held at a height of more than 12,000. The rally exuded an environment of nationalist and patriotic fervour. The rally was jointly held by civil and security agencies.

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Corruption rampant in Srinagar; reveals report

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 04: Srinagar has reported more corruption cases compared to other districts of Jammu and Kashmir in the past seven months, officials said. Every fourth case of graft or misuse of official position was reported from the city during this period, they said. According to the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB), a total of 94 graft cases were registered from January 1, 2022, till date. Of these, 24 cases were registered in Srinagar dis-

trict alone. The ACB police station in Srinagar, which also covers graft cases in Ganderbal and Budgam districts, had a total of 32 cases in the corresponding period. Baramulla police station of the ACB, which also covers Bandipora and Kupwara districts, reported 23 The ACB police station in Srinagar, which also covers graft cases in Ganderbal and Budgam districts, had a total of 32 cases in the corresponding period. Baramulla police station of the ACB, which also covers Bandipora and Kupwara

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Digital Contour Mapping begins around Amarnath cave shrine

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 04: To prevent the casualties in the future, the authorities have begun work to conduct Digital Contour Mapping (DCM) around the Amarnath cave shrine. General Manager, Works, Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB), R K Bhat said the work on DCM is on at the moment. He however said the process could not be conducted in wake of the ongoing pilgrimage and the inclement weather conditions. "We are expecting to pace up the work once the annual Amarnath yatra culminates," he said.

He also said some measures related to the mapping were started last year, but after the directions of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, the DCM will now be conducted around the Amarnath cave and the route leading to cave shrine. "The DCM is being conducted to prevent the casualties in the future," he said, adding it would take some time to complete the mapping process. Pertinently, over a dozen people were died while several others were injured after a cloudburst triggered flash floods near the cave shrine on July 08 last month.

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Police arrest 3 militants in Handwara; recover arms, ammunition

Dr Abdul Qayoom

Srinagar, August 04: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested three militants along with arms and ammunition at Fruit Mandi crossing in North Kashmir's Handwara. A police spokesman in a statement, said joint parties of Police, Army 21 RR and 92 Bn CRPF were conducting naka checking at Handwara. During checking, the joint parties apprehended 03 persons, who attempted to flee from the

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Two charged in fraud sim card case in Kupwara

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 04: State Investigation Agency of Jammu and Kashmir Police Thursday filed chargesheet before a court in frontier Kupwara against SIM card sellers for using forged

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Non-Local labourer killed, 2 injured in grenade blast in Pulwama: Police

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 04: A non-local labourer was killed and two others injured in a grenade blast in Gadoora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Police in a tweet said that militants hurled grenade on outside labourers at Gadoora area of Pulwama. "In this incident, one labourer died and two others were injured," police said in the tweet as per GNS. "Area cordoned off. Further details shall follow." In another Tweet, Police said, "The deceased outside labourer has been identified as Mohammad Mumtaz som of Mo

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Delegation of Confederation of Indian Industry, Gujarat meets Lt Governor

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: A delegation of Akhil Bhartiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad today called on the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here. On the occasion, the Lt Governor released a poster of the campaign for Mega Blood Donation Drive in J&K, to be held on 17th September, 2022. The delegation led by Sh Sanjay Jain, comprising Sh Jitesh Pokharna, and India's biggest blood donor Sh Shabir Hussain Khan apprised the Lt Governor about conducting the Mega Blood Donation Drive in the UT.



The blood donation camp which is being held nation-wide will be organized in all the districts of Jammu and Kashmir, it was informed. Sh Jitesh Pokharna apprised the Lt Governor on the work done by the organization towards the service of

mankind. The Lt Governor appreciated the noble work done by the Akhil Bhartiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad and its members and assured all support by the UT administration

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DGP J&K decorates newly promoted DySSP Flags off bullet resistant light motor vehicles at APC Humhama

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 04: In two separate piping ceremonies held at Police Headquarters today, the Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh decorated newly promoted DySSP and Director Telecomm J&K Shridhar Patil decorated newly promoted NGOs of Telecom cadre who were recently promoted to the present rank. The DGP decorated Mohammad Abass, Mohammad Ashraf, Sheikh Mushtaq, Riyaz Ahmad, Shagufta Shabnam, Abid Hussain, Khurshid Ahmad, Shahnawaz Sheikh,

Shahnawaz Wakil, Muzafar Ahmad, Javid Hussain, Manzoor Ahmed, Fazal-ud-Din, Abdul Qayoom and Khalid Raza with the rank of DySSP. ADGP Armed J&K, SJM Gillani, ADGP headquarters PHQ MK Sinha, IGP Traffic, J&K, Vikramjit Singh, DIG CKR, Sujit Kumar, DIG AP/IR Kashmir, Shahid Mehraj, DPT J&K, Shridhar Patil and other officers of Telecom department were present on the occasion. In another piping ceremony, Director Telecom J&K decorated the newly promoted NGOs which in-

cluded 02 Inspectors, Shaameem Ahmad and Ghulam Ali Malla, one Sub-Inspector Tariq Ahmad and two Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Nayeem Ahmad Wani and Satbir Singh. The DGP J&K congratulated the officers and their families and impressed upon them to work with more dedication for the people and the department. He wished them good luck for the future. Meanwhile DGP flagged off a fleet of Bullet Resistant Marksman Light Motor Vehicles at Armed Police

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AIM, NITI Aayog to establish 500 more Tinkering Labs in J&K schools

AIM Team led by Dr Vaishnav visits BHSS Budgam; interacts with Principals, School Heads

BUDGAM, AUGUST 04: The Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog New Delhi, Dr Chintan Vaishnav today visited Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam and chaired an interactive session with Principals and Headmasters of schools of Budgam.



The MD was accompanied by Deepali Upadhyay, Program Director, Atal Tinkering Labs, AIM; Prateek Deshmukh, Innovation Lead(AIM); Vishnu Priya Bijapur, Innovation Lead AIM and Sumaiya Yousuf, Media and Communications Lead Atal Innovation Mission NITI Aayog.

Among others, Naseer Ahmad Wani, Additional Secretary School Education Atal-Umum Tak, Personal Officer, Directorate of School Education Kashmir, Chief Education Officer, Budgam, Mushtaq Ahmad Qadri, Dy. CEO, ZEOs and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

During its visit to BHSS Budgam, the AIM Team inspected the Atal Tinkering Lab where creative students displayed their innovative models and briefed about challenges they faced while working on these innovations. The MD lauded the students for their brilliant ideas and hardwork. He said he was very impressed in J&K and has found J&K students one among the brightest students in the country.

AIM Team visited TRC Doodpathri where he interacted and held a threadbare discussion on establishment and robust functioning of Tinkering Labs with Principals and school heads of Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, the MD said that Atal team has created over 10k Tinkering Labs all over India and hundreds of these have been also established in J&K schools.

He said the AIM is establishing more than 500 labs in J&K schools in the next few years to promote innovative and creative mindset among J&K students. "We want to take this creative and innovative movement to all schools and provide these creative minds a platform to perform and showcase their talent," said MD.

He said the aim is to encourage young minds in the field, and challenge students to become producers of products themselves instead of consumers.

DIC Kathua kick-starts second round of Plantation Drive under Green J&K Initiative

KATHUA, AUGUST 04: In continuation to the Green J&K initiative, General Manager, District Industries Centre Kathua, Prem Singh today kicked off the second round of plantation drive at Industrial Estate IID centre, Govindsar Kathua.

The plantation drive by the Department of Industries and Commerce is being conducted under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Rahul Pandey. During the first plan-

tation drive held on July 13, 2022, about 500 plant saplings were planted in different Industrial estates of Kathua in collaboration with the department of Social Forestry. In today's drive, the Industrial Estates of IID Centre Govindsar and SIDCO Industrial Area Kathua were covered by planting 500 saplings of different plants.

The Plantation Drive was carried out with active support from M/s Shails Sports,

IID Centre Govindsar, Kathua and Kohinor Reclamations, SIDCO Industrial Area Kathua.

In this connection, GM DIC Kathua convened a series of meetings with the unit holders to encourage them to plant more and more trees to make the Industrial Estates pollution free.

Speaking on the occasion, the General Manager said that the aim of this plantation drive was to generate aware-

ness among the people especially industrialists about the importance of planting trees. "Tree plantation is very important for the safe environment and the initiative will go a long way in making life better" he hoped. The GM stated that the plantation would continue till all industrial estates are covered and maximum plants are planted. The unit holders assured full support to the department in this genuine cause.

DC reviews tourism trade scenario in Kathua District

Asks for replicating best practices, adoption of multi-pronged strategy to tap varied potential

KATHUA, AUGUST 04: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rahul Pandey today discussed the roadmap for formulating an inclusive District Tourism Plan here at a meeting of stakeholder departments held in the conference hall of DC office Complex. At the outset, the DC took a comprehensive review of the present tourism and trade scenario in the district and called for making concerted efforts to tap the huge tourism potential of the district.



The Deputy Commissioner enjoined upon the stakeholders to promote the potential tourist spots of the district, local lifestyle, cuisine & culture in coordination with information and culture departments.

Laying thrust on promotion of Kathua specific tourism, the DC called for devising a workable action plan involving all stakeholders besides training

local youth as guides for promoting local culture, art and projecting the area on the tourism map of J&K. The DC also called for upgrading the facilities so as to ensure pleasant and memorable experiences of the tourists coming to the district. The DC urged the

officers of the tourism department to make a strategy to showcase the tourist profile of the district across the UT by utilising the already available (Variable Message Displays) VMDs in other districts.

The DC exhorted upon the stakeholders to replicate the best practices from states of Himachal, Uttarakhand etc to promote adventure and religious tourism, besides exploring off-beat destinations and home-stays.

The meeting was attended by CPO, CEO LSDA, BBDA, District Cultural officer and other stakeholders.

Ten days Karyashalas concluded at FoA Wadura SKUAST-K

DR.AB QAYOOM

Sopore, Aug.04: Two different Karyashalas on "Climate Smart Agriculture Sustainable Crop Production Strategies" and "Climate Resilient Crop Production System through Field Level Weather Modification Technologies" concluded at Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, Sopore, SKUAST-Kashmir. These workshops were started on 26 July. Twenty five students from various Divisions of Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-Kashmir and other state Agriculture universities participated in each Karyashala. During the technical sessions 25 lectures at Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura and field exposure visits to IMD, Srinagar & SKUAST-Kashmir, Main-Campus Shalimar were organized to give full acquaintance about the meteorological equipments, Automatic Weather Station



and methodology of meteorological observations. During the valedictory ceremony of these High End Workshops (Karyashalas), Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Dean Faculty of Agriculture addressed the

audience and emphasized on climate change and climate variability and its' impact on agriculture and allied enterprises. Mr. Gurmeet Singh Distt. SMS Baramullah and Mr. Harvender Pal Singh

SMS SDL, Baramullah graced the occasion as Guests of Honour. Moreover exchange of ideas about climate smart agriculture and climate resilient crop production strategies took place between the resource persons and trainees. Compendiums of both the workshops were released in the valedictory function of workshop. Dr. Aral Saxena, Prof and Head, Agronomy proposed the welcome address and the Karyashala Report was presented by Dr. Lal Singh Course Director. During the event, all the participants of both the Karyashalas were awarded with "Successful participation certificates" and the organizers were also appreciated by the Chief Guest for their valuable contribution for smooth conduct of two ten days Karyashalas. At the end, vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Khursheed Ahmad Dar, Prof. Agronomy.

Atal Dulloo calls for encouraging agriculture, horticulture businesses

JAMMU, AUGUST 4: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo chaired a review of implementation of projects under National Horticulture Board in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here today. Deputy Director NHB, Sansar Ahmed was also present at the meeting.



The ACS was apprised of horticulture potential of all districts, including Ramban, Kathua, Kishtwar, Baramulla and Kulgam. It was revealed that several projects have already been identified and shortlisted in these districts and are at different stages of being materialised.

Some projects include protected cultivation, functional pack houses, high density plantations, extraction and processing of lavender, walnut nurseries etc.

It was emphasised by the ACS that the nurseries empanelled under the scheme seek certification under the NHB. Representatives from SKUAST-J and SKUAST-K were also encouraged to submit project proposals to benefit through the governmental initiative. Requisite support and guidance were also assured to the agriculture universities.

The ACS said that all progressive farmers, entrepreneurs and other interested parties be encouraged besides Area Marketing Officers and Chief Horticulture/Agriculture Officers also motivate them in their respective districts. All viable business ideas, under the scheme, must be supported so that they encourage future participation by others as well, he said. It would also eliminate confusion and further generate awareness among the masses, he concluded.

Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing Vishesh Paul Mahajan; Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak; Director Agriculture Jammu, KK Sharma; Managing Director among representatives of SKUAST-J, SKUAST-K and other government officers were also present at the meeting. Additional Chief

Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo chaired a review of implementation of projects under National Horticulture Board in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here today. Deputy Director NHB, Sansar Ahmed was also present at the meeting. The ACS was apprised of horticulture potential of all

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am going to construct a residential house at village Kalantra Bala if anybody have any objection in this regard He /She may contact Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) within Seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

GHULAM RASOOL MALIK
S/O MOHAMMAD ABDULLAAH MALIK
R/O KALANTRA BALA

DRAC approves 39 Rent Assessment Cases in Rambann

RAMBAN, AUGUST 04: The District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) Ramban today approved 39 rent assessment cases of different departments here at its meeting chaired by which met under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Mussarat Islam.

The Committee discussed the fixation of rent of the structures housing the government offices across the district.

As many as 40 rent assessment cases were put up for discussion, out of which 39 cases were approved by the committee in the presence of building owners and respective departmental representatives, while 1 case was deferred for the next meeting. The District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) Ramban today approved 39 rent assessment cases of different departments here at its meeting chaired by which met under the Chair-

manship of Deputy Commissioner, Mussarat Islam. Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Viqar Ahmed Giri, district officers of line departments and officers from the Police and Army, besides owners of buildings attended the meeting.

The rent cases pertaining to Police, Traffic Police, FCS&CA, Army, Revenue, Agriculture, Health, ISM and other departments were approved by the Committee. The Committee discussed the fixation of rent of the structures housing the government offices across the district.

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The Committee discussed the fixation of rent of the structures housing the government offices across the district.

Urs of Nanga Baji Sahab (RA) started in Bandipora

Suhail Rather

Bandipora, 04 August: The Seven-days annual Urs of Syed Rasool Shah (RA) popularly known as Nanga Baji Sahab (RA) started at Malangam area of Bandipora on Thursday. The Urs of Nanga Baji Sahab (RA) is celebrated annually at the residence of his grandson and a revered Sufi saint, Syed Vilayat Hussain Shah popularly known among his fol-



lowers as Baji Sahab of Malangam. On this occasion, special prayers were held for peace and tranquility in J&K and the country. Sufi saint Syed Rasool Shah (RA) was a pious and spiritual personality who hailed from Malangam village of Bandipora district in Kashmir. His tomb is thronged by thousands of people from all over the country during the Urs every year.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am going to construct a residential house at village Dundmuh if anybody have any objection in this regard He /She may contact Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) within Seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

AB RASHID RATHER
S/O AB AHAD RATHER
R/O DUNDMUH

PUBLIC NOTICE

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AB AHAD RATHER
S/O GH AHMAD RATHER
R/O DUNDMUH

OFFICE OF THE STATE DRUGS CONTROLLER DRUGS & FOOD CONTROL ORGANIZATION PATOLI MANGOTRIAN, JAMMU (J&K)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Medical Devices Rules, 2017, were made to control and regulate the import, manufacture and sale of Medical Devices and it has come into effect from 01.01.2018.

As per the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, after the completion of a transition period of 30 months from 11.02.2020 (the date of notification), now it has become mandatory to take licenses for most of the commonly used Medical Devices from 11.08.2022. Class A and Class B medical devices include commonly used items like facemasks, digital thermometer, surgical gloves, PPE kit, hospital bed, patient gown, contact lens disinfecting solution, contact lens, Acupuncture kit, patient weight scale, rocking infant bed, teething device, forehead temperature strip, sterilizer, stretcher, forceps, ice bag to reduce pain, treadmill, electric massager, finger/thumb prosthesis, arm sling, etc.

The complete list of Class A and Class B medical devices is available as public notice in the CDSCO website for reference. Hence it is mandated that all the manufacturers of class A and Class B medical devices in this Union Territory should apply for obtaining manufacturing license through CDSCO's online portal. It is also mandated that all the dealers (wholesalers and retailers) in this State selling such Class A and Class B medical devices should have Drugs sale licenses.

Any person engaged in below activities without any authority is liable to invitation as warranted under Medical Devices Rules 2017 with effect from 11.08.2022.

1. Manufacturing of Class A and Class B medical devices without a valid license
 2. Selling of Class A, B, C and Class D medical devices.
- Selling of Class A, B, C and Class D medical devices, which have been manufactured without a valid manufacturing license. (Lotika Khajuria)

DIPK-7352/22

State Drugs Controller
Drug & Food Control Organization
J&K, Jammu

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of The Executive Engineer P.H.E Division Budgam H.Q: Budgam

NOTICE INVITING E – TENDERS:

Short Term – NIT No:22/PHE/Bud/Civilof 2022-23.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu Kashmir U.T., e-tenders are invited (in Single Cover System) on "item rate basis" from Registered/Approved and valid Civil class of contractors/agencies registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments and whose registrations are renewed for current financial year for the following works:

S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (₹ In Lacs)	Cost of tender doc. (In ₹)	Amount of earnest money (in ₹)	Time for completion (in Days)	Class of contractor	Major head of account	Tender Call
1.	Making arrangements for 15 August (Independence Day) to be observed at District and Sub Divisional Headquarters (2022-23).	2.26	200/-	4,520/-	02 Days	DEE		1 st

Position of AAA:- Under Process;

Position of funds:- Assured;

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>

From 03-08-2022 (10:00 a.m) to 08-08-2022 (04:00 p.m)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktenders.gov.in As per schedule of dates given below

TABLE (II)

Sl. No.	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	03-08-2022
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 03-08-2022 10:00 a.m. To 10-08-2022 04:00 p.m.
03	Bid Submission Start Date	03-08-2022 10:00 a.m.
04	Bid submission End Date	10-08-2022 upto 04:00 p.m.
06	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	11-08-2022 at 11:00a.m. in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam (H.Q. Budgam)

1. Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money, CDR/FDR (the Date of CDR must be after the date of issuance of this NIT) and Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) under M.H. 0215 is pledged in favor of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 90 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam (H.Q. Budgam) on 11-08-2022 at 11:00a.m. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

DIPK-7372/22
Dated: 01-08-2022

Executive Engineer,
PHE Division Budgam.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for Independence Day Celebration Asks officers to ensure foolproof arrangements

KUPWARA, AUGUST 4: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kupwara, Khalid Jahangir, today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements being put in place by different departments for smooth celebrations of Independence Day 2022 in Kupwara district.

The meeting discussed threadbare various issues with regard to smooth conduct of the National Event.

The Deputy Commissioner received feedback from the officers with regard to preparations and gave necessary directions to the concerned officers to ensure foolproof arrangements. He asked officers to work in tandem and coordination to yield better results.

The Deputy Commissioner asked Chief Education Officer and other concern to prepare

variety of cultural programmes with special focus on patriotism and local culture. He directed them to ensure proper screening of cultural items and select vibrant and energetic items for the celebration. He also stressed the need for selection of cultural items on different themes including Swachh Bharat, Online Services, Drug Menace and Environment & Ecology, Youth Services & Sports department was directed for arrangement of costume for the participating children. The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all officers and functionaries to ensure their presence at the venue on time. The Deputy Commissioner was informed that the Police department will arrange DG System for cultural programmes.

Other officers were also directed to ensure foolproof and hassle



free arrangements. Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat; ASP Kupwara, ACD, ACP,

CEO, CMO, Executive Engineer R&B and other concerned attended the meeting. The meeting discussed threadbare various

issues with regard to smooth conduct of the National Event. The Deputy Commissioner received feedback from the officers with

regard to preparations and gave necessary directions to the concerned officers to ensure foolproof arrangements. He asked officers to work in tandem and coordination to yield better results. The Deputy Commissioner asked Chief Education Officer and other concern to prepare variety of cultural programmes with special focus on patriotism and local culture. He directed them to ensure proper screening of cultural items and select vibrant and energetic items for the celebration. He also stressed the need for selection of cultural items on different themes including Swachh Bharat, Online Services, Drug Menace and Environment & Ecology, Youth Services & Sports department was directed for arrangement of costume for the participating children.

Services to Govt employees to become hassle free, GAD announces Administrative Management System

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: Prime Minister's flagship programme 'Digital India', the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the recent past have implemented various IT-enabled solutions to create a vibrant digital ecosystem for delivering essential services for common people and employees.

In the last one year, the General Administration Department (GAD) has successfully implemented online services namely e-Office, online Property Return System (PRS), Vigilance Clearance System (VCS), Employees Monitoring Portal (EPM) and Employees Verification System (EVS).

For facilitation of Government employees and to provide a generic, product based solution for bet-

ter management of service matters through electronic service record, which includes e-Service Book, Personnel Information System and others, transfers, promotions, vigilance status, PRS etc. the GAD has initiated the process of implementation of 'Administrative Management System' (AMS) for all government employees.

A meeting in this regard was held under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary GAD, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi with experts of Directorate of Information Technology, University of Kashmir.

During the meeting, it was observed that 'Administrative Management System' is 'one-stop solution' for addressing issues relating to service

records of all Government employees and shall be implemented in a phased manner by all departments. Initially, the online module shall be implemented by the General Administration Department and Health and Medical Education Department.

However, in order to implement the system, it is essential to have a clean and error free digital library of all the service records, which can be uploaded on the online AMS portal.

To begin with, Drawing & Disbursing Officers (DDOs) have to authenticate the appointment orders of the Government employees, followed by scanning of their service books, so as to ensure that the transition towards electronic service records carried out in transparent manner.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: IM GDC Shopian organises "Patriotic Song Competition"

SHOPIAN, AUGUST

04: As part of the action plan in run up to the 75th Independence Day celebration under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the IM GDC Shopian today organised a "Patriotic Song Competition" at Conference Hall of Science Block of the college, here. The objective of the competition was to inculcate patriotic fervor among students. Around 20 students from GDC Shopian and GDC Zaina Pora participated in the competition.

Professor M.Y. Baba was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Prof Mahmood Ahmad



Tak and Prof. Mohd Younis Bhat from Cultural Committee of GDC Shopian were appointed as judges for the competition by College Administration. On the assess-

ment of judges Danish Rehman from GDC Shopian was declared as winner of the competition, while Jozey Majeed from GDC Zainapora was declared as runner up.

Dr. Umar Farooq conducted the proceedings of the competition. The programme was jointly coordinated by NSS, NCC, Cultural Committee and Physical Education Department. As part of the action plan in run up to the 75th Independence Day celebration under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the IM GDC Shopian today organised a "Patriotic Song Competition" at Conference Hall of Science Block of the college, here. The objective of the competition was to inculcate patriotic fervor among students. Around 20 students from GDC Shopian.

PSPS Govt PG College for Women Gandhi Nagar organises District Level Patriotic Song Competition

JAMMU, AUGUST 04: In the run up to the Independence Day Celebrations, a District level Singing Competition was hosted by PSPS Govt PG College for Women, Gandhi Nagar under the aegis of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". Twenty-five participants from 19 Colleges of Jammu district participated and recited songs that raised the patriotic fervour among the students. The performances were judged by the jury comprising Prof. Renu Sehgal, Deptt. of Music PSPS Govt P.G College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Dr. Seema Sharma, HOD Music GCW Udhampur and Dr. Surekha Rani, HOD Music, GDCW

Kathua. Dr. Revika Arora, Convener, Cultural Committee conducted the proceedings of the competition. Dr. Sujata Slathia, Dean Students Welfare (Arts) was the chief Guest on the occasion. She welcomed the august gathering and encouraged the students to sing enthusiastically and with patriotic fervour.

Prof Kamlesh Slathia, Dean Student Welfare (Science), Prof. Mamta Gupta, Dean Student Welfare (Commerce) graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Prof. Minu Mahajan, Principal, PSPS Govt. P.G College for Women, Gandhi Nagar greeted everyone present for Independence

Day celebrations and appreciated the efforts of the students that motivated the youngsters to dedicate themselves in service of the nation.

Shartik from Government MAM College bagged the first prize and Ankush Kumar from GDC Bishnah was the first runner up and both the contestants were awarded Rs. 5000 and 3000 respectively. Prof Mala Bhasin, NSS PO and Dr Revika Arora coordinated the event. Prof Neelam Thapa, Dr Chetna Mahajan, Prof Suman Bala, Dr Javaid Iqbal, Prof Abhinav Sharma, Dr Priyanka Sharma, Prof Rahul Kumar, Prof Kusum, Prof Sheetal and Prof Mamta.

NABARD sensitizes Bankers regarding Centrally Sponsored Schemes

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 04:

In order to sensitize the bankers regarding various schemes of Govt of India implemented through NABARD, a one-day sensitization workshop was held at J&K Bank Hall Shopian.

The workshop was attended by Lead District Manager, Branch Managers of various banks of the district. Besides, Officers from line departments

were also present.

The programme was aimed at disseminating the information about various centrally assisted bankable schemes in Agriculture and allied sectors such as KCC, FPOs, Agri Infrastructure Fund, Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, Agri clinics and Agri Business Scheme among others. These schemes have a

benefit of subsidy of 33% or interest subvention of 3%. There is also the provision of handholding support and portal-based application generation.

DDM NABARD, Rouf Zargar explained each scheme in detail through the power-point presentation. He gave the detailed process of applying and getting bank credit support for undertaking various economic activities

in agriculture and allied sectors.

He urged the banks and departments to create awareness among the farmers, fruit growers and youth to enable them to set up such units in the district.

The banks were advised to follow the guidelines of the scheme and process the applications in a time-bound manner.

ADDC Kulgam reviews arrangements for celebration of I-Day 2022

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUGUST 04: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Riyaz Ahmad Sofi today convened a meeting of Officers to review arrangements being put in place by different departments for celebration of Independence Day, 2022. During the meeting DPL Kulgam was selected as the main venue for the celebration where the Chief Guest will unfurl the national flag at District Level. Threadbare discussion was also held with regard to the security arrangements, traffic regulation, seating arrangements, Full Dress Rehearsal, decoration, Shahnaivadan, PAS, power and water supply, transport arrangements, sanitation, Medicare facilities, invitation cards, Barricading at venue of the function, etc. The ADC directed all officers to make fool-proof arrangements at all levels in advance for the National event to make it a great success. He instructed the Officers to ensure all related arrangements are made well in advance and work in close coordination for the smooth conduct of Independence Day celebrations



across the district. PDD and Jal Shakti departments were directed to ensure proper management of electricity and water including water tankers at the venue.

The CMO was asked to ensure proper medical facilities along with staff and ambulances at the venue of celebration.

The EO of Municipal Council Kulgam was directed by the DC to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness of the main venue and town. The meeting was attended by ADC, SDM Noorabad, JD-Planning, ACD, CEO, Principals from Colleges, Commandant CRPF 18th battalion, DSP-HQ.

H&H Department realizes fine of Rs. 43000 from erring traders

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: To curb the menace of passing on fake handicrafts in place of the genuine art and craft and to check the implementation of the Jammu & Kashmir Tourist Trade Act 1978, Jammu & Kashmir Handicrafts Quality Control Act, a special inspection drive of Handicrafts dealers operating in the tourist areas of Pahalgam, Chandanwari, Akad, Aru, Narbal, Kunzer, Dhoibwan, Chandiloora, Tangmarg and Gulmarg tourist areas was conducted by the Quality Control Division of Handicrafts & Handloom (H&H) Department.

During the course of inspection the handicraft dealers found violating the norms of the said acts were penalized and an amount of Rs 43000 was realized as fine from the erring dealers.

The dealers were strictly warned to desist from the sale of fake machine made lookalikes of Kashmir art products and advised to affix tags depicting price and composition on each item displayed for sale. They were strictly warned to refrain from any kind of malpractice such as touting and impersonation, which carries huge penalties under the said acts.

The dealers were also apprised about the benefits of the GI tagging on the notified Kashmir Crafts, and impact of such tagging in building the brand image of Kashmir Arts products. The certification and authenticity will also help in eradicating the menace of machine made and misbranding of



Kashmir art products. The Handicraft dealers and other stake holders are accordingly advised to play their role in promoting the GI tagging on the notified Kashmir Crafts.

Also the inspection team interacted with the visiting tourists who were informed to ensure purchase of only genuine handicraft items especially GI tagged notified Kashmir Art products from such handicrafts business establishments which are registered with Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom. They should also seek from the dealer, cash memos for every purchase and retain/preserve the copy of the same for any future use

7 Vehicles involved in illegal mining seized by G&M Team at Anantnag

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 04: In its continued efforts to curb illegal mining in the district, the Geology and Mining (G&M) Team Anantnag headed by District Mineral Officer, Anantnag Dr. Showkat Ahmad Bhat today seized 07 vehicles found involved in illegal extraction/transportation of Minor minerals in the district. The operation was carried out by Geology and Mining Department in various areas of Anantnag including Sandrani Nallah near Sadura/ Damjan, Aarpath Nallah near Teilwani Shangus and Bijbehara as a result of which 07 vehicles including 01 Dumper, 01 tipper and 05 tractors were seized.

Strict action as per rules shall be taken against all persons involved, said DMO.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Geology and Mining Department is continuously conducting surprise raids in the areas having apprehension of illegal mining in Anantnag.

SDH Sopore, Pulwama, Ganderbal get NBEMS seats J&K gets 53 more DNB seats in GMCs and District Hospitals

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 4: In a yet another significant development, which is expected to drastically improve the health-care services in Jammu and Kashmir, SDH Sopore, District Hospital Pulwama and Ganderbal have been accredited by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) in various departments.

SDH Sopore has been accredited in the Department of Anaesthesia and 2 Diploma seats have been sanctioned by NBEMS. District Hospital Ganderbal has been accredited in the Department of Family Medicine and Radiodiagnosis and 1 seat has been sanctioned by NBEMS in each Department.

District Hospital Pulwama has been accredited in the Departments of Paediatrics and Anaesthesia with sanction of 4 and 2 Diploma Seats respectively.

In addition, JLNH Hospital, Srinagar, District Hospital Kulgam and SDH Kupwara have recently received 6, 2 and 4 more seats respectively in various Departments for DNB/ Post Diploma DNB/ Post MBBS Diploma Courses.

Among new GMCs, GMC Anantnag has received the maximum number of 24 Diploma seats in 8 Departments viz ENT, Family Medicine, Paediatrics, Anaesthesia, Radiodiagnosis, Ophthalmology, OB Gynae and TB & Chest Diseases.

GMC Doda has got 2 DNB seats in General Surgery. In addition to this, NBEMS has approved 6 more seats for SKIMS Soura and Bemina. With this, the total P.G seats approval for J&K has risen to 204 for 2022 session and this is over and above the DM/MCH and MD/MS courses already being run in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Mission Director, NHM, J&K, Yasin Choudhary while giving details about the development said that the commencement of DNB courses in district hospitals of J&K is an important endeavour to address the key concerns of shortage of specialists and providing quality care, and added that 6 seats were ap-

proved for DHs in 2020 session and 145 seats (107 Broad specialty and 38 Superspecialty) were approved for J&K in 2021 session. Of this, 2 students were admitted for 2020 session and 48 students were admitted for 2021 session.

During 2022 Session, J&K has received an approval of 204 seats and this is the maximum number in the country as acknowledged by Dr. Anurag Aggarwal, Additional Director, NBEMS.

Yasin said that this has been possible due to the concerted efforts and hard work of the Administrative department H&ME J&K, Director Health Services Jammu/ Kashmir, NHM J&K and the team.

ADC Bandipora conducts extensive tour of Wular Lake; meets locals to discuss developmental issues

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 04: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Waseem Raja on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of the Wular Lake including Laharwalpora village.

On the occasion, locals presented various issues before the ADC. Waseem Raja gave on spot directions to the concerned officers for proper maintenance of the lake and for addressing the day to day issues of the inhabitants of the areas lying adjacent to Wular Lake pertaining to roads, safe drinking water, fisheries, cleanliness, etc.



He said the Administration is committed to create employment generation avenues and development of the tourism sector in these areas and to engage youth in various employment generation programmes. He directed the concerned de-

partments to work with extra zeal for facilitating the locals of these areas to promote tourism and employment generation facilities. The ADC urged the youth to take benefit from various youth oriented schemes of the Government. The ADC was accompanied by a team of officers from WUCMA, Revenue, Rural Development, fisheries, Jal Shakti, PDD and local representatives. Earlier, the ADC chaired a meeting of concerned officers and locals of Laharwalpora and other adjacent areas to discuss various issues pertaining to these areas.

Sorry State of Education: Middle School in Anantnag functioning from three rooms

ANANTNAG, AUG 04 (KNO): Strange it may sound but it is a fact that Government Middle School (GMS) Aung, Matipora in Mattan area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district is functioning in a three room structure. A primary school that was established in the 1980s and later upgraded to middle school in 2014 still lacks basic infrastructure due to which the students studying there are facing many difficulties. The school has an enrolment of about 90 students who are crammed in three rooms, exposing the educational standards of the department. "The school lacks every basic facility and has no facets to be called as an educational institution as there is no playground and other facilities," locals of the area told news agency— Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

As per locals, the basic issue is that despite the passage of about a decade since upgradation authorities have failed to construct any other structure there. "There is availability of state Land occupied near the School and space available to construct other structure. The school is facing accommodation crunch and the teachers here can't provide proper education to the students enrolled here," they said. The school has only three rooms where teachers have to adjust around 90 students of nine classes including KGs how can two or three teachers teach students of three classes in a single room simultaneously, they asked. Shabir Ahmed, a local resident, said that the government focuses more on showcasing achievements in the education sector but there is no development.

Delegation of Akhil Bhartiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad calls on Lt Governor

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: A delegation of Akhil Bhartiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad today called on the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor released a poster of the campaign for Mega Blood Donation Drive in J&K, to be held on 17th September, 2022.

The delegation led by Sh Sanjay Jain, comprising Sh Jitesh Pokharna, and India's biggest blood donor Sh Shabir Hussain Khan apprised the Lt Governor about conducting Mega Blood Donation Drive in the UT.

The blood donation camp which is being held nationwide will be organized in all the districts of Jammu and Kashmir, it was informed.

Sh Jitesh Pokharna apprised the Lt Governor



on the work done by the organization towards the service of mankind.

The Lt Governor appreciated the noble work done by the Akhil Bhartiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad and its members and assured all support by the UT administration for making the nation-wide

Mega Blood Donation Drive a huge success. On the occasion, the Lt Governor released a poster of the campaign for Mega Blood Donation Drive in J&K, to be held on 17th September, 2022.

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DPIIT, Govt of India appreciate SKUAST-Jammu

JAMMU, AUGUST 04: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has appreciated SKUAST-Jammu for exceptional contribution in successfully organizing the awareness programme on Intellectual Property Rights on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Independence under the banner "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. J. P. Sharma congratulates Director Research and his team for receiving appreciation at national level and advised to organize such type of activities in future also. He also highlighted the importance of filing patents and protecting innovations and said that these programmes are beneficial for faculty and students.

The programme was organized in association with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (RGNIPM), Government of India, Nagpur, Maharashtra. The workshop was conducted by Pooja Vishal Maulik, Examiner of Patents and Designs, RGNIPM, Nagpur. Maulik in her talk gave an overview of IP offices, trainings imparted by RGNIPM, types of intellectual property, patent specification structure and documents required for patent filing. She also discussed about basic fee structure, patent grant procedure and registration of designs.

Earlier, Director Research, Prof. Pardeep Wali threw light on the different initiatives taken in this direction under the guidance of Prof. J. P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. He further added that steps are being taken to strengthen the IPR cell of the University for facilitating the scientists and scholars in filing patents.

KVFGCDU shoots letter to LG, seeks exemption of 18% GST on cardboard boxes

PULWAMA, AUGUST 03: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama, Abdul Aziz Sheikh today chaired a meeting of District Officers and representatives of security agencies to review the arrangements for 75th Independence Day, 2022 here. The meeting was informed that the main function will be held at District Police lines whereas similar functions would be held at Police lines Awantipora and at all Tehsil headquarters.

It was given out in the meeting that contingents of JKP, CRPF, Home Guard, students of government and private schools will participate in the march past parade. Meanwhile employees who have done exemplary work will be awarded certificates of appreciation and prizes.

Sheikh stressed upon the hoisting of National Flag at all prominent Govt Offices particularly in all Panchayats. He also directed all District Officers to ensure the participation of all Govt employees in the celebrations. The ADCD directed the officials to ensure

adequate security arrangements, parking facilities and proper seating arrangements according to the



guidelines issued by authorities at the venue, besides ensuring uninterrupted power and water supply.

He also directed the Health department to setup adequate number of medical camps with proper staff, ambulance and Medicare facilities at the respective venues where Independence Day function will be held in the district.

He directed the officials of the Municipal Committee to maintain cleanliness in and around District

Police lines, roads, and streets in the town. He further called for close coordination among the concerned departments for smooth and peaceful conduct of the Independence Day. Additional Deputy Commissioners Pulwama and Tral, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, Pulwa-

ma; Senior civil, Army and Police officers besides other concerned were present at the meeting. The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama, Abdul Aziz Sheikh today chaired a meeting of District Officers and representatives of security agencies to review the arrangements for 75th Independence Day, 2022 here. The meeting was informed that the main function will be held at District Police lines whereas similar functions would be held at Police lines Awantipora and at all Tehsil headquarters.

It was given out in the meeting that contingents of JKP, CRPF, Home Guard, students of government and private schools will participate in the march past parade. Meanwhile employees who have done exemplary work will be awarded certificates of appreciation and prizes. Sheikh stressed upon the hoisting of National Flag at all prominent Govt Offices particularly in all Panchayats. He also directed all District Officers to ensure the participation of all Govt employees.

Will continue to struggle for rights of people in JK says Tarigami on Article 370

Farooq Rather

Shopian, 04-Aug: Protecting small canals will not achieve anything. The biggest dam in the state of Jammu and Kashmir has broken, we must protect it with all our might and this dam is Article 370, these things were expressed by Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami while addressing a meeting in Shopian today. Earlier, in his speech, Tarigami while apologizing for coming Shopian after long gap said that Shopian is my own area. Here I have struggled since my youth. He said that Shopian is not a foreign area for them but it is their own land. He said that Shopian has great historical significance which includes the beginning of Islam in Kashmir and its evolution during the Mughal era. Tarigami added that in Shopian, learned scholars, political thinkers, great journalists and leading writers and poets were born, including Maulvi Anwar, Maulvi Syed Hussain, Maulvi Muhammad Amin, Hakeem Ghulam Nabi, Maulvi Abdul Ghani, Shamim Ahmed Shamim, Muhammad Yusuf Teng, Muhammad Saeed Malik, Muhammad Amin Kamil, Naji Manwar, Ayub Betab, Pandit Sarupath. He said that Shopian is a beautiful and fascinating region from the point of view of tourism, but it was neglected from



this point of view as well. He said that our state is a sign of heaven, but instead of flowers and bulbs in this beautiful region, now there are vultures who, in his words, "want to scratch my homeland." He said that on August 5, 2019, the state was stripped of everything that the Kashmiries had achieved after a long struggle against the Dogra rule. He appealed to the people of the three regions of the state to unite to get their lost status and dignity i.e. Article 370 and 35A. He said that any political party should keep their political affiliations separate and come forward to achieve this common cause. He said that for three years, there is no decision on the cases filed in the Supreme Court. He said that there is fear in the state as People are not open to expressing themselves. Regarding the elections, he said that they should be held in any case. However, he said that the government is afraid of holding elections and is nervous about it.

230 Vaccinated, 1126 samples collected in Ramban

RAMBAN, AUGUST 04: As per District Immunization Officer Ramban, Dr. Suresh, the Health Department today administered Covid vaccination to 230 persons in the district.

Continuing the enforcement drive to implement Covid protocol, the Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking Covid vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, the Health Department has collected 1126 samples including 270 RT-PCR and 856 RAT samples besides administering Covid vaccine to 230 persons at various dedicated Vaccination Centres in the district.

Indian Army organises painting competition

RAMBAN, AUGUST 04: To commemorate 75 years of Independence, a Painting competition was organised by the Indian Army at Parhander High School, Batu in Ramban District. It encouraged children to celebrate the upcoming 75th Independence Day and hoist tricolor made by them on their houses.

The theme for the competition was aptly selected as "Azadi Ka Amrit mahotsav" and "Har Ghar Tiranga". The enthusiasm, creativity and patriotism of the children added to the charm of the event. The event encouraged children to take painting as a hobby.

In all 34 children (21 boys & 13 Girls) in the 6-14 years age group and 8 locals attended the event. The competition not only enhanced but also sparked the minds and creativity of the children. The active participation and healthy competition amongst the children made the event bright & added to its charm.

GDC Kishtwar, SWD organise awareness programme on "Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan"

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 04: An awareness programme on the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan was today held here at Government Degree College Kishtwar. The programme was organised in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare. A series of awareness activities including debate competition, seminar and rally were organised on Nasha Mukh Bharat with the involvement of the students of and as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programme. The Chief Guest of the program was the College Principal Prof Anirudh Sharma, while Professor Athar Hussain HoD Zoology was the Guest of Honour. Nisar Hussain Shah Dy, Commandant JKPA Battalion Kishtwar was the Special speaker. The Programme was coordinated by Prof. Tariq Husain Dev, HoD Urdu. A number of College students participated in the program and 12 Speakers spoke in an open debate and seminar. Professor Sehrish Gazal, HoD Environmental Science, gave a PPT on "Drugs Menace and its Implications on Society." Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (TSWO) Babu Ram presented the keynote address on the Topic.

At the end of the programme, a rally supporting the Nasha Mukh Bharat was organised in the College Premises in which scores of students took part with placards and chanting slogans against Drug Abuse.

Election for Board of Directors for JK State Cooperative Bank Srinagar soon President Nazir Dar calls on Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives

Srinagar; August 4: The elections for the Board of Directors for JK State Cooperative Bank Srinagar will be held soon as discussions and preparations are underway for the exercise. This was disclosed by J&K State Cooperative Bank Ltd. Srinagar, President Member Cooperative Societies Nazir Ahmad Dar after met Commissioner Secretary Cooperative at Civil Secretariat Jammu on Wednesday. The meeting assumes significance as the elections for BoD of Cooperative Bank Srinagar are pending since 2015 and also the bank is roiled in scams.

After his meeting with the Commissioner Secretary Nazir Ahmad Dar said that the Commissioner Secretary Cooperative assured that the discussions regarding the election of the Board of Directors of J&K State Cooperative Bank Ltd.

Dar said the previous elected board had put the J&K State



Cooperative Bank Ltd Srinagar into a mess and losses and LG administration is pulling the bank back from the drowning stage. He said the Commissioner Secretary Cooperative assured that the notification of election of the Board of Directors of J&K State Cooperative Bank Ltd Srinagar will be pub-

lished soon as per the rules. Dar said that if he will be elected

as Board Member in the coming board elections his first priority is to recover Rs. 300-Crores of the fraudulent loan scams of year 2015 to 2020 and also recover Rs. 16 Crores unsecured overdrafts which had been given to different persons particularly from Rambagh, Hyderpora and Chadoora branches in year 2015

to 2020 through surfease procedure and other legal measures.

Dar said that the previous board elections held in year 2015 which were held at unknown place at Kralpora Budgam side were only 7 Societies were present who were the family members of ex-board Chairman along with then returning Election Officer Hamidullah Mir (Assistant Commissioner Revenue Srinagar) and other Member Cooperative Societies of the bank had no information about the election of Board of Directors due to the purchase of all newspapers by the ex-board members on which the election notification was published. In response to a question, Dar said that we will not go against the illegal appointees which has been appointed in the bank for the past since 2012 to 2020 through illegal means/backdoor entries by previous boards, because they are our

own children, however Anti-Corruption Bureau is investigating the illegal appointees in the bank since 2020.

Responding to a question Dar said that this J&K State Cooperative Bank Ltd. Srinagar is like the mother of Gousia House Building Cooperative Ltd J&K Srinagar and our Housing Cooperative through its Chairman will not let our mother perish. Bank Ltd Srinagar will be published soon as per the rules. Dar said that if he will be elected as Board Member in the coming board elections his first priority is to recover Rs. 300-Crores of the fraudulent loan scams of year 2015 to 2020 and also recover Rs. 16 Crores unsecured overdrafts which had been given to different persons particularly from Rambagh, Hyderpora and Chadoora branches in year 2015 to 2020 through surfease procedure and other legal measures.

DC Udhampur reviews implementation of AB-MJAY Sehat Scheme

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 04: To review the registration of beneficiaries and generation of golden cards under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana -Sehat Scheme, the Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Krittika Jyotsna today convened a meeting of concerned departments, here in the Mini Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

Detailed deliberations were held on different aspects of the implementation, including registration of beneficiaries, generation of golden cards, beneficiary identification system, IEC activities, block wise target/achievements, Issuance of health cards, Bottlenecks in implementation of Sehat scheme etc.

At the outset, State grievance Nodal officer, Santosh Kumar gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation on the Physical achievements of AB-PMJAY Sehat scheme in the district. The DC reviewed the Block wise progress of Registration and generation of Golden cards and asked the concerned to expedite the



process. The DC directed the health department to start IEC activities on mission mode to generate awareness to encourage the public for registration. The DC also asked the department to seek cooperation of PRIs and the general public to motivate people for registration. The District Manager CSC was directed to activate men and machinery and ensure 100% saturation of all beneficiaries in the district. The DC sought details of the targets and achievements of the in the District and asked the stakeholder departments to work in close coordination to enhance the registration and generation of Sehat cards.

"Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign; awareness on SVEEP & "Har Ghar Khada" organised at GDC Chatroo

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 04: As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, in collaboration with Government Degree College Chatroo, today conducted "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign and awareness on SVEEP & "Har Ghar Khada" here on the College Campus.

The event was held under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Kishtwar Zakir Hussain Wani

BDO Inderwal, Tasleem Wani, College faculty, NT Election cell & SHO Chatroo besides students participated in the programme with zest and zeal.

Speaking on the occasion, the ACP said Har Ghar Tiranga has been rolled out to encourage people to hoist the national flag under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programme to commemorate 75 years of India's independence.

He urged students and faculty members to make enthusiastic efforts to make this campaign a success.

Awareness was also imparted on Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) and Har Ghar Khada campaign.

Principal GDC Chatroo, Professor Dr Ashiq Hussain, BDO Inderwal Tasleem Wani, NT Election cell Sajad Ahmed and



Dr Jamsheed besides five students of the college delivered speeches on "Har Ghar Tiranga" programme and on importance of Vote and voter.

Prizes were distributed among the participating students. BDO Inderwal, Tasleem Wani, College faculty, NT Election cell & SHO Chatroo besides students participated in the programme with zest and zeal.

Speaking on the occasion, the ACP said Har Ghar Tiranga has been rolled out to encourage people to hoist the national flag under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programme to commemorate 75 years of India's independence.

He urged students and faculty members to make enthusiastic efforts to make this campaign a success.

PRIME MINISTER'S 'STRONG GOVERNMENT' MEANS THAT THE BJP REGIME CONTROLS EVERYTHING

PRAKASH KARAT

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, spoke recently about how a strong government should be. Addressing a university convocation in Chennai on July 29, Modi said: "A strong government does not control everything or everyone. It controls the system's impulse to interfere...A strong government does not move into every domain". He further said: "A strong government's strength lies in its humility to accept that it cannot know or do everything".

Fine words, indeed! The only catch is that the government, under Modi, is doing exactly the opposite of what has been pronounced by him. The Modi government seeks to control everything and everyone; his government has moved into every domain including curtailing the rights of citizens assured under the constitution.

What is actually happening is a single-minded pursuit by a "strong government" for total control in all spheres of society. Electoral democracy is fast becoming an electoral autocracy. The way parliament has been denigrated and the opposition muzzled has been illustrated by the current monsoon session of parliament that saw the suspension of 27 opposition members of parliament.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has become the political instrument to target opposition leaders and incarcerate them. The impunity with which the ED operates is going to further heighten after the Supreme Court verdict last week, which has legitimised the draconian powers vested in the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Arbitrary arrests, detention without bail and attachment of properties will now be the norm.

The legal instruments to suppress the opposition and dissent and tame civil society have only grown as the UAPA, the NSA and other "national security" laws are routinely employed with the higher judiciary refusing to even acknowledge the trampling of the citizens' right to life and liberty.

From August 1, the linking of voter identity cards with Aadhaar has begun as per the amended election law. This amended bill was rammed through parliament in the winter session of December 2021 without any proper scrutiny or discussion. Though the linkage to Aadhaar is supposed to be voluntary, in practice, the failure to do so can lead to the elimination of a voter's name from the electoral rolls as the linkage is being done "with a view to establish identity of electors and authentication of entries in the electoral roll". There are serious apprehensions that a large number of genuine voters would be eliminated through the

process of linkage with Aadhaar as it is meant to eliminate duplicate voter ID cards. A project conducted in Telangana to eliminate multiple voter ID cards has led to the removal of 10.26 lakh voter ID cards. How many of them are genuine voters has to be ascertained.

The linkage with Aadhaar will also lay the basis for voter profiling and the surveillance of the electoral preferences of voters as there is no guarantee about the confidentiality of the data collected. Given the predilection of the prime minister to say something and do the opposite, every statement needs to be parsed to understand what he actually means. Take the instance of an earlier speech he made on July 25, in which he cautioned the opposition against the practice of putting ideological and political interests over the well-being of the society and the country. He said: "There

is a place for ideology and political aspirations but country and society always come first". What he intended to say must be understood by reading between the lines. The only ideology and politics which serves the country's interests is Hindutva. All other ideologies are not in the interests of the country and society.

It is this outlook which is driving the BJP government at the centre and in the states to install Hindutva as the official ideology. It involves the government remoulding the educational system and the curriculum on Hindutva lines. The rewriting of history and textbooks are proceeding apace.

Here is the strong government which wants to exercise control over all domains, including education and culture. That is why it is important to see through the double-speak and the convoluted manner in which Modi speaks.

IPA SERVICE

HOUNDING OUT THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY BY ED AND DELHI POLICE HAS CROSSED ALL LIMITS

SUSHIL KUTTY

The prime-time anchor couldn't hold back his happiness. He wanted to know from the anti-corruption crusader exactly where the "case" stood. The anti-corruption crusader was happy to oblige. Both had tried and found Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi guilty. The anchor spelled out the verdict and the anti-corruption crusader said there was no need for a money-trail to nail the culprits.

As simple as that. Mainstream TV news channels often call the anti-corruption crusader to open sesame on 10 Janpath. It's like the religious police is let loose on the unsuspecting citizenry in certain countries on certain days to vent their ire at the breach of the religious code. Other days they stay in their quarters. Just like anti-corruption crusader does on days when 10 Janpath is not the headline.

The last couple of days, the Congress has been under siege, its headquarters held at bay behind barricades as were the official residences of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. Is this how it looks, a Congress-mukt Bharat? The police cracking their whip, eager to do the bidding of thy masters? Police ringed 10 Janpath. And police ringed 12 Tughlak Lane. Interestingly, 12 Tughlak Lane occupant Rahul Gandhi wasn't in town. He was in Karnataka, basking in being a 'Lingayat' in the poll-bound state. Only the other day, Rahul Gandhi had in a Facebook post asked people not to "panic", that they had the Congress's back.

This, after the ED sealed the National Herald office in Delhi's Fleet Street Bahadurshah Zafar Marg. To tell a coincidence, the last Mughal Emperor also had to face the brunt of the British Raj. It makes one wonder if Rahul Gandhi is also being subjected to the same treatment? Makes one ask, does the BJP and the Modi regime consider Rahul Gandhi a threat to its Congress-mukt project?

Like the anchor asked the courtroom anti-corruption crusader, "Are we in the final leg of Operation Congress-mukt Bharat?" The answer was a high-pitched laugh, but the remains of the day spoke volumes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi couldn't care less, the quicker the better. And it wasn't National Herald or Young India, it was every Indian with an opinion and a vote.

The question was asked by a news TV channel: "Which party would you vote for if elections were held today?" The answer fetched the BJP 326 seats, and the Congress+ only 97! But the BJP doesn't seem convinced. Gujarat and Karnataka aren't making the right noises. If the AAP has the BJP tied down by freebies; Karnataka appears to be falling in love with Rahul Gandhi. Scenes there aren't behind a hijab to escape notice.

You don't need to be a psephologist to know the BJP could be lost to an AAP tsunami in Gujarat, exactly like the Congress in the Punjab. Now, the Supreme Court has been involved in a reckoning of the "freebies culture". And the rising prices are pinching the BJP in both feet. So much so, it appears like it has hired the services of the Delhi Police to bail it out.

The Delhi Police, before it sent platoons of lathi-waving constables to ring 10 Janpath and 12 Tughlak, issued a diktat to the Congress to cancel its August 5 protest on the question of price rise. How is the price rise related to the National Herald? Even the Enforcement Directorate, which sealed the Young India office, wouldn't have a clue.

The ED questioned Congress president Sonia Gandhi in July and Rahul Gandhi in June. Some of the questions were leaked to the media, but apart from those, to date nobody knows what the ED gained from holding to ransom the valuable time of busy politicians planning to unseat the current dispensation at the Centre.

Everybody knows the Modi Government "owns" the ED, and the Delhi Police. But while the ED behaves like police, it isn't police. The Delhi Police, on the other hand, is the police working under the direct control of the Union Home Ministry. And it's not just the Congress, even police forces of opposition-ruled states are harassed, like the West Bengal CID, which came to investigate the Jharkhand cash-car affair.

So, this is how it is: The ED seals the Young India office. The Delhi Police writes to the Congress to cancel its August 5 price rise protest. This is followed by a police siege of 10 Janpath and 12 Tughlak Lane. The optics fit the intention; they also speak of brute power of the police state.

At least, that is how it looks. The August 5 protest included laying siege to the Prime minister's residence. Who panicked and who is playing dictator are both the same. The name of the game is intimidation. We will lock you up, in the office or behind bars, is the message. India is a nation of the young and the young of India are witnessing the antics of a police state, it's the dividend they get, it's the dividend they have been getting.

IPA SERVICE

HIGH FOOD AND ENERGY PRICES MAKING LIVING CONDITIONS UNBEARABLE GLOBALLY

DR. GYAN PATHAK

Since the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world, common people have been bearing the brunt of the once-in-a-generation cost-of-living crisis since the beginning of 2020. Hundreds of millions lost even access to food, energy, and finance, millions of them just perished, and millions somehow survived on assistance in cash or kinds from various government and private sources. Just when the global economy was recovering from the abyss of misfortune, Russian aggression on Ukraine in February 2022 started reversing the recovery, making the crisis increasingly worse. Out of this human crisis, profiteers across the world unrestrictedly multiplying their profits, that the United Nations has finally called "immoral", a term euphemistically used perhaps for "a devil of an act".

People are caught between skyrocketing and volatile energy and food prices and losing access to financial resources for survival. The crony capitalism, a form of capitalism in which governments support their capitalist friends at the cost of

the people enabling them to extract huge unrestricted profits, has further deepened the triple crises of food, energy, and finance.

Energy crisis is driving the world into a mad house, after the continuing madness of the Russian-Ukraine war. The ever rising energy costs to such an unprecedented high level has actually been threatening to "price out the developing countries, especially the most vulnerable communities, from energy markets", as the third brief of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) on Food, Energy, and Finance has warned. It should also be noted that ever since the pandemic struck, most of the countries continue to experience major difficulties in accessing affordable energy.

As the war in Ukraine continues to rage, skyrocketing energy prices are compounding an existential cost-of-living crisis for hundreds of millions of people around the globe, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said while introducing the third briefing of the GCRG on August 3. He said it was "immoral" that major oil and gas companies are reporting "record profits" while prices soar.

"The combined profits of the largest energy companies in the first quarter of this year are close to \$100 billion," Guterres said. The GCRG has warned that more people are now at risk of extreme poverty across the world.

The UN Chief Guterres urged the governments across the world to "tax these excessive profits, and use the funds raised to support the most vulnerable people through these difficult times."

What Guterres was saying about the largest energy companies also holds good for the biggest corporate houses in other sectors too, who have been multiplying their money immorally out of human miseries, such as we have been seeing in the pharmaceutical and essential goods and services sectors during the pandemic. They have been making huge profits by manipulating policies, and the rulers help their cronies (friends) in shamelessly multiplying their profits with almost little or no restrictions.

We in fact need more than their condemnation by calling them "immoral" or proposing "tax on these excessive profits" as the UN Chief has said. Unless we

act against such unscrupulous elements making their "immoral" act also illegal and punishable, the common people of the world can never be out of their clutches. Only "taxing them more" is simply leaving them scot-free and indirectly allowing them for more profiteering at the cost of the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people.

GCRG has recommended that the governments find effective funding for energy solutions, such as publicly financed cash transfers and rebate policies to protect vulnerable communities, including windfall taxes on the largest oil and gas companies, while also advocating for a transition to more cost-effective renewable.

The recommendations of the GCRG will do well for the well-being of the common people though in restricted sense, it also actually leaves the unscrupulous profiteers scot-free by not recommending putting brake on their money making "immoral" activities even at a time of unprecedented human crisis, deriving huge profits from human miseries.

More worrying is a potential "scramble for fuel" whereby only rich countries

can afford to access energy as prices continue climbing, the GCRG third brief warns. "Governments need the fiscal space to support their most vulnerable populations to avoid worsening levels of energy poverty or losing energy access altogether," it says.

GCRG obvious missed one thing - the culpability of rulers in the governments who are manipulating or making policies to support their cronies to enable them to legally make "excessive profits" that UN preferably called "immoral" while not calling for making such "immoral" activities "illegal" in which the leaders in the ruling establishments and the crony capitalists are hand in glove, and neck deep in the very act of "money making" causing unfathomable distress to the common people leaving them to suffer. Why not we must make them culpable - both the crony profiteers and their conniving rulers?

Workable options are not available because the suggestions given have always been evasive and lacking courage to catch the bull by the horns. They sympathize with the sufferers, suggest some help to them even without

pricking the conscience of the unscrupulous "immoral" profiteers who are the root cause of all sufferings, allowing them regain prestige by their charity from exploited money.

For example, the UN has outlined policies that are good in limited sense only but does not address the problem of shameless immoral profiteering. Rather its recommends switching to renewable energy to avoid the fossil fuel crisis. Neither "taxing excessive profits" will root out the evil without putting brake on the profiteers, nor the suggested social protection measures for those affected.

World must rise to tackle the menace of profiteering with rising energy prices which has been accelerating the cost-of-living crisis and sustaining the vicious cycle of constrained household budgets, food insecurity, energy poverty, and rising social unrest. The interlinked crisis of food-energy-and-finance is deeply impacting vulnerable populations in developing countries strengthening the vicious cycle of poverty, hunger, and inequality. Allowing profiteers would be catastrophic.

IPA SERVICE

The engineering marvel created in Kishtwar by the Indian Army, who else can do it for the pilgrims who will undertake the legendary Machhail Chandi Goddess pilgrimage!

M S NAZKI

'WHO OTHER than the Indian Army Indian Army Engineers could do it! The details as to how they did it I will tell you later in the script!'

'This reminds of the famous book 'Pilgrims Progress' by the author John Bunyan. I thought that why not quote the great author and by the way the classic book is all about a story of a pilgrim and the journey from the City of Destruction (representing earth) to the Celestial City (representing heaven)!

'The lines go something like this: This hill (in Machhail pilgrimage mountain) though high I covent ascend; The difficulty will not offend me; For I perceive the way of life lies here. Come, pluck up heart; let's neither faint nor fear.' Every pilgrimage is like that and so is this great o which follows the legendary Amarnath pilgrimage!'

'Machhail Chandi temple is a Goddess Durga shrine popularly known as Machhail Mata. It is in the village Machhail of Sub Division Paddar, from where it derives its name, in Kishtwar District of Jammu region in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It may be noted that Goddess Durga is also known by the name Goddess Kaali or Chandi!'

'The shrine is popularly known, and has a landscape of unblemished beauty with

hills, glaciers and tributaries of the Chenab River. Paddar valley nearby is famous for its world-famous sapphire mines, and is a cool place for hiking, canning, and holy hot springs!'

'The area is home to a Buddhist community and the Thakur community who are serpent worshipers, and was merged with Kishtwar tehsil, by Maharaja Ranbir Singh!'

Thousands of people visit the shrine every year mainly from the Jammu region. The pilgrimage happens in August only, every year. The idols and pindi form of Chandika are famous for shaking their jewellery of their own without any wind force or any shock and also flickering their closed eyes. There are a lot of supernatural happenings that the pilgrims experience and report!'

'These is what history says but there is more to it. The terrain is difficult and the pilgrims walk on foot to reach the legendary place of worship. But in a couple of days one more thing was going to be far easier!'

'Army engineers transferred 40 vehicle loads of stores over 400 km constructed 170 foot Bailey bridge on the gap on Machhail pilgrimage route and helped restore the pilgrimage cutting down the walking time by almost 15 km. That is what the Indian Army Engineers can do!'

'Laying the Bailey's bridge is all timed and this



is what is taught in various courses in various schools and colleges of training in the Indian Army! Here also on the rote I had timed it to perfection! A job had to be executed and it was!'

'The 40-day annual Machhail Goddess pilgrimage started on Monday this week after a gap of two years due to the Covid pandemic, and is witnessing a huge rush of pilgrims despite heavy rains, officials said.

'Donald Bailey was a civil servant in the British War Office who tinkered with model bridges as a hobby. He had proposed an early prototype for a Bailey bridge before the war in 1936, but the idea was not acted upon.'

'Bailey drew an original proposal for the bridge on the back of an envelope in 1940. On 14 February 1941, the Ministry of Supply requested that Bailey have a full-scale prototype completed by 1 May the same year.'

'Rest is history but I will mention one thing that for early tests, the bridge was

laid across a field, about 2 feet (0.61 m) above the ground, and several Mark V tanks were filled with pig iron and stacked upon each other.'

'On the request of district administration, Kishtwar, the Indian Army supported by NHIDCL jointly constructed the 170-foot long bailey bridge at Kundel to facilitate Machhail', an officer said.

'Engineering regiment and Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and companies of National Highways and Infrastructure Development (NHIDCL) have completed establishment of the bridge in a record time and it was thrown open for ease of the pilgrims, the official added and the pilgrims progressed with ease!'

'Knowledge of the heart can be good without knowledge, for without knowledge the heart is empty. But there are two kinds of knowledge: the first is alone in its bare speculation of things, and the second is accompanied by the grace of faith and love,

which causes a man to do the will of God from the heart. The same is true for those who undertake this pilgrimage of Machhail Goddess!'

'The shrine has the beginning of antiquity and no recorded history. The goddess appeared in such a remote area in 'Swayambhu' form. She first appeared in the form of fire flame in village Mindhal, Pangi Valley which is 60 km from Machhail and then in the form of Singhasan Goddess (Saraswati) at village Chitto (which is 15 km from Gulabgarh). The fire later transformed into the form of Pindi. The actual shrine at Machhail village is also Swayambhu which has one pindi and three idols of Mahakali (Mindal), Mahalakshmi (Machhail) and Mahasaraswati (Chitto Goddess), which are considered to vibrate their jewellery by itself without any air or shock. The idols' eyes are closed in Dhyan Mudra (posture). Many pilgrims have experienced idols opening or flicking their eyes.'

What the Indian Army Engineers did but whatever they did was phenomenal. Only they could do it because they have been taught that way! The Army Engineers built a 170-foot long bailey bridge on a river to facilitate pilgrims visiting the Himalayan shrine of Goddess Machhail in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district. This happened on Sunday. The bridge that existed was

recently washed away due to a flash-flood.

The pilgrimage started with the ceremonial 'Pratham Pooja' (first prayer) performed by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Ashok Sharma in presence of priests and scores of devotees.

By the way the temple's history is entwined with the conquests of Zorawar Singh Kahluria, who in 1834 sought blessings of Machel Goddess, before crossing the mountains and Suru River (Indus), with 5000 men for vanquishing an army of local Botis of Ladakh. He became a faithful devotee after the successful mission. The shrine was visited in 1981 by Thakur Kulveer Singh of Bhaderwah, Jammu region. From 1987 onwards, Thakur Kulveer Singh started 'Chhadi Yatra' (holy mace) that happens every year and thousands of people visit the shrine every year during 'Chhadi Yatra', which starts from Chinote in Bhaderwah to Machhail in Paddar!'

Finally I will conclude this piece by these few lines from John Bunyan, 'I seek a place that can never be destroyed, one that is pure, and that fadeth not away, and it is laid up in heaven, and safe there, to be given, at the time appointed, to them that seek it with all their heart! The pilgrims to Machhail think it that way!'

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HEADLINES TODAY

EDITORIAL

Minor rainfall inundates entire city

Recently, a spurt of rain inundated roads at many places in Srinagar, turning them into virtual pools and putting people to inconvenience. One cannot actually control the rain but surely infrastructure can be built to ensure proper drainage of rainwater through a robust mechanism. The successive governments and the municipal corporation in Srinagar have done very little to tackle this problem. There is actually a need for upgrading urban infrastructure to address the issue of accumulation of rainwater in Srinagar and adjoining areas. Srinagar areas, more so the commercial hub of Lal Chowk and adjoining areas, have long grappled with the problem. Lal Chowk, Rajbagh, Jawaharnagar, and Bemina among other areas are known to get inundated after a few spells of rain. People frequently face waterlogging during the rainy season. It is not the case that no attempts have been made at all by the administration to address the issues. Nevertheless the persistence of the problem highlights the need for more positive action. Srinagar Municipal Corporations had at times employed dewatering pumps to ease water logging problems. There is a need to have proper construction of drainage systems to ensure that the disruptions do not keep recurring. Obviously there must be adequate funds at the disposal of SMC and other departments for the same. The operation and maintenance of drainages as well as sewer pipes, the repair of machinery and increasing their capacity should be done well in advance to meet any challenges. Low-lying areas in Srinagar in particular need more attention from the civic bodies and concerned departments. The administration must focus on improving the basic quality of life and there should be more efforts in this direction. The common people of Srinagar have been at the receiving end. With every major rainfall they have to navigate knee-deep water for long durations. Regular waterlogging also damages the roads. The insufficient drainage allows rainwater and snowmelt, during winter, to seep into the road surface and ultimately results in the damage to roads. It needs to be looked into and shall be addressed on priority as it would solve two problems: one that the roads would be saved and second water logging during rains would be prevented. Thus an effective and time-bound intervention from the government is the need of the hour.

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Tier II & III cities to become the epicenter of digital revolution in India

ARVIND KUMAR

The world is witnessing the rise of 'New India', propelled by the big aspirations, astonishing skills, and unflinching diligence of millennials which is the largest group of working population in the country. Besides the youth power, the growth story being scripted by India can be attributed to the swift penetration of the internet across the length and breadth of the country, which is stimulating digital revolution at an unimaginable pace. People of the country, irrespective of their location, education, and age, are reaping the benefits of this digital storm which has been gaining immense thrust from tier-II and tier III cities. As tier-I cities have reached a point of saturation, now it becomes vital to boost the infrastructure of Tier II & III cities and equip them with all the required facilities to further augment the growth. A report by IAMAI-Kantar ICUBE 2020 estimates that active internet users will grow by 45% in India over the next five years and reach 900 million users by 2025, up from 622 million in 2020. Tier-II & III cities constitute a larger part of the population that is joining the digital world steadfastly for its day-to-day needs, making digital revolution firm in India. According to reports, rural India will have more internet users than urban India by 2025. As a result, the digital ecosystem would have to adapt to cater to the needs of this new demographic. As per the estimates of the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) Digital Adoption

Index, India is the second-fastest growing digital economy among the 17 leading economies of the world. A NASSCOM report titled 'Future of Technology Services- Winning in this Decade' highlights that over 50 digital initiatives in diverse sectors such as finance and banking, healthcare, IT/ITES are fueling India's digital dream and are contributing 8% to the economy. Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic too has accelerated digitization and tier-II and tier III cities are the strongest force behind this thrust in the digital economy of the country.

Earlier, most of the business activities, especially IT/ITES, used to remain centered around metropolitan cities such as Gurugram, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, etc. With several conducive factors including superior infrastructure and skilled workforce, Tier-II and III cities have emerged as new loci of growth recently. The groundwork laid by the Electronics Commission envisaged the creation of regional computing centers to spur software and intellectual capital development in India. And, the establishment of the National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development and New Telecommunication Policy provided the roadmap further to catalyze the growth of the IT/ITES sector. Meanwhile, a spate of infrastructure development has also made these cities the most sought-after destinations for IT/ITES investments and other businesses. Likewise, the Digital India and Startup India cam-



paigns, the JAM trinity, and Smart Cities Mission have also accelerated the transformation of these cities. It is estimated that there are more than 61,000 recognized startups in India, across 55 industries, with 45% of them located in Tier II and Tier III cities.

The state governments have undertaken various initiatives to attract IT firms and provide a conducive ecosystem by establishing industrial clusters, SEZ, and various skill development initiatives to stay ahead in the digitization process. Industry bodies such as NASSCOM, ASSOCHAM, TIE have created access to financial assistance, mentorship, incubation, and network opportunities to support path-breaking ideas from the hinterlands. According to an estimate by Zinnov (a leading management consultancy), about 976 MNCs have set up 1,257 Global In-house Centres (GICs) in India, out of which 68 GICs are in Tier-II locations. The relaxation in the

Department of Telecommunications' compliance guidelines allowing IT firms to work from anywhere amid Covid-19 is also set to provide a fillip to this trend.

Moreover, with an aim to foster an IT ecosystem in tier-II and III cities, STPI has launched the India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS). This scheme seeks to incentivize the establishment of 48,300 seats in respect of BPO/ITES operations across India. The government provides financial support of up to Rs 1 lakh per seat under two plans—India BPO Promotion Scheme and North East BPO Promotion Scheme. The scheme is distributed among each state in the proportion of state and population with an outlay of Rs. 493 crores. There are special incentives in the scheme to promote employment for women and specially-abled persons, the participation of local entrepreneurs, setting up operations in non-capital cities, etc. Such a combination of the rising middle class, a shift in consumption pat-

terns and technological innovation augurs well for tier-II and tier III cities to emerge as growth engines of the Indian economy.

The upcoming large-scale developments such as Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Metro Neo and Metro Lite, Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor will bolster connectivity and put tier-II and tier III cities such as Sonapat, Jaipur, Dehradun, etc. on the infrastructure map. On the technological front, the proposed roll out of 5G technology also augurs well for the IT/ITES industry in these cities. A Datacenter Policy is also in the pipeline that will escalate the digital transformation process in India.

Also, the 'work from home' model amid the Covid-19 pandemic has set off a trend of reverse migration. As a result, firms are moving to tap talent in Indian hinterlands instead of workforce migrating to Tier I cities for employment. It has led to the emergence of the 'hub and spoke' and 'edge' model wherein tier I cities serve as hubs while tier II and tier III towns form the spoke network, and the edge implies the work that can be done remotely. This model allows leading IT firms to diversify their operations at comparatively lower costs in Tier II and Tier III cities while retaining their clientele in tier I cities. Another emerging trend is the gig economy, wherein firms are looking to diversify their workforce through contract employees who impart flexibility and agility to their operational models. Moreover, leading multinational firms are

embracing the idea of expansion in these cities due to multiple advantages including cost-effectiveness, lower land and labor costs, availability of a large talent pool, and low attrition rate of the workforce. Besides serving as a consumer market, the cities such as Jaipur, Indore, Lucknow have emerged as an education hub, thereby generating skilled human capital employed in various firms.

Bolstered by these factors, tier II and tier III cities will emerge at the forefront of the digital revolution. This trend will have a multiplier socio-economic impact in the region in terms of employment generation, curbing migration to metropolitan cities, boosting the local economy, improving living standards, and bridging regional disparities in economic development. This will also lessen the burden of mega cities which are facing problems due to limited resources and influx of people from around the corner of the country in the pursuit of quality life.

However, it will be critical for these cities to sustain the digitization wave. Focusing on strengthening infrastructure, encouraging skill development among the youth, fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem, and catalyzing innovation through ground-breaking ideas, and augmenting industry-academia collaborations, efforts will help these cities to reap tangible benefits of digitization.

Writer is a Director General, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) PIB

Emergence of India as a Software Product Nation

SANJEEV KUMAR GUPTA AND AJAI KUMAR GARG

The emergence of globalization and constant technological changes are steadily transforming society and making it more knowledge intensive than ever. The industrial landscape too is witnessing a similar evolutionary pattern. Importantly, the rapid development of information technology has connected firms, customers, suppliers and various other stakeholders in a complex and interdependent web of interactions. These developments have resulted in a paradigm shift in the nature and scope of economic progress. India presents enormous development challenges, as well as models of innovation and globally-competitive IT capabilities. The use of ICT in areas like health and education is opening up newer avenues for reaching out to remote and marginalised populations, while offering affordable and accessible solutions to persistent challenges of development.

The country has large untapped domestic market with high con-

sumption and young population are also key strengths. India is one of the fastest growing IT services markets in the world. As per NASSCOM, the Indian technology and services sector has done well during FY 2021-22, touching the USD 227 billion mark with a growth of ~15% YoY. The Indian IT-ITES sector continues to be one of the largest employers in the country directly employing nearly 5 million professionals, adding over 4,50,000 employees in FY 2021-22.

In recent years, the Indian IT Industry has shown signs of moving up the value chain with the mushrooming of a number of young entrepreneurs focusing on software products and are trying to exploit the possibilities that have arisen due to emerging of cloud infrastructure, alternate delivery models including off the self and SaaS (cloud) based Software Products and mobile based delivery model using social media platforms. This is further complemented by fast evolving use of Big Data and Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem resulting in the convergence of hardware with software.

In order to make the Indian IT Industry move up the value chain and thereby sustain its growth trajectory, the National Policy on Software Products-2019 has been approved by the Union Cabinet on February 28, 2019 with a vision to create a robust Indian Software Product development ecosystem, thereby enabling IP driven holistic growth of the IT Industry.

National Policy on Software Products-2019 synergies the efforts of the Government and Industry to create a robust Software Product Industry, which enables the germinating ground for large number of Software product startups, promotes development of an ecosystem encouraging R&D and innovation, opens up multitude of opportunities of access to capital and helps build and improve the domestic demand.

In recent years, the software product sector in India has evolved substantially through various policy interventions by the Government and domestic demand. The sector is growing from \$ 7.1 Bn in 2019-22 to \$13.3 Bn at present with ~10% CAGR growth. This tremendous growth in the sector has been driven by massive adoption

of cloud infrastructure and expansion of the sector in major global market. The India software product industry has performed well in FY 2021-22 and was fastest growing sector at by ~18% compared to the Indian software industry which has grown by ~15.5% in the same period.

Now a days, Software products become the integral part of daily lives. The focus of Indian Software product industry has been progressively shifting from horizontal based tech solution to vertical based tech solution. More and more verticalized tech solutions have been coming up with cutting edge innovation. The Horizontal tech solution based business / enterprises continue to be the largest segment with respect to attract investment however still, vertical enterprises / businesses has grown tremendous. The significant shift in growth for vertical business software is mainly driven by an increased number of deals and domestic demands. The value addition in vertical tech solution is offering an opportunity of over \$10 Bn across different verticals segment like health, energy distri-

bution, education, entertainment etc. and many other emerging segment showing promising growth in business.

Software as a Services (SaaS), digitization of MSMEs, and Digital adoption in each sector are the key enablers for the growth of software product sector. The market share of global SaaS industry alone growing with a rate of 2X, which clearly indicating strong acceptance of Indian products in global market. Massive investment in technology like enterprise resource planning (ERP) software and customer relationship management (CRM) software in horizontal segment continues to dominate software product enterprises accounting for ~50% of the revenue. Moreover, new emerging horizontal like content/data, management, etc also getting significant traction. The Indian software products has shown high acceptance in verticals segment like Hi-Tech accounting, Banking, financial services and insurance accounting for ~65% of the revenue.

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Reliability of Internet and Social Media



VIJAY GARG

The Twitter company has said in its 20th transparency report that since the time the company prepared such reports, various governments have approached the company 47,572 times to remove content on 1,98,931 accounts. Most demands were made by the US government and its agencies; These demands were 20 percent of such demands in the world. India was at the second position and its demand was 19 percent of the total demand. The company says that the last ten years of experience States that the trend of imposing restrictions on the expression of ideas by governments is constantly increasing.

Governments are paying special attention to journalists' tweets. From July to December 2021, India had the highest number of requests for removal of posted information/content. During the same period, India was among the top five countries that ordered bans on all types of Twitter users. Meanwhile, India raised 114, Turkey 78, Russia 55 and Pakistan 48 legal objections. Tweets of certified journalists and media organizations were also stopped. Trends in the use of social media platforms are quite complex. The Internet has become a repository of information and knowledge. Determining the accuracy of information and knowledge sources is a difficult task. The information provided by Twitter calls for several types of analysis. Twitter is most used in the US where it has over 76 million users; Japan is second and India is third. More than 5.8 million people in Japan and 2.3 million people in India use Twitter. Also pay attention to it What is needed is the content of the journalists or media houses that were removed on Twitter: was it based on facts or not? It is also worth noting that because of that material, the com-



munal gap in the communities was not increasing; In this context it also becomes important to see that the content is properly examined from this point of view; Was this material really disruptive to com-

munity relations or were governments targeting certain journalists or media organizations by labeling it as such? most of all it is important to see whether the journalists and media organizations are pre-

sending the truth to the people by giving correct information about the events or the information is being distorted and presented in a wrong manner. Currently, many media houses are owned by corporate houses. These institutions refrain from putting facts and truth before people. In these times, the number of journalists bringing out the truth and correct information through social media, newspapers and TV channels is also decreasing. Many social media platforms also promote transparency and expression of ideas are seen retreating from the principle of independence. While social media has brought about a democratic change in the expression of ideas through the internet that everyone has the right to express their opinion, there is also a tendency to post irresponsible, inflammatory and factual information/content. have grown Governments, social media platforms, democratic organizations, journalists, thinkers, social activists and others need to work together to maintain balance in these trends.

- Vijay Garg Retd Principal, Malout Punjab

PRIME MINISTER'S 'STRONG GOVERNMENT' MEANS THAT THE BJP REGIME CONTROLS EVERYTHING

PRAKASH KARAT

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, spoke recently about how a strong government should be. Addressing a university convocation in Chennai on July 29, Modi said: "A strong government does not control everything or everyone. It controls the system's impulse to interfere...A strong government does not move into every domain". He further said: "A strong government's strength lies in its humility to accept that it cannot know or do everything".

Fine words, indeed! The only catch is that the government, under Modi, is doing exactly the opposite of what has been pronounced by him. The Modi government seeks to control everything and everyone; his government has moved into every domain including curtailing the rights of citizens assured under the constitution.

What is actually happening is a single-minded pursuit by a "strong government" for total control in all spheres of society. Electoral democracy is fast becoming an electoral autocracy. The way parliament has been denigrated and the opposition muzzled has been illustrated by the current monsoon session of parliament that saw the suspension of 27 opposition members of parliament.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has become the political instrument to target opposition leaders and incarcerate them. The impunity with which the ED operates is going to further heighten after the Supreme Court verdict last week, which has legitimised the draconian powers vested in the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Arbitrary arrests, detention without bail and attachment of properties will now be the norm.

The legal instruments to sup-

press the opposition and dissent and tame civil society have only grown as the UAPA, the NSA and other "national security" laws are routinely employed with the higher judiciary refusing to even acknowledge the trampling of the citizens' right to life and liberty.

From August 1, the linking of voter identity cards with Aadhaar has begun as per the amended election law. This amended bill was rammed through parliament in the winter session of December 2021 without any proper scrutiny or discussion. Though the linkage to Aadhaar is supposed to be voluntary, in practice, the failure to do so can lead to the elimination of a voter's name from the electoral rolls as the linkage is being done "with a view to establish identity of electors and authentication of entries in the electoral roll". There are serious apprehensions that a large number of genuine voters would be eliminated through the

process of linkage with Aadhaar as it is meant to eliminate duplicate voter ID cards. A project conducted in Telangana to eliminate multiple voter ID cards has led to the removal of 10.26 lakh voter ID cards. How many of them are genuine voters has to be ascertained.

The linkage with Aadhaar will also lay the basis for voter profiling and the surveillance of the electoral preferences of voters as there is no guarantee about the confidentiality of the data collected.

Given the predilection of the prime minister to say something and do the opposite, every statement needs to be parsed to understand what he actually means. Take the instance of an earlier speech he made on July 25, in which he cautioned the opposition against the practice of putting ideological and political interests over the well-being of the society and the country. He said: "There

is a place for ideology and political aspirations but country and society always come first". What he intended to say must be understood by reading between the lines. The only ideology and politics which serves the country's interests is Hindutva. All other ideologies are not in the interests of the country and society.

It is this outlook which is driving the BJP government at the centre and in the states to install Hindutva as the official ideology. It involves the government remoulding the educational system and the curriculum on Hindutva lines. The rewriting of history and textbooks are proceeding apace.

Here is the strong government which wants to exercise control over all domains, including education and culture. That is why it is important to see through the double-speak and the convoluted manner in which Modi speaks.

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HOUNDING OUT THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY BY ED AND DELHI POLICE HAS CROSSED ALL LIMITS

SUSHIL KUTTY

The prime-time anchor couldn't hold back his happiness. He wanted to know from the anti-corruption crusader exactly where the "case" stood. The anti-corruption crusader was happy to oblige. Both had tried and found Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi guilty. The anchor spelled out the verdict and the anti-corruption crusader said there was no need for a money-trail to nail the culprits.

As simple as that. Mainstream TV news channels often call the anti-corruption crusader to open sesame on 10 Janpath. It's like the religious police is let loose on the unsuspecting citizenry in certain countries on certain days to vent their ire at the breach of the religious code. Other days they stew in their quarters. Just like anti-corruption crusader does on days when 10 Janpath is not the headline.

The last couple of days, the Congress has been under siege, its headquarters held at bay behind barricades as were the official residences of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. Is this how it looks, a Congress-mukt Bharat? The police cracking their whip, eager to do the bidding of thy masters? Police ringed 10 Janpath. And police ringed 12 Tughlak Lane. Interestingly, 12 Tughlak Lane occupant Rahul Gandhi wasn't in town. He was in Karnataka, basking in being a 'Lingayat' in the poll-bound state. Only the other day, Rahul Gandhi had in a Facebook post asked people not to "panic", that they had the Congress's back.

This, after the ED sealed the National Herald office in Delhi's Fleet Street Bahadurshah Zafar Marg. To tell a coincidence, the last Mughal Emperor also had to face the brunt of the British Raj. It makes one wonder if Rahul Gandhi is also being subjected to the same treatment? Makes one ask, does the BJP and the Modi regime consider Rahul Gandhi a threat to its Congress-mukt project?

Like the anchor asked the courtroom anti-corruption crusader, "Are we in the final leg of Operation Congress-mukt Bharat?" The answer was a high-pitched laugh, but the remains of the day spoke volumes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi couldn't care less, the quicker the better. And it wasn't National Herald or Young Indian, it was every Indian with an opinion and a vote.

The question was asked by a news TV channel: "Which party would you vote for if elections were held today?" The answer fetched the BJP 326 seats, and the Congress+ only 97! But the BJP doesn't seem convinced. Gujarat and Karnataka aren't making the right noises. If the AAP has the BJP tied down by freebies; Karnataka appears to be falling in love with Rahul Gandhi. Scenes there aren't behind a hijab to escape notice.

You don't need to be a psephologist to know the BJP could be lost to an AAP tsunami in Gujarat, exactly like the Congress in the Punjab. Now, the Supreme Court has been involved in a reckoning of the "freebies culture". And the rising prices are pinching the BJP in both feet. So much so, it appears like it has hired the services of the Delhi Police to bail it out.

The Delhi Police, before it sent platoons of lathi-waving constables to ring 10 Janpath and 12 Tughlak, issued a diktat to the Congress to cancel its August 5 protest on the question of price rise. How is the price rise related to the National Herald? Even the Enforcement Directorate, which sealed the Young Indian office, wouldn't have a clue.

The ED questioned Congress president Sonia Gandhi in July and Rahul Gandhi in June. Some of the questions were leaked to the media, but apart from those, to date nobody knows what the ED gained from holding to ransom the valuable time of busy politicians planning to unseat the current dispensation at the Centre.

Everybody knows the Modi Government "owns" the ED, and the Delhi Police. But while the ED behaves like police, it isn't police. The Delhi Police, on the other hand, is the police working under the direct control of the Union Home Ministry. And it's not just the Congress, even police forces of opposition-ruled states are harassed, like the West Bengal CID, which came to investigate the Jharkhand cash-car affair.

So, this is how it is: The ED seals the Young Indian office. The Delhi Police writes to the Congress to cancel its August 5 price rise protest. This is followed by a police siege of 10 Janpath and 12 Tughlak Lane. The optics fit the intention; they also speak of brute power of the police state.

At least, that is how it looks. The August 5 protest included laying siege to the Prime minister's residence. Who panicked and who is playing dictator are both the same. The name of the game is intimidation. We will lock you up, in the office or behind bars, is the message. India is a nation of the young and the young of India are witnessing the antics of a police state, it's the dividend they get, it's the dividend they have been getting.

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HIGH FOOD AND ENERGY PRICES MAKING LIVING CONDITIONS UNBEARABLE GLOBALLY

DR. GYAN PATHAK

Since the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world, common people have been bearing the brunt of the once-in-a-generation cost-of-living crisis since the beginning of 2020. Hundreds of millions lost even access to food, energy, and finance, millions of them just perished, and millions somehow survived on assistance in cash or kinds from various government and private sources. Just when the global economy was recovering from the abyss of misfortune, Russian aggression on Ukraine in February 2022 started reversing the recovery, making the crisis increasingly worse. Out of this human crisis, profiteers across the world unrestrictedly multiplying their profits, that the United Nations has finally called "immoral", a term euphemistically used perhaps for "a devil of an act".

People are caught between skyrocketing and volatile energy and food prices and losing access to financial resources for survival. The crony capitalism, a form of capitalism in which governments support their capitalist friends at the cost of

the people enabling them to extract huge unrestricted profits, has further deepened the triple crises of food, energy, and finance.

Energy crisis is driving the world into a mad house, after the continuing madness of the Russian-Ukraine war. The ever rising energy costs to such an unprecedented high level has actually been threatening to "price out" the developing countries, especially the most vulnerable communities, from energy markets", as the third brief of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) on Food, Energy, and Finance has warned. It should also be noted that ever since the pandemic struck, most of the countries continue to experience major difficulties in accessing affordable energy.

As the war in Ukraine continues to rage, skyrocketing energy prices are compounding an existential cost-of-living crisis for hundreds of millions of people around the globe, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said while introducing the third briefing of the GCRG on August 3. He said it was "immoral" that major oil and gas companies are reporting "record profits" while prices soar.

"The combined profits of the largest energy companies in the first quarter of this year are close to \$100 billion," Guterres said. The GCRG has warned that more people are now at risk of extreme poverty across the world.

The UN Chief Guterres urged the governments across the world to "tax these excessive profits, and use the funds raised to support the most vulnerable people through these difficult times."

What Guterres was saying about the largest energy companies also holds good for the biggest corporate houses in other sectors too, who have been multiplying their money immorally out of human miseries, such as we have been seeing in the pharmaceutical and essential goods and services sectors during the pandemic. They have been making huge profits by manipulating policies, and the rulers help their cronies (friends) in shamelessly multiplying their profits with almost little or no restrictions.

We in fact need more than their condemnation by calling them "immoral" or proposing "tax on these excessive profits" as the UN Chief has said. Unless we

act against such unscrupulous elements making their "immoral" act also illegal and punishable, the common people of the world can never be out of their clutches. Only "taxing them more" is simply leaving them scot-free and indirectly allowing them for more profiteering at the cost of the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people.

GCRG has recommended that the governments find effective funding for energy solutions, such as publicly financed cash transfers and rebate policies to protect vulnerable communities, including windfall taxes on the largest oil and gas companies, while also advocating for a transition to more cost-effective renewable.

The recommendations of the GCRG will do well for the well-being of the common people though in restricted sense, it also actually leaves the unscrupulous profiteers scot-free by not recommending putting brake on their money making "immoral" activities even at a time of unprecedented human crisis, deriving huge profits from human miseries.

More worrying is a potential "scramble for fuel" whereby only rich countries

can afford to access energy as prices continue climbing, the GCRG third brief warns. "Governments need the fiscal space to support their most vulnerable populations to avoid worsening levels of energy poverty or losing energy access altogether," it says.

GCRG obvious missed one thing - the culpability of rulers in the governments who are manipulating or making policies to support their cronies to enable them to legally make "excessive profits" that UN preferably called "immoral" while not calling for making such "immoral" activities "illegal" in which the leaders in the ruling establishments and the crony capitalists are hand in glove, and neck deep in the very act of "money making" causing unfathomable distress to the common people leaving them to suffer. Why not we must make them culpable - both the crony profiteers and their conniving rulers?

Workable options are not available because the suggestions given have always been evasive and lacking courage to catch the bull by the horns. They sympathize with the sufferers, suggest some help to them even without

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The engineering marvel created in Kishtwar by the Indian Army, who else can do it for the pilgrims who will undertake the legendary Machhail Chandi Goddess pilgrimage!

M S NAZKI

'WHO OTHER than the Indian Army Indian Army Engineers could do it! The details as to how they did it I will tell you later in the script!'

'This reminds of the famous book 'Pilgrims Progress' by the author John Bunyan. I thought that why not quote the great author and by the way the classic book is all about a story of a pilgrim and the journey from the City of Destruction (representing earth) to the Celestial City (representing heaven)!

'The lines go something like this: This hill (in Machhail pilgrimage mountain) though high I covent ascend; The difficulty will not offend me; For I perceive the way of life lies here. Come, pluck up, heart; let's neither faint nor fear.' Every pilgrimage is like that and so is this great o which follows the legendary Amarnath pilgrimage!

'Machhail Chandi temple is a Goddess Durga shrine popularly known as Machhail Mata. It is in the village Machhail of Sub Division Paddar, from where it derives its name, in Kishtwar District of Jammu region in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It may be noted that Goddess Durga is also known by the name Goddess Kaali or Chandi!'

'The shrine is popularly known, and has a landscape of unblemished beauty with

hills, glaciers and tributaries of the Chenab River. Paddar valley nearby is famous for its world-famous sapphire mines, and is a cool place for hiking, canyoning, and holy hot springs!'

'The area is home to a Buddhist community and the Thakur community who are serpent worshipers, and was merged with Kishtwar tehsil, by Maharaja Ranbir Singh!'

Thousands of people visit the shrine every year mainly from the Jammu region. The pilgrimage happens in August only, every year. The idols and pindi form of Chandika are famous for shaking their jewellery of their own without any wind force or any shock and also flickering their closed eyes. There are a lot of supernatural happenings that the pilgrims experience and report.'

'These is what history says but there is more to it. The terrain is difficult and the pilgrims walk on foot to reach the legendary place of worship. But in a couple of days one more thing was going to be far easier!'

'Army engineers transferred 40 vehicle loads of stores over 400 km and constructed 170 foot Bailey bridge on the gap on Machhail pilgrimage route and helped restore the pilgrimage cutting down the walking time by almost 15 km. That is what the Indian Army engineers can do!'

'Laying the Bailey's bridge is all timed and this



is what is taught in various courses in various schools and colleges of training in the Indian Army! Here also on the rote I had time it to perfection! A job had to be executed and it was!'

'The 40-day annual Machhail Goddess pilgrimage started on Monday this week after a gap of two years due to the Covid pandemic, and is witnessing a huge rush of pilgrims despite heavy rains, officials said.

'Donald Bailey was a civil servant in the British War Office who tinkered with model bridges as a hobby. He had proposed an early prototype for a Bailey bridge before the war in 1936, but the idea was not acted upon.'

'Bailey drew an original proposal for the bridge on the back of an envelope in 1940. On 14 February 1941, the Ministry of Supply requested that Bailey have a full-scale prototype completed by 1 May the same year.'

'Rest is history but I will mention one thing that for early tests, the bridge was

laid across a field, about 2 feet (0.61 m) above the ground, and several Mark V tanks were filled with pig iron and stacked upon each other.'

'On the request of district administration, Kishtwar, the Indian Army supported by NHIDCL jointly constructed the 170-foot long bailey bridge at Kundel to facilitate Machhail', an officer said.

'Engineering regiment and Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and companies of National Highways and Infrastructure Development (NHIDCL) have completed establishment of the bridge in a record time and it was thrown open for ease of the pilgrims, the official added and the pilgrims progressed with ease!'

'Knowledge of the heart can be good without knowledge, for without knowledge the heart is empty. But there are two kinds of knowledge: the first is alone in its bare speculation of things, and the second is accompanied by the grace of faith and love,

which causes a man to do the will of God from the heart.

The same is true for those who undertake this pilgrimage of Machhail Goddess!'

'The shrine has the beginning of antiquity and no recorded history. The goddess appeared in such a remote area in 'Swayambhu' form. She first appeared in the form of fire flame in village Mindhal, Pangi Valley which is 60 km from Machhail) and then in the form of Singhasan Goddess (Saraswati) at village Chitto (which is 15 km from Gulabgarh). The fire later transformed into the form of Pindi. The actual shrine at Machhail village is also Swayambhu which has one pindi and three idols of Mahakali (Mindal), Mahalakshmi (Machhail) and Mahasaraswati (Chitto Goddess), which are considered to vibrate their jewellery by itself without any air or shock. The idols' eyes are closed in Dhyana Mudra (posture). Many pilgrims have experienced idols opening or flicking their eyes.'

What the Indian Army Engineers did but whatever they did was phenomenal. Only they could do it because they have been taught that way! The Army Engineers built a 170-foot long bailey bridge on a river to facilitate pilgrims visiting the Himalayan shrine of Goddess Machhail in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district. This happened on Sunday. The bridge that existed was

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Inspirational thoughts

AIJAZ AHMAD

Dear strugglers , do not give up. Religiously you had worked hard. Ignore the people , who are talking against you.

Our mind has infinite amount of space. It is our responsibility to fill it.

Do not correct a fool. He will abhor you. Correct a wise person . He will appreciate you.

Fret is the thief of joy.

Education is not only the modification of behavior . But also the vaccine for the violence.

Be brave face your challenges .

Education is the street way to future. Without education, you can not change your future life.

There is something hidden in the black colour. That is absorbing. Black is not only the colour. But it is an emotion.

Impossible is an opinion , which knocks the door of everyone.

Inorder to achieve desires. We must sacrifice the source of happiness.

My thinking is different as compared to other people. People says , that you are lossier. But I am thinking about the real path.

When your dream is to become a topper. Effort of every minute is counted.

It is very tough to understand that person. Which knows everything. But he is speaking nothing.

Author is the freelancer , quote writer, engineer. He is the authentic quote writer at own quotes and ur quotes. He is also the winner of three national awards . Indian star proud award , Indian star golden award , Indian star icon award . He is also the member of international association of engineers (IAE).



BRIEFLY NEWS

Lal Singh Chaddha: New song 'Tere Hawaale' out

The makers of the most awaited film 'Laal Singh Chaddha' on Thursday released a new song 'Tere Hawaale'. Sung by Arijit Singh and Shilpa, composed by Pritam and written by Amitabh Bhattacharya, the song depicts a beautiful tale about surrendering in love and how when in love, two souls become one. 'Tere Hawaale' depicts the honest love Laal feels for his beloved Rupa. It highlights the intensity of his love and the longing that comes along with it. The music of the song is so peaceful and the song is written so well that half of what Laal feels throughout the film is given away by these beautifully jotted lyrics. Arijit's voice is magical and Shilpa's voice has taken us on an euphoric ride. Taking to social media, the makers shared, "Surrender yourself to the miracle of love, 'Tere Hawaale' #LaalSinghChaddha releasing in theatres worldwide on 11th August". 'Laal Singh Chaddha', produced by Aamir Khan Productions, Kiran Rao, and Viacom18 Studios, also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan, Mona Singh, and Chaitanya Akkineni. The film will be released on August 11.

Manushi Chhillar is face of Estee Lauder

Estee Lauder India on Thursday announced Bollywood actress and former Miss World Manushi Chhillar as the new face of its key product. Debuting this month, Manushi's campaign will be featured in digital and social media platforms across India in what is her first partnership with a beauty brand. "We are thrilled to welcome Manushi to the Estee Lauder India family as the new face of Advanced Night Repair," said Rohan Vaziralli, General Manager, Estee Lauder Companies India. "In addition to her passion for all things beauty, we were drawn to Manushi's values and dedication to helping others. She reflects our brand's commitment to women's advancement and know she will deeply connect with our consumers across India," added Rohan. "I am a long-standing admirer of the Estee Lauder brand, and especially their Advanced Night Repair serum. Being the face of this iconic product feels wonderful. I was introduced to the Advanced Night Repair a few years ago and I would definitely call it a skin care must-have," Manushi said. Manushi was last seen in Yash Raj Films period drama 'Samrat Prithviraj'.

In just 16 hours, Karthi's 'Viruman' trailer gets 3.6 mn views!

The trailer of director Muthiah's eagerly awaited explosive action entertainer 'Viruman', featuring actors Karthi and Aditi Shankar in the lead, has garnered a whopping 3.6 million views on YouTube in less than 16 hours of being released. The trailer, which was released at a grand event in Madurai on Wednesday night, shows that this film too, like Muthiah's earlier film, 'Komban', will be a rustic, action-packed entertainer. The trailer gives away the fact that Viruman (played by Karthi) is the fourth son of Prakash Raj, a Tehsildar, and that relations between the father and son are strained to the extent that the father calls his own son, a Narakasuran, while the son rewards a man who slaps his dad with a gold ring. Interestingly, Muthiah seems to have realised from making 'Komban' that Karthi and Raj Kiran complement each other well and has looked to reproduce the same charm in this film as well. Aditi Shankar, the daughter of ace Shankar, looks absolutely at ease, giving no clue whatsoever that this is her debut film. The hard-hitting trailer has raised expectations from the film which hits the screens on August 12.

'Supergirl' movie reportedly scrapped too after 'Batgirl'

Another DC superhero movie appears to be cancelled amid Warner Bros.' cost-savings push. After 'Batgirl' was scrapped, a 'Supergirl' movie is said to be likely not moving forward as well. In an article by Rolling Stone explaining Warner Bros.' decision to scrap 'Batgirl', the site reported: "Now, the prospect of other DC films being squashed looms." According to the news outlet, "Insiders say 'Supergirl', which is in development, is not likely to move forward," reports aceshowbiz.com. It's unclear if the studio wants to back out of its commitment with the 'Supergirl' movie as part of its change, but the report mentioned that "Warner Bros. also finds itself in another difficult position with the upcoming movie 'The Flash' amid star Ezra Miller's erratic behaviour. 'The Flash' is supposed to kick-off an all-new DC Universe, introducing Sasha Calle as Supergirl, the cousin of Superman. From there, the female superhero is expected to spin off of the Miller-led tentpole.

'Joker' sequel sets Oct 2024 release date, Lady Gaga expected to play Harley Quinn

Joaquin Phoenix is returning to the theatres with the sequel of his 2019 release 'Joker', titled 'Joker: Folie A Deux' in 2024. The film will debut in theatres on October 4, 2024, a little over five years after the first part directed by Todd Phillips film hit the screens back in 2019, reports 'Variety'. The sequel will be a musical (the original was squarely a dark and gritty drama), with none other than Lady Gaga expected to play the Clown Prince of Crime's co-conspirator Harley Quinn. According to 'Variety', 'Joker' was supposed to be a standalone film, but after the R-rated tentpole generated more than \$1 billion globally and earned Phoenix an Oscar, a sequel was preordained. Naturally, the actor is asking for big bucks to reprise his sinister role as Arthur Fleck; Phoenix's paycheck for 'Folie A Deux' will be \$20 million. Warner Bros. announced the release date on Wednesday (Pacific Standard Time) on the heels of news that the studio has scrapped its \$90 million-budgeted 'Batgirl', despite the DC film being nearly complete. The axing of 'Batgirl', which will not be released in theatres or on HBO Max, rocked the industry because studios almost never shelve productions outright.

Alia Bhatt's doppelganger Celesti's looks helped her bag 'Udti Ka Naam Rajjo'

Debutante Celesti Baidya got her breakthrough on the small screen with the forthcoming show 'Udti Ka Naam Rajjo' after one of her videos went viral on the social media.

Hailing from Assam, Celesti, who has a following of over 400,000 on Instagram, recreated a scene from Alia's film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'. She was compared with the actress for her uncanny resemblance.

The 23-year-old Assamese actress said: "Initially, there was no direct communication for approaching me. My social media account is managed by a third party. So, a casting agency contacted that organisation, and they communicated their offer to me. They provided me with a script and I called back the creative team to get the gist of the character."

She said that for the first time to shoot for this show,



she moved out of her hometown.

"I recorded and sent them my monologue as a self-test. After a couple of days, I got a call saying that I have been selected for the screen test.

This is my first time ever being out of Assam. This is a very big opportunity for me, and I am extremely grateful and excited to be a part of 'Udti Ka Naam Rajjo'."

The daily soap is about a

young girl Rajjo, who wants to be an athlete and Arjun, motivates her to pursue her dream.

'Udti Ka Naam Rajjo' is all set to start from August 22 on Star Plus.

Sanjay Mishra-starrer 'Holy Cow' poster is intriguing, humorous

The makers of 'Holy Cow' starring Sanjay Mishra have released the poster that raises many questions at first glance with the depiction of a cow and the actor behind it.

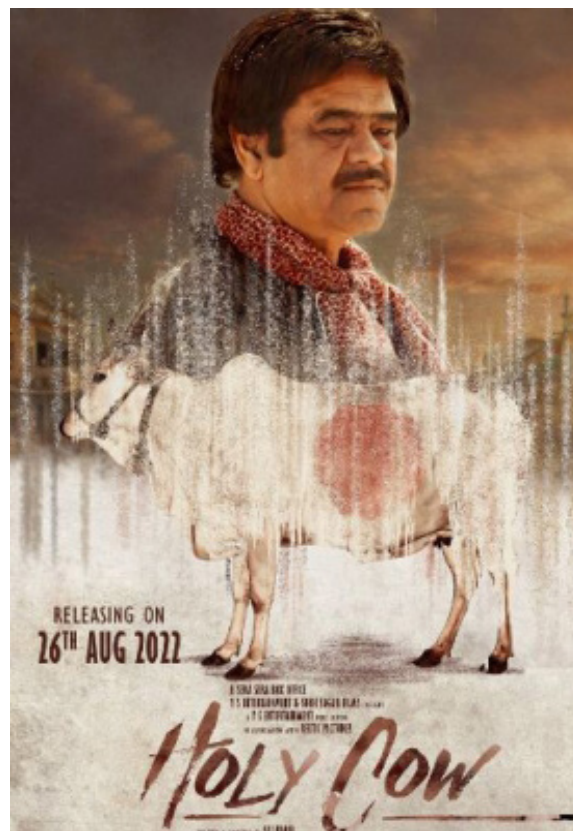
At one point it makes you laugh and on the other side it makes you think about the storyline. The movie is a social satire which stars Sanjay Mishra, Tigmanshu Dhulia and Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

Nawazuddin briefs about his role and says: "I have a guest appearance in the film and it's the job of an actor to adapt to the value system of the character. The whole cast of this film belonged to theatres hence it was all the more fun. This film is a satirical comedy with lots of fun elements."

Producer Aaliya Siddiqui says that the movie holds a strong message for society.

"I find art to be highly pointless if it doesn't reflect the day to day happenings. Filmmakers and artists have the voice and strength to effect long term changes and I am delighted to produce 'Holy Cow'."

"We had a theme in mind and wanted to have fun with an idea that we have all pondered. I am grateful



to my eclectic cast for telling the story with such honesty and sincerity," concludes Aaliya.

The film is produced by Aaliya Siddiqui and

Baljinder Khanna in association with Reltic Pictures, presented by K Sera Sera, written and directed by Sai Kabear and will be released on August 26.

Actor Mithilesh Chaturvedi passes away

Actor Mithilesh Chaturvedi who is remembered for his roles in films like 'Gadar...', 'Fiza' and shows such as 'Scam 1992...', passed away early Thursday at a private hospital in Mumbai after a massive heart attack. He was 68.

Mithilesh was being treated at the Kokilaben Ambani hospital for the last 10 days.

He suffered a heart attack at 4 am, following which he passed away, family sources here said.

His funeral will take place in Mumbai's Versova later in the day around 2-3pm,

they said.

The actor is known for being part of multiple films and shows such as "Gadar: Ek Prem Katha", "Koi Mil Gaya", "My Friend Pinto" and "Phata Poster Nikla Hero" and "Ready" among others. He was also an active member of the theatre world.

'Dharm Yoddha Garud': Parul, Toral reveal their strong bond

The epic drama 'Dharm Yoddha Garud' on Sony SAB is known not just for its stunning visuals and captivating storyline, but also for the fierce rivalry between the two sisters Kadru (Parul Chauhan) and Vinta (Toral Rasputra).

Kadru is very envious of Vinta, who is liked by everyone because of her gentle and compassionate disposition. When the opportunity comes up, she dupes Vinta and forces her into a life of servitude. Even though the two women's on-screen relationship is severely strained, their off-screen relationship is quite the opposite. That's correct! In real life, Parul and Toral are close buddies who are 'the biggest cheerleaders' to each other.

Toral said in a statement, "Parul is a fabulous actor. It's incredible how such a lovely person could play a villain. We first connected during the casting, and we've been really close ever since. We were each other's biggest cheerleaders even during the audition process! She is also someone who loves getting yummy food on sets for everyone and we love sitting together during lunch and chat. She is really lively, and



her upbeat personality gives me an instant boost."

Parul shared, "She was the ideal choice for the role of Vinta, so I knew she would do well in the auditions. She brightens every day on the set and cheers me up if I feel low. Whenever I need someone to talk to, she's there. She is my support system. I believe our close connection adds to our terrific on-screen chemistry. I count myself lucky to have her as a co-star and friend."

Talking about their contrasting relations on and off camera Toral commented, "It sure does confuse people to see us locking horns on-screen and being close

friends off screen. However, I believe it's our close bond and deep understanding of each other which makes it possible for us to portray our character's bitterness towards one another."

Adding to that Parul said, "I agree! It's actually funny how contrasting our character's relation is to our real-life friendship. Vinta and Kadru detest each other but we are extremely close in reality. People's reactions when they get to know this is also highly amusing. I'm very happy and grateful for our friendship and hope it lasts forever."

'Dharm Yoddha Garud' will air at 7 pm on Sony SAB.

Kareena is perfect, says perfectionist Aamir Khan

Bollywood superstar

Aamir Khan, who is fondly called as Mr. Perfectionist, has praised his 'Laal Singh Chaddha' co-star Kareena Kapoor Khan and called the diva "perfect" on the chat show 'Koffee with Karan' Season 7.

In an all-new segment, actor trolling actors, the latest episode of the show saw Aamir and Kareena ask each other candid questions exploring their unknown side.

Aamir made Kareena share a slice of her experience working with the actor.

"He has a thing for perfection. It is not bad, but if he feels it has to be a certain way, it has to be just that. Unless that perfection is achieved, we are not done. That extra focus on reaching that perfection can sometimes be a bit annoying,"



she said.

Aamir revealed that he has never stopped himself from appreciating things that are already perfect, like Kareena.

"I am a perfectionist, but she is perfect," shared the star with a big smile.

'Koffee with Karan' Season 7 streams on Disney+ Hotstar.

Akshay Kumar on his sister Alka: She is much better than me

As his film 'Raksha Bandhan', is all set to hit the screens, Bollywood star Akshay Kumar in a candid conversation spoke about his sister Alka Bhatia. He makes no bones in agreeing to the fact that "sisters are the best" and said that his sibling is much better than him even as a person.

Known for not speaking much about his personal life, Akshay in a conversation with IANS talked about what a brother-sister relationship means to him personally.

"It's an amazing bond. Your sister is your best friend. You can keep your head on her shoulders and share everything. She's always there for you. I have rarely heard that the sister is not there for her brother. Sometimes you get to hear the brother is not there but I have never heard that the sister is not there."

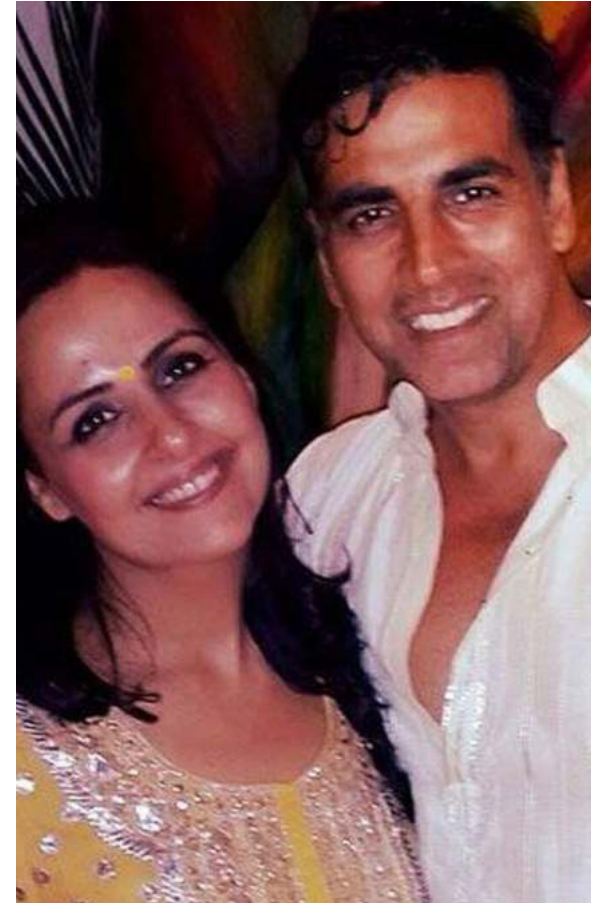
"There is no one who can love you more than your sister."

Talking about his own sister with a heart full of love and joy, Akshay said: "Sisters are the best and I agree, because when I see my own home I would say that my sister is much better than me as a person also."

'Raksha Bandhan' is all set to release on the day of Rakhi celebrations on August 11. The festival of Raksha Bandhan or Rakhi is celebrated between brothers and sisters.

The film, directed by Aanand L. Rai, talks about just that!

Akshay says: "This movie is you can identify this character and what is happening with the character and the film with your own personal



life. So the identification of this whole film is very strong because everyone has siblings, if not then they have cousins and so I like to say just one thing that this film is my career's most beautiful film. I saw the movie so my expectation with the film..."

The comedy-drama also stars Bhumi Pednekar, Sadia Khateeb, Saheem Kaur, Smriti Srikanth and Deepika Khanna.

Akshay shared that he does not know how the film would do at the box-office,

but is sure that it will leave an imprint in the audience's minds.

"I don't know what the business is going to be like but this film is going to appeal to a lot of people's personal and family life and a lot of changes will happen. I said the same thing when I did 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha'. So, lot of changes happened with toilets then there was 'Padman'. It became an open topic to talk about sanitary pads which is an important aspect."

Kartik begins prep for 'Satyaprem Ki Katha', to reunite with Kiara

Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan, whose last film 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' proved to be a runaway success, has started working on his next project. The actor took to his social media to share a glimpse of the preps of the same.

He shared a BTS picture of himself from the script-reading session as he wrote on his Instagram: "Satyaprem Ki Katha" indicating that the prep for the film has begun.

'Satyaprem Ki Katha' will reunite Kartik with his 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' co-star Kiara Advani, whose last film 'Jugg Jugg Jeeyo' fared well at the box-office with a total domestic business of Rs 81.37 crore, as per senior film trade analyst Taran Adarsh.

'Satyaprem Ki Katha' will be produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, and is slated to release in 2023.

On the work front, Kartik has an interesting line-up of 'Shehzada', 'Captain India', 'Freddy' and director Kabir Khan's untitled next.



Raghav Langer inspects GMC-J doctor's residential enclave

Directs officials to immediately submit DPR's for renovation of the building complex

JAMMU, AUGUST 04: Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Dr. Raghav Langer today conducted a detailed inspection of Doctor's Residential Quarters of Government Medical College Jammu situated opposite to K.C Theatre Complex, Jammu. The said building complex is more than 45 years old and is presently in a dilapidated condition. Secretary Planning took a serious view of the same and directed the concerned Engineers and Departmental officials to immediately prepare the DPR's for major renovation of the said building complex and submit it to the Government for further appraisal. The Doctor's Enclave consists of total 14 Buildings comprising of 58 flats, besides parks/garden and common facilities. Chief Engineer, PWD Jammu, Manzoor Hussain, apprised the Secretary that the Preliminary Estimates for major internal repairs, exterior work, complete electric fitting and landscaping have been prepared and the DPR's shall be submitted shortly. Administrative



Secretary, Government Medical College Jammu, Ashwani Khajuria and Associated Hospitals, who accompanied the Administrative Secretary, was directed to follow up the same and in the meantime ensure cleaning of drains, bush cutting etc on immediate basis. Rajinder

Gupta, Superintending Engineer PDD (JPDCL) Jammu was directed to ensure necessary capacity augmentation and renovation of the sub-station building. Dr. Raghav Langer apprised the officers that Principal Secretary to Government, Health & Medical Education Department, on intimation regarding the state of affairs of the said building complex, has taken immediate cognizance of the issue. Administrator Government Medical College Jammu, Ashwani Khajuria and Associated Hospitals, who accompanied the Administrative Secretary, was directed to follow up the same and in the meantime ensure cleaning of drains, bush cutting etc on immediate basis. Rajinder

Horticulture department gears up for monsoon plantation in Samba

JAMMU, AUGUST 04: To gear up Monsoon fruit plantation in sub-tropical areas of Jammu Division, the Horticulture Department Samba today organised awareness cum interaction programmes here at Panchayat Utterbehani, Purmandal of district Samba. The event was chaired by Joint Director Horticulture Jammu, C. L. Sharma. DDC Member, Avtar Singh was the Guest of Honour of the event also attended by Chief Horticulture Officer Samba, Mukesh Sharma, District Horticulture Officer, Hamid Ahmed, HDO Purmandal, Shreshtha Gour, Sarpanch, Sunita Sharma, besides a large number of farmers including women and PRI members. Addressing the farmers / fruit growers, the Joint Director said that the objective of organizing such camps was to promote awareness among the farming community regarding the schemes of the department with special focus on plantation schemes. He said that the rainy season is best suited for new plantations, especially in the Kandi areas. He advised the farmers to develop orchards by adopting a cluster approach to avail maximum benefits of the departmental schemes. He impressed upon the farmers to adopt integrated farming in their fields and avail



the benefits of Aloe vera plantation, provision of bore well, water harvesting tanks, drip irrigation, mechanization, protected cultivation, tools & implements etc. for enhancing their income manifold. He further advised them to frequently interact with the field functionaries of the department to know about the new technologies and project the problems being faced by them in the fields. The Joint Director urged women farmers to establish individual units for fruit processing/ fruit drying/ spices preparation etc. for which the government has made available liberal funding in the department. The District Horticulture Officer Samba elaborated in detail about both the centrally and UT sponsored schemes of the department.

GHSS Ghat Celebrates Annual Day

DC advises students to hold group discussions to gain knowledge



DODA, AUGUST 04: Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Ghat on Thursday celebrated its Annual Day by organizing a mega event today, which was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner Vikas Sharma. The DDC inspected the science and other models made and displayed by the students and appreciated the efforts of teaching staff and the students. A colourful cultural programme was also present-

ed by the students of the school to showcase the cultural ethos and invoke patriotic feelings among the audience. On the occasion, the School Tarana, written by Master Sheikh Hafiz Furgani and School Magazine "Mehak" were also released by the Chief Guest (DDC). BDC Chairperson Ghat, Shareefa Begum; DDC Councillor Ghat, Gulshan Ara; Chief Education Officer, Prahalad Bhagat; Dis-

trict Information Officer, Mohammad Ashraf Wani; Principal GHSS Ghat Sudesh Kumar; Principal GHSS Trown Tanveer Ahmad Wani; Staff of the GHSS Ghat, Students and parents of the students participated in the programme. The DDC, while speaking on the occasion, applauded the efforts of the Principal, teachers and students for organizing a grand event to mark the annual day celebration. He urged the staff and the students to inculcate original ideas and discuss these with their peers to encourage group discussion. He stressed upon the students to imbibe the essence of democracy, learn tolerance and work for upholding the communal harmony and brotherhood in the society. He wanted the students to participate in sports activities and engrain in them the moral values to become good citizens.

GDC Pouni hosts series of contests ahead of Independence Day celebration

REASI, AUGUST 04: Government Degree College Pouni in last month organized a series of Inter-collegiate Singing, Debate and Essay Writing Competitions in the run up to the Independence Day Celebration and as part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav. The Cultural Committee conducted the events under the supreme guidance and supervision of the College Principal Prof. Rajni Bhagat. Prof. U S Liza, Convener Co-curricular and Cultural Activities Committee was the In-Charge of the event. The theme of the Debate and Essay Writing Competition was, "India After Independence. The event witnessed overwhelming participation of the college students. In Debate competition, the students strongly put forth their point of views by speaking for and against the topic and gave reasons to support their

arguments and statements. Around 20 students participated in the essay writing competition to commemorate the 75th Independence Day. Dr. Tarseem Kumar administered the Essay Writing Competition, while Prof. Balbir Kumar, Prof. Jaspal Singh and Prof. U S Liza evaluated the essays submitted by the students. The names of top two contestants of each event were forwarded to the Nodal College, GDC Reasi. With the winners of today's event a total six students, Shami Kumar and Deepak Sharma - the winners of Singing competition, Nusraat Jaan and Priya Sharma winners of Essay Writing Competition, and Vaishali Sharma and Monika Sharma the winners of Debate competition, along with Prof. Jaspal Singh went to Reasi College to compete in the District level.

Chairman DDC Doda calls for speedy construction of vital Road projects

DODA, AUGUST 04: Chairman District Development Council Doda Dhananter Singh Kotwal today asked the Forest and the Executing agencies to resolve the bottlenecks impeding construction of road projects taken up in different parts of the district. He was speaking at a meeting held in the conference hall of the DC office complex to discuss the status of road projects held up due to pending Forest clearances. The Chairman DDC sought updated details on each project being executed by PMGSY and PWD departments including the status of Joint inspections, uploading of documents on Parvesh Portal etc. Besides, he also sought reasons for the delay in the Forest clearances in favour of the held up projects. With regard to the projects yet not been uploaded on the



Parivesh portal, the Chairman asked the concerned to ensure immediate joint inspections and upload all the requisite documents. He also directed to follow the forest clearance cases for their timely disposal. The Chairman informed the functionaries that the general public was pining high hopes from these road projects. "The construction of these projects is also top priority of the District Development Council and needs special attention" he added. Other

council members also asked the departments to explore the possibilities for construction of more roads for the convenience of the general public. Among others present in the meeting were Vice Chairperson, DDC Sangeeta Rani Bhagat; DDC members, BDC Chairpersons, ADDC Doda, SE PWD, ACR Doda, DFO Bhaderwah, DFO Social Forestry, Ex En PMGSY Doda, Thathi, EX En PWD Doda, and other concerned officials.

Promotion of institutional plantation Floriculture deptt targets to cover 75 schools of Jammu Div

JAMMU, AUGUST 04: To promote institutional plantation and to inculcate the importance of growing trees among youth, Department of Floriculture Parks and Gardens Jammu, in collaboration with Department of School Education, on Thursday organised a plantation and cleanliness drive in Government Higher Secondary School Shastri Nagar here under the aegis of "Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav". On the direction of Principal Secretary School Education Department J&K, B. K. Singh and Commissioner/Secretary Floriculture Parks and Gardens J&K, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmed, the Department of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Jammu has set the target of organising plantation drives in 75 schools of Jammu Division to commemorate the country's 75 years of Independence. The plantation drive was inaugurated by Director Floriculture Jammu, S. Jatinder Singh and Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma in presence of CEO, Jammu, Suraj Singh Rathore, Deputy Director Floriculture, Sunil Singh, Principal GGSS, Shastri Nagar, Geetu Bangotra along with school staff, Floriculture Officers and Assistant Floriculture Officers of the Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Department Jammu.

Atal Dulloo calls for multiplying efforts under PMFME

JAMMU, AUGUST 4: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Atal Dulloo reviewed progress of Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) scheme in Jammu & Kashmir, in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here today. The centrally sponsored PM FME scheme aims at providing financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises. A PowerPoint presentation was given to the ACS in which the role of the scheme, respective capacity building measures, subsidies, use of common infrastructure and Common Incubation Centres etc were reviewed. He was presented action taken report and project implementation plan by senior officers at the meeting. It was informed that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI)

has sanctioned 3 Common Incubation Centres; for milk and its products in Narwal Jammu, for fish

their online training has been completed. The ACS asked the officers to ensure timely completion

approving loans of some candidates. The bank officials were given strict instructions in this regard

number of registrations and sanctioning of cases under the scheme needs to be ramped up for its suc-

cessful implementation. He also suggested that DCs hold regular meetings to solve issues pertaining to Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) and One District One Product (ODOP) initiative. The ACS directed officers to start preparing DPRs etc for new proposed Common Infrastructures. Conclusions were drawn on CIC at Samba for spices and pickles, and another at Chadoora which would be dedicated to dairy products. The officers were told to go ahead with tendering process in this regard. Non performing DRPs be replaced and vacant positions of DRPs be filled immediately, the ACS directed. DRPs must ensure that they encourage people's participation in this scheme, he maintained. The meeting was attended by Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing Vishesh Paul Mahajan; Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak; Director Agriculture Jammu, KK Sharma; Managing Director, J&K Agro Development Corporation, Arun Manhas among District Nodal Officers and others. Officers from Kashmir division and all districts participated through video conference.



in Achabal Anantnag and at Doabgah Sopore for apples. An indicative list of promotional activities planned by the departments was also shared with the ACS. It was informed that District Resource Persons (DRPs) have been appointed and

and compliance of training programmes. The ACS instructed the officers to take substantial steps in implementation of the scheme whose physical and financial progress would be assessed by him. The ACS expressed displeasure upon unwanted delay and dereliction on

and were also asked to submit detailed summary of rejected and pending cases along with plausible reasons. Similarly, the District Nodal Officers were also asked to analyse the causes of rejection and small number of registrations. The ACS said that the

and were also asked to submit detailed summary of rejected and pending cases along with plausible reasons. Similarly, the District Nodal Officers were also asked to analyse the causes of rejection and small number of registrations. The ACS said that the

Palli, Kartholi Panchayats take lead in creating Solid waste Management system

SAMBA, AUGUST 04: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta today launched Solid Waste Management Programme in Palli and Lower Kartholi Panchayats. The twin Panchayats have become first in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir to accomplish the task in an institutionalized manner. Panchayat Palli had shot to prominence when the Prime Minister of India addressed the maiden national PRI Conference from here to mark the celebration of National Panchayat Day on April 24, 2022. Over these months Palli Panchayat has witnessed unbridled development to become a model Panchayat for others to follow.

As part of the endeavour, a dedicated Solid Waste Management programme has been initiated in Palli and Kartholi Panchayats to develop these as the role models in respect of sanitation and cleanliness as envisaged in Swachh Bharat Mission. Rural Development Department, Samba has already constructed a Segregation shed where segregation and disposal of solid waste material shall be done by trained people. The local Panchayat has decided to charge a nominal amount as collection charges from each household and the waste so collected shall be recycled and disposed of in a scientific manner. With the administrative

support of RDD, Samba and the technical collaboration of the Regional and Urban development Agency (RUDA), the Panchayat would impart necessary training to volunteers as well as the manpower hired under the scheme to make waste disposal an income generating activity. Deputy Commissioner, Samba while speaking on the occasion, informed that this model will be replicated in every Panchayat in the district in coming days. BDC, Chairperson Bari-Brahmana, Rajni Devi also spoke about the benefits of the SWM system and assured to put in personal efforts to motivate people to contribute towards making the mission a success.

Sarpanch Palli, Randhir Sharma appreciated the efforts of the District administration in facilitating the setting up of the waste management system for the Panchayat and assured that each household shall actively participate in making Palli a Zero Waste Panchayat. A swachta pledge was also administered to the participants and technical presentation was made by Sanjeev Arora, CEO, RUDA. Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh; Assistant Commissioner Development, Sidharath Dhiman, Assistant Commissioner, Panchayat, DIO, BDO, Bari Brahmana, PRI members and local residents were also present.

DC Poonch reviews Independence Day- arrangements

POONCH, AUGUST 04: Deputy Commissioner, Inder Jeet today chaired a meeting of the concerned officers to review arrangements for the Independence Day- 2022 celebrations, here at Dak Bunglow. The DDC reviewed the necessary preparations, security arrangements, Barricading, decoration of venue, fault free public address system, seating arrangement, fire safety arrangements, cultural programme, parade preparations etc for Independence Day celebrations. The DC instructed the concerned departments to make the arrangements well in time for smooth celebration of the National Event. The meeting was informed that the main function will be held at sports stadium where the Chief Guest would unfurl the National Flag and take salute at the march past to be presented by contingents. Reviewing the security arrangements, the DC asked for adequate deployment of security personnel on all entry and exit points and around the main venue. The DC gave directions to the con-



cerned officers to launch a cleanliness drive in and around the venue. He also directed for putting in place health care arrangements at the venue. The SDMs were directed to make similar arrangements in block/tehsil level. The Deputy Commissioner directed the PDD and PHE to ensure uninterrupted Power and water supply on the Day of celebration. It was informed that Full Dress Rehearsal would be held on August 13 and screening of cultural activities at Sheesh Mahal on 10th of August 2022.

Boy's Body Found Day After He Drowned In River Neeru Bhadarwah

Tilak Raj Yogi: Bhadarwah, Aug 04 : Body of a 14-year-old boy was recovered on Thursday, a day after he drowned in Neeru Nallah near Bhalla in Doda district, officials said. They said body of Shamoon Hussain (14) son of Noor Hussain of Chilli Bhalessa, at present Village Kungla Tehsil Bhalla, was recovered at around 7 a.m. Officials further said that the teenage boy had drowned on Wednesday in the river Neeru at about 6pm. SHO Bhadarwah and incharge Police Post Bhalla Ankush Kumar along with locals had launched rescue and search operation for the boy since yesterday, finally this morning after hard work, the body of the boy was found near Bhalla, officials added. After performing medico-legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family for last rites.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG

the LG said. Vice Chairperson, J&K KVIB, Dr Hina Shafi Bhat on the occasion announced that the establishment of the Crewel embroidery cluster is one among many steps the Board is taking for promotion of traditional arts and crafts.

MHA

“In addition, employment for 5.2 lakh persons is estimated to have been created through self-employment schemes from August 2019 upto June 2022,” the Minister said. Rai also mentioned that district-wise information on the employment rate in Jammu and Kashmir is not available when Congress MPs Kapil Sibal, Rajani Ashokrao Patil and Phulo Devi Netam asked about the detailed employment rate in Jammu and Kashmir.

On August 5, 2019, the Parliament voted in favour of a resolution tabled by Home Minister Amit Shah to revoke the temporary special status, or autonomy, granted under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir had a special status granted under Article 370 and Article 35A (created through a Presidential Order) of the Constitution. The abrogation of Article 370 ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, and the erstwhile state was also carved out into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh.

The Minister in another reply also informed that the government has taken several measures that have significantly boosted the development of Jammu and Kashmir. The progress of 53 projects is being implemented at a cost of Rs 58,477 crores by 15 Ministries in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir under the Prime Minister's Development Package 2015 in sectors such as Roads, Power, Health, Education, Tourism, Agriculture, Skill Development etc. has been accelerated, said Rai.

He said, “29 projects have been completed or substantially completed and the remaining projects are at advanced stage of progress”.

A New Central Sector Scheme was notified on February 19 last year for the industrial development of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, with an outlay of Rs 28,400 crores, said the Minister, adding “Jammu and Kashmir has received investment applications of more than Rs 54,000 crore. Out of which projects worth more than Rs 36,000 crore have been allotted industrial land.”

Under the languishing projects programme, Rai said, 1,193 projects worth Rs 1,984 crores were completed, including five projects which were incomplete for more than 20 years, 15 projects for more than 15 years and 165 projects for more than 10 years.

145 Centrally Sponsored Schemes, including 19 flagship programmes are under implementation in the UT of J&K, mentioned the MoS. He said 100 per cent saturation has been achieved in 17 Individual beneficiary-centric schemes, including Saubhagya, Ujala, Ujjwala and Indradhanush schemes.

J&K has been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) under Swachh Bharat Mission and the construction work of 17,601 km of road under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) has been completed up to March 2022, which has connected 2074 places, said Rai.

During 2020-21 and 2021-22, the MoS said, J&K ranked 3rd at National Level in terms of road length achieved under PMGSY. “Banihal tunnel and Chenani-Nashri tunnel completed and opened to traffic. Rambagh flyover in Srinagar completed and opened to the public.”

COVID

Till date 6698643 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 137 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 4991 in isolation and 294 in home surveillance. Besides, 6688447 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases for today, the Bulletin informs that in Kashmir division, Srinagar reported 248 cases, Baramulla reported 156 cases, Budgam 80 cases, Pulwama reported 15 cases, Kupwara reported 45 cases, Anantnag reported 40 cases, Bandipora reported 22 cases, Ganderbal reported 06 cases, Kulgam reported 23 cases while as Shopian reported 02 fresh cases for today.

Similarly in Jammu division, Jammu reported 59 cases, Udhampur 10, Rajouri 05, Doda 18, Kathua 11, Samba 05, Kishtwar 15, Poonch 07, Ramban 11 and Reasi has reported 01 case.

GOA

former chief secretary of Goa, Parimal Rai as the first head of Union Territory's Real Estates Regulatory Authority (RERA).

The Housing & Urban Development Department has issued a notification appointing Parimal Rai, a retired IAS officer of AGMUT cadre, as head of Jammu & Kashmir Real Estates Regulatory Authority.

“In exercise of the powers conferred by section 22 of Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir appoint Parimal Rai, IAS (retired), as chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA),” reads the notification. As per order, the appointment of chairperson RERA shall take effect from the date he assumes the charge of the post of the Authority.

“The chairperson of the Authority shall not hold any other office. The terms and conditions of the appointment shall be notified separately,” reads the notification.

Rai, who attained superannuation in January this year, also served as adviser to administrator of Chandigarh Union Territory.

The chairperson of the Authority is appointed by the Government on recommendations of a selection committee consisting of the chief Justice of the High Court or his nominee, the Secretary of the Department dealing with Housing and the Law Secretary. The person shall have adequate knowledge of and professional experience of at least 20 years in urban development, housing, real estate development, infrastructure, economics, technical experts from relevant fields, planning, law, commerce, accountancy, industry, management, social service, public affairs or administration.

The RERA is a body mandated to monitor the real estate sector and adjudicate disputes related to real-estate projects

CORRUPTION

The ACB police station in Srinagar, which also covers graft cases in Ganderbal and Budgam districts, had a total of 32 cases in the corresponding period.

Baramulla police station of the ACB, which also covers Bandipora and Kupwara districts, reported 23 cases while the Anantnag police station covering four south Kashmir districts had 13 cases, as per the ACB data.

In the Jammu province, the data showed that corruption is much less with only 19 cases registered in 10 districts. Jammu police station of the ACB reported 11 cases in the first seven months while Doda police station reported five cases.

The ACB central police station registered five graft cases in the first seven months of the year, the data stated.

HAR GHAR

institutions in the district. Under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, people of Anantnag

district have also started hoisting tricolor on rooftops of their houses.

“The locals are very happy and are in a positive mood for this campaign”, said a local resident. The Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force and the Army also joined the campaign by hoisting the National flag at their posts and office buildings.

In a tweet, BSF Kashmir said, “Participation of @BSF_Kashmir in #HarGharTiranga campaign with the celebration of the 75th year of independence for a commitment to nation-building”.

‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ is a campaign under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage people to bring the Tiranga home and to hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's independence.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

PM Modi on Sunday called upon all citizens to turn the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign into a mass movement by hoisting or displaying the national flag at their homes and using the ‘Tiranga’ as a display picture on their social media accounts between August 2 and August 15 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.”

“Under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, from the 13th to the 15th of August, a special movement – ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ is being organized. Let us further this movement by hoisting the National Flag at our homes,” said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday while addressing the monthly radio programme ‘Mann Ki Baat’.

TRIRANGA

over 1000 Shri Amarnathji yatris, Sanitation Workers, and other stakeholders to commemorate 75 years of Independence of country to celebrate ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.’ The rally was flagged off and led by Thakur Sher Singh, Camp Director Panchtarni.

The participants hoisted flags on the tents in the camp while the environment was reverberated with slogans like Vande Matram and Bharat Mata ki Jai.

The objective of the rally was to spread awareness regarding ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ initiative of the Government of India that aims to inspire every Indian to hoist the National Flag at their home and to invoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the citizen and promote awareness about the National Flag.

Yatra Officer, SP Surinder Choudhary, Addl. Camp Directors Sanjay Gupta, Chand Singh, Deepak Kumar, Deputy Commandant BSF Santosh Singh, Nodal Officer Sanitation Jahid Azad, Magistrate Manzoor Ahmed Wani, Maj Vipin COY, 2IC ITBP Rana, Commander 2/11 GR, Deputy Commandant CRPF Ajay Raj, Cap Khatana CRPF, Deputy Camp Director Daljeet Singh, DyCom BSF Pawan Singh, Cap Khatana BSF, DySP Rajinder, DySP Rishi Singh, Sub Inspector Sunil Verma, SHO Panjarni Nazir Ahmed, officers from NDRF, SDRF among others were present on the occasion.

NON LOCAL

hammad Jaloo of Sakwa Parsa, Bihar. Injured have been identified as Mohammad Arif son of Mohammad Aziz and Mohammad Majbood

HANDWARA

spot on seeing the search party.

He said, on personal search, arms and ammunition including one Pistol, one pistol magazine, seven pistol rounds and two grenades were recovered from their possession.

“Preliminary investigations have revealed that the individuals were tasked to carry out militant attacks in Handwara, cause loss of life and injuries to the public and to disrupt peace in the area. The timely action by the security forces prevented the militants from carrying out the attack, added he.

The spokesman identified the trio as Manzoor Ahmed Kumar son of Aziz Kumar resident of Sagipora, Showkat Ahmed Bhat son of Mushtaq Ahmed of Khanu Babagund and Name withheld until age ascertained, he said.

A formal case under FIR No. 213/2022 u/s 13 UAPA and 7/25 Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Handwara and investigation set into motion.

SIM CARD

documents.

SIA spokesman in a statement said the probe agency filed charge sheet before the Court in Kupwara in a case FIR No. 08/2022 u/s 420, 468, 471, 120-B, 201 IPC of P/S CIK/SIA against two accused persons namely Idress Ahmad Baba @ Idress Pir son of Abdul Ahmad resident of Wuder Payeen Handwara and Asif Ahmad Dar son of Mohammad Jamal Dar resident of Khaipora Rajwara Handwara who are in judicial custody.

The spokesperson said the duo are agents of franchisee namely Bin-amin communi

DIGITAL

Days after the incident, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had said that he has requested the Surveyor General of India to conduct a DCM around Amarnath Cave and its adjoining areas.

DGP

with more dedication for the people and the department. He wished them good luck for the future. Meanwhile DGP flagged off a fleet of Bullet Resistant Marksman Tactical Intervention Light Motor Vehicles at Armed Police Complex Humhama.

The DGP also inaugurated the Containerized Shooting Range during a function at the complex in Budgam district.

The DGP said that these vehicles with enhanced safety measures have Run Flat Tyre system with Pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) cameras installed and are with high safety requirements would be deployed with CRPF for special duties. He appreciated ADGP Headquarters, AIG Provision & Transport PHQ and their team for working in fast track mode for procuring these vehicles. “A large number of vehicles have come and a lot more will follow,” the DGP added.

The DGP also inaugurated a Containerized Shooting Range at Humhama, Budgam during which DGP and Spl. DG CRPF fired some practice rounds on the occasion.

The 40 feet long air conditioned Containerized Shooting Range (CTSR) meets all international standards of safety and pollution with software capability of decreasing and increasing firing range of up to 300 mtrs can be utilized 24x7 and can easily be transported to any other location. The shooter can fire in standing, kneeling and lying positions and it has Electronic Multi-Function Targets and Virtual targets systems. The CTSR has one Control Station each outside the Container and a monitoring tab near the shooter to monitor the firing and the control station is capable of printing the firing result of the shooter. The ISO certified system is capable of displaying and recording shot location on the target, possible score, aggregate score, indicate mean point of impact, indicate type of exercise in progress, show group size and MPI.

DELEGATION

for making the nation-wide Mega Blood Donation Drive a huge success.

MIRWAIZ

Valley. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq used to deliver the weekly sermons in the mosque before his detention on August 4, 2019.

While most other politicians including National Conference leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, Peoples' Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti and People's Conference head Sajad Lone, were released in due course, Mirwaiz, 49, who is considered to be the most moderate among separatist leaders, continued to remain incarcerated at his Nigeen home in Srinagar.

His party said the detention is a gross violation of his fundamental and basic human rights. “All channels of communication to him are blocked and outreach to people, friends and party cadre, barred,” the Hurriyat said in a statement.

“It seems our chairperson is being punished for pleading the cause of resolution of the lingering Kashmir conflict through peaceful means of dialogue and deliberations,” it said, demanding that the government release all Kashmiri political prisoners including Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and “resume the process of conflict resolution through peaceful means, which is dialogue”.

Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone said that Mirwaiz was a moderate religious voice, representing the true essence of Islam, in the war against radicalism. He appealed to home minister Amit Shah and J&K lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha for his immediate release.

“We may differ politically but Mirwaiz is our religious leader. We are all Muslims here and in the war between the radicals and the moderates, our hope is Mirwaiz. That moderate hope is in detention. He can't go anywhere, can't perform Nikah of people and can't advocate his moderate Islamic teachings,” Lone said.

PDP spokesperson Mohit Bhan said that the incarceration of the religious head of 8 million people will not win the hearts and minds of Kashmiris: “This is a sad state. One may differ with someone on political lines, but a person's political ideology must not be used to disallow him from discharging his religious duties,” he said.

The National Conference (NC) also sought the release of Mirwaiz saying his continued detention was violative of basic human rights.

NC's chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said, “Notwithstanding our disagreements with Mirwaiz sahib, we mince no words to express our concern on his continued incarceration. Our constitution provides for freedom of conscience and the rights of all individuals to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion. The same should not be denied to Mirwaiz. His prolonged detention hurts the religious sentiments of people, who would otherwise hear the pulpit and spirals of Jamia Masjid reverberate with his sermons, especially on Fridays”.

DPIIT, Govt of India appreciate SKUAST-Jammu

JAMMU, AUGUST 04: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has appreciated SKUAST-Jammu for exceptional contribution in successfully organizing the awareness programme on Intellectual Property Rights on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Independence under the banner “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. J. P. Sharma congratulates Director Research and his team for receiving appreciation at national level and advised to organize such type of activities in future also. He also highlighted the importance of filing patents and protecting innovations and said that these programmes are beneficial for faculty and students.

The programme was organized in association with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (RGNIPM), Government of India, Nagpur, Maharashtra. The workshop was conducted by Pooja Vishal Maulikar, Examiner of Patents and Designs, RGNIPM, Nagpur. Maulikar in her talk gave an overview of IP offices, trainings imparted by RGNIPM, types of intellectual property, patent specification structure and documents required for patent filing. She also discussed about basic fee structure, patent grant procedure and registration of designs.

Earlier, Director Research, Prof. Pardeep Wali threw light on the different initiatives taken in this direction under the guidance of Prof. J. P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. He further added that steps are being taken to strengthen the IPR cell of the University for facilitating the scientists and scholars in filing patents.

The workshop was attended by more than 120 participants comprising of faculty members and students from SKUAST Jammu and neighbouring institutions and co-ordinated by Prof. R. K. Salgotra, Coordinator, School of Biotechnology and Prof. Manish Kumar Sharma, Head, Division of Statistics and Computer Science. Vote-of-Thanks was presented by Prof. Sanjay Guleria, Faculty Incharge, Counselling and Placement cell and Head, Division of Biochemistry who was also convener of the workshop.

Cultivation of Cordyceps Mushroom holds huge Potential for Entrepreneurship Development: VC SKUAST-J

JAMMU, AUGUST 04: Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. JP Sharma, and Former Additional Director, DRDO, Dr. Sumati Sharma visited Division of Biochemistry, SKUAST-J to have an overview of the research initiative being taken up by the Division regarding standardization of cultivation technology and improving the cordycepin content in Cordyceps mushroom, commonly known as Keedajadi mushroom.

He was accompanied by Registrar Prof. S.K. Gupta, Director Research Prof. Pardeep Kumar Wali, Dean, faculty of Agriculture, Prof. A.K. Mondal, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences, Prof. S.E.H. Rizvi, Controller of Examination, Prof. Rajinder Peshin, Comptroller, Madan Lal, Nodal Officer, ICAR, Dr. Anil Kumar and other officers of the University. He interacted with Prof. Moni Gupta and her team working on this highly prized mushroom and advised them to explore natural reserves to have more scientific understanding of the mushroom.

Cordyceps mushroom generally collected from the high altitude forests of Himalayas is sold at a price of 3 to 4 lakhs per kilogram. It is also known as Himalayan Viagra and is a medicinal mushroom with proven anti-aging and other beneficial medicinal and therapeutic properties. Its cultivation can be taken up by the mushroom growers as an enterprise fetching very high returns.

On this occasion Pavleen Kour, research scholar working on this mushroom gave a detailed powerpoint presentation about the various aspects of this mushroom on which work is being carried out by their team. The team also interacted with Prof. Sanjay Guleria, Head, Division of Biochemistry and Dr. Vikas Sharma, Associate Professor. All the visiting dignitaries appreciated the research work and hoped that in the near future the Division of Biochemistry will come up with a package for cultivation of this mushroom and entrepreneurship opportunities shall be explored for cultivation of this mushroom on a commercial scale. Biochemistry and Dr. Vikas Sharma, Associate Professor. All the visiting dignitaries appreciated the research work and hoped that in the near future the Division of Biochemistry will come up with a package for cultivation of this mushroom and entrepreneurship opportunities shall be explored for cultivation of this mushroom on a commercial scale.

'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign: Tiranga rally organized at Panchtarni



PANCHTARNI, AUGUST 04: As part of the ongoing 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, a massive Tiranga Rally was held today at Panchtarni Base Camp enroute Shri Amarnath Shrine.

The rally witnessed a participation of about 3000 people and was held at a height of more than 12,000. The rally exuded an environment of nationalist and patriotic fervour.

The rally was jointly held by civil and security agencies, over 1000 Shri Amarnathji yatris, Sanitation Workers, and other stakeholders to commemorate 75 years of Independence of country to celebrate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.' The rally was flagged off and led by Thakur Sher Singh, Camp Director Panchtarni.

The participants hoisted flags on the tents in the camp while the environment was reverberated with slogans like Vande Matram and Bharat Mata ki Jai.

The objective of the rally was to spread awareness regarding 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative of the Government of India that aims to inspire every Indian to hoist the National Flag at their home and to invoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the citizen and promote awareness about the National Flag.

Yatra Officer, SP Surinder Choudhary, Addl. Camp Directors Sanjay Gupta, Chand Singh, Deepak Kumar, Deputy Commandant BSF Santosh Singh, Nodal Officer Sanitation Jahid Azad, Magistrate Manzoor Ahmed Wani, Maj Vipin COY, 2IC ITBP Rana, Commander 2/11 GR, Deputy Commandant CRPF Ajay Raj, Cap Khatana CRPF, Deputy Camp Director Daljeet Singh, DyCom BSF Pawan Singh, Cap Khatana BSF, DySP Rajinder, DySP Rishi Singh, Sub Inspector Sunil Verma, SHO Panjarni Nazir Ahmed, officers from NDRF, SDRF among others were present on the occasion.

District level competitions organised in Jammu under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

JAMMU, AUGUST 04: District Level Singing, Debates and Easy Writing competitions, under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, were today organized by Chief Education Office (CEO) Jammu in collaboration with District Administration here at Teacher Bhawan, Gandhi Nagar.

The essay writing competition and debate/declamation competitions were held on the themes of Atam Nirbhar Bharat; Unsung heroes of Indian History; India's achievement in the field of Science and space technology; Digital India; relevance of Gandhian Philosophy in pre/post independence; India and India's struggle for independence. The students from all zones of District Jammu participated enthusiastically and graced the function with melodious patriotic songs and other activities. Chief Education Officer Jammu, Suraj Singh Rathore wished good luck to all participants and motivated them to inculcate a habit of increasing their participation in cultural and debate activities. He further stated that competitions were conducted first at school level then at zonal level and today the district level competition has been conducted in all three categories.

Deputy CEO Jammu, Ashok Raina appreciated the efforts put in by the teachers and parents who come from far off places to participate in the function. He remembered the great sacrifices made by the freedom fighters and congratulated the Cultural & Education Cell district Jammu, who worked under the special guidance of Cultural & Education Cell, Director School Education Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest, Assistant Commissioner General, Rakesh Dubey congratulated the participants and said that Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was being celebrated throughout the country to pay homage to the national heroes of pre and Post Independence periods. He appreciated the efforts being put in by the Education department in general and Chief Education Officer, Jammu in particular.

The contestants were judged by different panels of Jury comprising Subhash Singh, Lecturer GHSS Mubarak Mandi, Ravinder Kour, Lect. GHSS Shastrri Nagar and Ashok Kumar, Master, GHS Mehran Mandrian for Singing competition; Eera Padha, Lect. SRML GHSS, Renu Bala, Lect. Mubarak Mandi, Kanchan Kumari Sharma, Lect. GHSS Shastrri Nagar and Jai Karan, Lect. GGSS Gandhi Nagar for Easy Writing competition and Sujata, Lect. GG-HSS Mubarak Mandi and Shivani Pathania, Lect. HSS R S Pura for debate competition.

Lakshay Dalotra of Govt. Hr Sec School SRML, Jammu, Arush Kalsotra of GHSS, SRML Jammu and Kumkum of GHSS Bahufort clinched the first positions in Singing, Debate and Essay Writing competitions, respectively. They will further compete at provincial level competitions as scheduled by the administration. Anjana Khajuria, GHSS Nowabad presided over the event. The function concluded with the singing of the National Anthem. A large number of students, teachers from different zones of district Jammu besides other officials were present on the occasion.

E office working system launched in all Subdivisions, tehsils of Rajouri district

RAJOURI, AUGUST 04: Marking a major step towards ensuring transparency and accountability in the Government institutions, e-office working system was started in the all subdivisions and tehsils of the Rajouri district, here today.

The system was launched by the Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal in presence of ADC Rajouri, Sachin Dev Singh; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; DSEO, Sandeep Sharma and others. The E-Office system is an integrated file and records management system that allows employees to manage content, search for data internally and collaborate. The file system also enables the electronic movement and the tracking of files, and the archival and retrieval of data.

The DDC said that e-office system is a digital workplace solution comprising a suite of products that paves the way for an efficient and open Govt by streamlining workflow for both inter and intra Govt processes and making them paperless. He added that the e-office system will help to support Governance by ushering in more effective and transparent inter and Intra-Government processes.

Underlining the significance of the E Office system, the DDC elaborately highlighted the facilities available in the system for better services delivery to the citizen. Stating that e-Office has been introduced in the district to enhance transparency, accountability and ensure data security & data integrity, he said that it will also help in promoting innovation by releasing staff energy and time from unproductive procedures.

He also said that the system will not only provide full confidentiality of the office files but will also save the officials from the worries of space management.

India "Dependable Friend, Reliable Partner" Of Sri Lanka: S Jaishankar

Phnom Penh: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday held his first meeting with newly-appointed Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry and reaffirmed India's commitment as a dependable friend and reliable partner to the economic recovery of the island nation.

S Jaishankar is in Phnom Penh to attend the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting, an annual event that takes stock of the ASEAN-India partnership.

"A warm first meeting with FM Ali Sabry of Sri Lanka. Congratulated him on his new responsibility. Reaffirmed India's commitment, as a dependable friend and reliable partner, to the economic recovery and well-being of Sri Lanka. Neighbourhood First," Mr Jaishankar tweeted.

S Jaishankar has held several bilateral meetings on the margins of the ASEAN event. He had met his counterparts from Indonesia, Brunei and Singapore. "ASEAN-India Meetings provide opportunities to catch up with valued colleagues and friends. Continued conversations with FM Retno Marsudi of Indonesia, FM Dato Haji Erywan of Brunei and FM @VivianBala of Singapore," he said.

In his meeting with Singapore foreign minister Vivian Balakrishnan, S Jaishankar held a discussion on issues like Indo-Pacific, Covid-19, and Myanmar. He also promised to maintain the



momentum of the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during his meeting with foreign minister Bui Thanh Son. A productive ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting at Phnom Penh. Thank Singapore FM @VivianBala and ASEAN colleagues for a good discussion. Strong convergence on Indo-Pacific, UNCLOS, Connectivity, Covid-19, Terrorism, Cyber Security, Ukraine and Myanmar," the minister said.

Before meeting with Singapore FM, S Jaishankar also held talks with Australia's Penny Wong and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. With Blinken, the external affairs minister discussed India-US relationship and the global situation.

"A warm conversation to start meetings on sidelines of ASEAN Ministerial in Phnom Penh. Discussed the ever-strengthening India-US relationship and the global situation with US Secretary of State @SecBlinken," he said.

In a statement issued by the US State Department, Blinken said that it is an opportunity for both the leaders to compare notes on areas of mutual interest including the free and open Indo-Pacific and Sri Lanka crisis.

"Taking part in the ASEAN meetings is the opportunity for us to get together and compare notes with our closest partners, starting with my longtime friend, Indian

Foreign Minister Jaishankar," Blinken said in the statement. S Jaishankar is in Phnom Penh to attend the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting, an annual event that takes stock of the ASEAN-India partnership.

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As China Ship Heads For Lanka Port, Why India Is Concerned

New Delhi: A Chinese research and survey ship is due to dock in the Chinese-run Hambantota Port in southern Sri Lanka on August 11, leading India to closely monitor the situation.

Here's your 10-point cheatsheet to this big story:

Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry media spokesman Colonel Nalin Herath said Sri Lanka understands India's concern as the ship is capable of monitoring military installations, but it's a routine exercise.

"Naval ships from India, China, Russia, Japan and Malaysia from time to time have requested, and so we have granted permission to China. Only when there is a nuclear-capable ship coming our way we can deny access. This is not a nuclear-capable kind of ship," said Colonel Herath, adding China informed Sri Lanka they are sending the ship for surveillance and navigation in the Indian Ocean.

The Chinese ship, Yuan Wang 5, has requested Sri Lanka permission for replenishment. The buffer time for docking is from August 11 to 17.

"China informed us that they are sending their ship for surveillance and navigation in the Indian Ocean," Colonel Herath said.

Sources in Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry said the Chinese ship is a "very capable, advanced naval vessel with a lot of sophisticated parts on board."

A similar situation had unfolded in 2014 when two Chinese submarines came to Hambantota Port, leading to a tense situation. China then did not even inform Sri Lanka, let alone India, that they had sent a submarine. Since then, there have been no such Chinese submarine visits to Sri Lanka's ports.

India has made it clear it will closely monitor "any bearing on India's secu-



rity and economic interests and takes all necessary measures to safeguard them".

India remains suspicious of China's growing influence in Sri Lanka, which owes large amounts of money to Beijing for infrastructure projects, including the \$1.4-billion Hambantota Port.

Sri Lanka gave a Chinese company a 99-year lease on the port, located along the main East-West international shipping lanes, in 2017 after being unable to keep up with debt repayments on the facility. Sri Lanka defaulted on its \$51 billion in foreign debts in April and has since opened bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund.

The country's 22 million people have been enduring severe shortages of food, fuel and medicines since late last year when the government ran out of foreign exchange to finance most imports. Sri Lanka gave a Chinese company a 99-year lease on the port, located along the main East-West international shipping lanes, in 2017 after being unable to keep up with debt repayments on the facility. Sri Lanka defaulted on its \$51 billion in foreign debts in April and has since opened bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund.

France discriminated against hijab-wearing vocational trainee: UN document

A United Nations committee ruled that France discriminated against a Muslim woman who was prevented from attending vocational training in a public school while wearing her headscarf, according to a UN document.

In 2010, Naïma Mezhoud, now aged 45, was due to train as a management assistant at a course held in a state high school, where teenagers are prohibited by law from wearing the hijab.

When she arrived, the head teacher of the school in the northern outskirts of Paris barred her from entering, according to the document which was seen by Reuters.

Six years earlier, in 2004, France had banned the wearing of hijabs and other visible religious symbols in state schools by school children. Read: EU court says hijab can be banned at work under certain conditions. Mezhoud argued that as a higher-education student, she should not have been targeted by the law.

"The committee concludes that the refusal to allow (Mezhoud) to participate in the training while wearing her headscarf constitutes a gender and religious-based act of discrimination," the UN Human Rights Committee determined, according to the document. A UN source confirmed the authenticity of the document. The interior ministry and foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Eknath Shinde Unwell, Devendra Fadnavis On Way To Delhi With Cabinet List

Mumbai: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is on way to Delhi to confer with the BJP leadership about the final list for the state cabinet, which needs urgent decision with the assembly session due to begin later this month. Cabinet expansion has been pending since June 30, when Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Mr Fadnavis took oath. If signed off by the BJP's central leaders, the Cabinet expansion might happen tomorrow, sources said.

Mr Shinde, who is unwell, is skipping the trip. Sources said the Chief Minister is suffering from over-exertion and has been advised rest by his doctors. Mr Shinde has cancelled all his programmes after the doctors' rec-

ommendation, sources said.

Mr Shinde and Mr Fadnavis had visited Delhi last on July 27, with a draft of the cabinet list. But no decision could be taken, with too many aspirants for the maximum 43 seats in the cabinet including the Chief Minister.

Shiv Sena leaders who supported Mr Shinde during his two-week rebellion and helped topple the Uddhav Thackeray government, expect to be rewarded. So does the BJP for its behind-the-screen role. Sources said the contention for key portfolios extend to the very top. As the Chief Minister, Mr Shinde has his eyes on the plum portfolios. Mr Fadnavis - a former Chief Minister who has been persuaded to take up the role of Mr Shinde's deputy by the BJP's



chief strategist Amit Shah and party chief JP Nadda -- is not willing to back down in this area, sources have indicated. Maharashtra has had a two-

man cabinet since Mr Shinde and the BJP's Devendra Fadnavis took oath on June 30. The BJP and the Sena faction led by Mr Shinde have been unable

to come to an understanding about the power sharing in the cabinet, sources have indicated. Mr Shinde, who is unwell, is skipping the trip. Sources said the Chief Minister is suffering from over-exertion and has been advised rest by his doctors. Mr Shinde has cancelled all his programmes after the doctors' recommendation, sources said.

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Taliban say investigating US claim of killing Al Qaeda leader Zawahiri

The Taliban are investigating a US "claim" that Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed in a US drone strike in Kabul, a Taliban official said on Thursday, indicating the group's leadership were not aware of his presence there. The US killed Zawahiri with a missile fired from a drone while he stood on a balcony at his Kabul hideout on Sunday, US officials said, in the biggest blow to the militants since Osama bin Laden was shot dead more than a decade ago.

"The government and the leadership wasn't aware of what is being claimed, nor any trace there," Suhail Shaheen, the designated Taliban representative to the United Nations, who is based in Doha, told journalists in a message.

"Investigation is underway now to find



out about the veracity of the claim," he said, adding that the results of the investigation would be shared publicly. Taliban leaders have remained largely tight-lipped about the Sunday drone strike and have not confirmed the pres-

ence or death of Zawahiri in Kabul.

Top Taliban leaders have been holding lengthy discussions about how to respond to the US drone strike, three sources in the group said.

How the Taliban react could have significant repercussions as the group seeks international legitimacy and access to billions of dollars in frozen funds, following their defeat of a US-backed government a year ago.

Zawahiri, an Egyptian doctor, was closely involved in the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US and was one of the world's most wanted men.

His death in Kabul raises questions about whether he received sanctuary from the Taliban, who had assured the United States as part of a 2020.

Kremlin says China has the right to hold military drills around Taiwan

The Kremlin said on Thursday that China had the sovereign right to hold major military drills around Taiwan and accused the United States of artificially fuelling tensions in the region.

China fired multiple missiles around Taiwan on Thursday as it launched unprecedented military drills a day after a visit by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the self-ruled island that Beijing regards as its sovereign territory.

Asked about China's drills, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "This is China's sovereign right."

"The tension in the region and around Taiwan was provoked... by the visit of Nancy Pelosi," Peskov told reporters on a conference call. "It was an absolutely unnecessary visit and an unnecessary provocation."

Pelosi was the highest-profile elected US official to visit Taiwan in 25 years, and said her trip made it "unequivocally clear" that the United States would not abandon a democratic ally.

It sparked a furious reaction



from Beijing, which vowed "punishment" and announced military drills in the seas around Taiwan - some of the world's busiest waterways.

The exercises, which began around 12 pm (0400 GMT), involve "live-firing", according to state media.

The exercises are taking place in multiple zones around Taiwan - at some points within just 20 kilometres (12 miles) of the shore - and will conclude at midday on Sunday.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it was closely watching the

drills. "The Ministry of National Defence stresses that it will uphold the principle of preparing for war without seeking war, and with an attitude of not escalating conflict and causing disputes," it said in a statement.

Taiwan's 23 million people have long lived with the possibility of an invasion, but that threat has intensified under President Xi Jinping, China's most assertive ruler in a generation.

The island is once again a

flashpoint between the United States and a Chinese leadership keen to project strength ahead of a crucial ruling party meeting this autumn at which Xi is expected to be given an unprecedented third term. Asked about China's drills, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "This is China's sovereign right."

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China begins major Taiwan military drills after Pelosi visit

China's largest-ever military exercises encircling Taiwan kicked off Thursday, in a show of force straddling vital international shipping lanes after a visit to the island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi left Taiwan Wednesday after a trip that defied a series of stark threats from Beijing, which views the self-ruled island as its territory.

Pelosi was the highest-profile elected US official to visit Taiwan in 25 years, and said her trip made it "unequivocally clear" that the United States would not abandon a democratic ally.

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"Six major areas around the

island have been selected for this actual combat exercise and during this period, relevant ships and aircraft should not enter the relevant waters and airspace," state broadcaster CCTV reported.

AFP journalists in the border island of Pingtan saw several small projectiles flying into the sky followed by plumes of white smoke and loud booming sounds.

AFP was not in a position to identify the projectiles, which were fired from the proximity of nearby military installations, nor their precise direction.

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Also read: Seven decades of China-Taiwan tensions. Taiwan's defence ministry said it was closely watching the drills.

FM.Premiere League Baramulla Azad Gunj Salman Khan Leads Kreeri-XI Thrashing Of Arampora-XI HMT By 87 Runs

Lone Musaib



Baramulla :- Kreeri-XI sealed the Victory in their first match of FM.Premiere League Baramulla Azad Gunj by a huge margin of 87 runs. Opener Waheed Bashir and Salman Khan were untroubled at the Crease before the opponent bowlers as lead the Kreeri-XI 89 runs opening partnership. Salman Khan played a quick-fire innings of 72 runs off 53 balls while Waheed Bashir added 38 runs of 25 balls to put the total of 203/4 in allotted 20 overs. In reply Arampora-XI HMT lost the match by a huge margin of 87 runs. Adil Ahmad, Rizwan Wani and Vikas Maqbool took the advantage in the second half of the match from the pitch and bundled-out Arampora-XI HMT for 116 in 18.2 overs. Arif Nangoo show some potential and played a knock of 32 runs off 28 balls but failed to make his team to home. Adil Ahmad took 3 wickets while Rizwan Wani and Vikas Maqbool took 2 wickets each for Kreeri-XI. Salman Khan was adjudged player of the match for his splendid innings.

Attachments area

Ten Hag tells Ronaldo to improve match fitness after missing United's pre-season

Manchester United manager Erik Ten Hag said Cristiano Ronaldo could fit into his style of play but that the forward would need to build up his fitness before getting the chance to prove he deserves a place in the team. Ronaldo did not join United's squad for their pre-season tour to Thailand and Australia and was left out of a friendly defeat to Atletico Madrid, but played 45 minutes in a 1-1 draw with Rayo Vallecano on Sunday. Asked if the Portugal international can fit into his vision of how he wants United to play, Ten Hag told Sky Sports: "I think he can. "But to start with he has to get fit, he's just started. He is a fantastic football player, he proved it so many times, but you can always be judged on what you are now, what you are presenting now, performing now." Ronaldo's future at United has been the subject of intense speculation after British media reported that the 37-year-old told the club that he wanted to leave so he can play in the Champions League. United, who will play in the second-tier Europa League this term, open their Premier League campaign on Sunday against Brighton & Hove Albion.

Pool queen Emma McKeon makes history as Jacob Kiplimo dances to 10,000 win



BIRMINGHAM: Australian swim star Emma McKeon made Commonwealth Games history on Tuesday by winning her 19th medal as Jacob Kiplimo raced to victory in the 10,000m on the first day of track and field. McKeon pulled one ahead of shooters Michael Gault and Phil Adams and fellow swim star Chad le Clos, who has endured a nightmare Games in Birmingham. The 30-year-old South African had looked set to take the record himself when he came to Birmingham but so far he has just a silver medal to show for his efforts. On another dramatic night of action in the pool, Adam Peaty showed the mentality that has brought him three Olympic titles.

First T20 Super Cup Janwara Zaingair Qazi Junaid Helps United-XI Ganderbal, Comfortable Win Over Lala-XI Sopore By 5 Wickets

Lone Musaib



Sopore :- Qazi Junaid's 53 ball 76 run inning helps United-XI Ganderbal a 5-Wicket Comfortable Win over Lala-XI Sopore on Thursday here. Batting first Lala-XI Sopore were bundled-out for 154 runs in 19.1 overs. Amir Majeed remains highest run-getter with 50 runs off 35 balls. Amir took 3 wickets for United-XI Ganderbal while Mubashir and Haroon took 2 wickets each. In reply United-XI Ganderbal chased the target comfortably in 19.1 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. Qazi Junaid was adjudged player of the match for his splendid knock.

Sansad Khel Spardha- 2022

Ramban team clinches inter- block district level Kabbadi title

RAMBAN, AUGUST 04: District Administration, Ramban today organized Inter-Block District-Level Kabbadi Tournament under Sansad Khel Spardha, 2022 here under the aegis of the Union Minister in PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh.



The tournament was formally inaugurated by the Chairperson, District Development Council, Ramban, Dr. Shamsad Shan at Government Higher Secondary, Ramban here today. The President, MC, Ramban, Sunita Sumbria, DDC Councillor, Rakesh Thakur and Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Sharma were the guests of honour on the occasion. Chief Education Officer Ramban, Devanand and other officers of district administration also

attended the function. The team Ramban clinched the title in Kabbadi discipline by defeating team Batote in a neck to neck fight in the final match. The block level winning teams of the district including Batote, Gandhri, Sangaldan, Ramban, Gundi-Dharam, Gool, Khari,

Ukhral and Banihal participated in the tournament. After inaugurating the event, the Chairperson DDC, highlighted the importance of sports in overall development of youth and extended gratitude to the District Administration for this unique initiative aimed at identifying

the local talent and to nurture them for the national events. The President Municipal Council and the DDC Councilor also encouraged the students for active participation in sports activities. They asked for organizing such sports activities in the district on regular intervals. The youth of the district has huge potential in sports and there was an impending need to channelize it in the right direction, they added. Later, the District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Dharam Vir Singh informed that the department has organized a series of sports activities under Sansad Khel Spardha, 2022, in different disciplines including Volleyball, Kho-Kho, and Athletics competitions.

Basic Training course in Rifle Shooting for Girls begins at YH Srinagar

Training course being organized under "Har Ghar Tiranga" Campaign Actions@75

Srinagar, August 4: Joint Director Kashmir, Youth Services & Sports Department Bashir Ahmad inaugurated the 6th batch of Girls for basic rifle/pistol shooting training course at indoor shooting hall Youth Hostel (YH) here. About 50 girls from various schools will receive basic training in the Olympic discipline. The activity is being conducted under "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav)- India@75



The inaugural ceremony was attended by District Youth Services & Sports Officer Srinagar Balbir Singh and other senior officers and officials of the Department.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports (YSS) has been conducting various activities under the banner of collaboration and under the supervision of District Administration at Srinagar.

Commonwealth Games 2022 India Reach Men's Hockey Semi-Finals, Boxers Assure 3 Medals

Boxers Amit Panghal, Jaisime Lamboriya and Sagar Ahlawat have assured India at least three bronze medals with wins in men's flyweight, women's lightweight and men's super heavyweight quarter-finals. Later in the evening, Rohit Tokas will be in action in welterweight quarter-finals. If he can win his bout, it will be a perfect day in the ring for Indian boxers. Meanwhile, India beat Wales comprehensively in a Pool B match to seal a spot in the men's hockey semi-finals. In athletics, Hima Das has entered the semi-finals of women's 200m while Manju Bala entered the final of the women's hammer throw

event. Shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth have won their respective badminton singles Round of 32 matches. The Indian contingent so far has won 18 medals in the ongoing Commonwealth Games, including five gold. On the seventh day of the ongoing event, stars like Dipika Pallikal (squash) will also be in action. Later on, Murali Sreesankar will also be in action in the men's long jump finals. He is a prime contender for a medal as he qualified for the final with the best jump among all competitors in the qualifying round. In table tennis individual events, all top stars are playing.

ICC to make case for cricket's return to 2028 LA Games this month

The International Cricket Council (ICC) will make a presentation to the Los Angeles Olympics organisers later this month in its bid for the sport to return to the Games after a gap of 128 years, sources told Reuters. Cricket has been shortlisted for potential inclusion at the 2028 Los Angeles Games along with baseball-softball, flag football, lacrosse, breakdancing, karate, kickboxing, squash and motorsport. Teams would play Twenty20 cricket — the sport's shortest international format which has inspired the lucrative Indian Premier League and similar franchise-based competitions in other countries. The host city can include any sport but needs the approval of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The governing body is likely to take a final decision at the IOC session in Mumbai next year, said one of the sources who had direct knowledge of the matter. Twenty-eight sports feature in the initial programme announced by



the 2028 Games organiser in December. Cricket has not been played at the Olympics since its maiden appearance in the 1900 Games in Paris, where Britain beat a team of mostly English expatriates representing France by 158 runs to win gold. Despite initial obstruction from the powerful English and Indian cricket boards, the game has started to gain entry to multi-sports gatherings around the world. Women's Twenty20 is being played at the ongoing Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and cricket will also part of the delayed Asian Games in Hangzhou next year. It will also feature in the Africa Games in Ghana and the Southeast Asian Games in Cambodia next year.



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Organised by: **Al-Murad Sports Club Kreeri**

Grand Final





Mahi FC Wagoora Vs FC Wagoora Blues

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Venue: Hr. Sec Ground Kreeri

Media Partners: RNA, JKNN and Headlines Today

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السلام علیکم ورحمته اللہ وبرکاتہ...!

انشاء اللہ المعصومین یتیم ٹرسٹ (رجسٹرڈ) سرینگر اسلام بھی حسب قدیم نذرانہ عطیات وغیرہ شہداء کے نام سے منسوب ہوئی ہے۔ برہم مقام میں مارکیٹ گاسی یار پوک جڈی بل ۹ محرم الحرام ۱۴۴۳ھ سے کیا ہرم الحرام تک دن کے ۳ بجے سے رات گیارہ بجے تک قائم کر رہا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ ٹرسٹ کے موبائل وین زیر نمبر 8222-S سے مختلف علاقہ جات میں حسب سابقہ نذرانہ وغیرہ جمع کرنے کی غرض سے اتوار سومبر 31 جولائی 2022ء سے متحرک ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں ٹرسٹ کے پروگرام وادوارف کو یا یہ سبیل تک پہنچانے کی خاطر تمام عاشقان حضرت امام حسینؑ سے اپیل کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ محرم الحرام کے تبرک ایام میں اطفال کر لیا و شہداء کے کرنا نام مبارک سے ٹرسٹ کو اپنا نذر و نیاز باختر رسید جیٹیں کرا کر ثواب درین حاصل کریں۔

ٹرسٹ کو مراعات عظام ایضاً اللہ کی جانب سے شمس اذہ و تعریف کرنے کا باضابطہ اجازہ شرعی حاصل ہے۔ تیز آپ کے عطیات زیر 80-G کم ٹیکس سے مستثنیٰ ہے۔ اگرچہ ٹرسٹ کے بینک نمبرات یوں ہے:

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SB-979 جموں و کشمیر بینک غنئی پوک بونہ براؤنچ
SB-69686 پنجاب نیشنل بینک جڈی بل براؤنچ

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