

NEWS IN BRIEF

J&K logs 217 positive cases of COVID-19, no fatality

Srinagar, August 16: Jammu and Kashmir reported 217 fresh positive cases of COVID-19 including 13 from Jammu and 204 from Kashmir divisions, pushing the active case tally in the Union Territory to 474272 even as no death due to the virus was reported in the UT in the last 24 hours.

Moreover, 614 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 129 from Jammu division and 485 from Kashmir division.

According to the daily Media Bulletin on novel Corona virus (Covid-19), out of 474272 positive cases, 3757 are Active Positive (577 in Jammu Division and 3180 in Kashmir Division), 465736 have recovered and 4779 have died; 2347 in Jammu division and 2432 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 26315446 test results available, 474272 samples have tested positive and 25841174 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 4,774 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

14 JKAS officers transferred as Govt orders reshuffle in administration

Srinagar, August 16: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday ordered a reshuffle in the administration and ordered posting and transfers of fourteen Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers in the interests of the administration.

According to Government Order No 942-JK(GAD) of 2022 issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Qazi Masood, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in General Administration Department, is posted as Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation Kashmir.

Syed Nadeem Iqbal Andrabi, JKAS, Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Kashmir is transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department. According to another Government Order No.: 943 -JK(GAD) of 2022, Javid Ahmad Malik, Jr. Scale JKAS, Under Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department, is transferred and posted as Administrative officer, J&K Services Selection Board, Srinagar.

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LG interacts with IAS inductees of J&K Administrative Service

Srinagar, August 16: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today interacted with the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) inductees of the members of Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service, at Raj Bhavan here today.

The Lt Governor congratulated the IAS inductees and extended his best wishes for their personal and professional life.

Ghulam Nabi Azad Quits J&K Congress' ommittee Hours After Being Appointed Chairman

August 16, 2022 Srinagar :- Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has resigned as the chairman of the Congress campaign committee for Jammu and Kashmir. He has also resigned as a member of the party's political affairs committee in Jammu and Kashmir.

7 online portals banned in Ramban for peddling fake news

Srinagar, August 16: The district administration of Jammu's Ramban on Tuesday banned the operation of seven news portals for "peddling fake news and maligning the image of the Government".

The names of the portals are: United News Urdu, VD News, News Verse India, Current News of India, News Bureau of India, Today News Live, GHRT News.

According to the order issued by the office of district magistrate, the authorities have received a large number of complaints from general public regarding the harassment by certain news portals operating with the jurisdiction of district Ramban without proper permission from the authority.

The order further adds that based on the information furnished by the district information officer it has been established that the afore-

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

7 die, 32 injured as bus carrying ITBP men falls into roadside riverbed in Pahalgam

President, Prime Minister, LG Manoj Sinha grieved over loss of lives



AHMAD MAJID

Anantnag, August 16: Seven Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) men died and 32 security personnel were injured when the bus in which they were returning from Amarnath Yatra duty fell into a deep gorge in the Pahalgam area of south Kashmir, a police official said on Tuesday.

The bus, carrying 37 Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel and two policemen, was on its way to the police control room here from Chandanwari, he said. While two ITBP personnel died on the spot, five others succumbed to their injuries later, the officials said.

The condition of eight of the injured is stated to be critical. They

have been evacuated to Srinagar for specialized treatment. The remaining injured are being treated at the Anantnag district hospital. Earlier, the official had said that one of the seven deceased was a policeman.

However, later he said, "It was a case of mistaken identity. The two policemen are undergoing

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

LG visits injured ITBP personnel, civilian at Army Hospital

Srinagar, August 16: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today visited Army Hospital Srinagar and enquired about the well-being of ITBP personnel injured in a tragic road accident near Chandanwari. Lt General Amardeep Singh Aujla, GOC 15 Corps was also present. The Lt Governor went around the wards where the injured were receiving treatment, and passed necessary instructions to provide the best of medical facilities to them for their speedy recovery.

The Lt Governor expressed grief over the loss of lives of the ITBP personnel in the unfortunate incident and extended his condolences to the members of bereaved families.

"Deeply anguished by the bus accident near Chandanwari in which we have lost our brave ITBP per-



sonnel. My condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured. All possible assistance is being provided to the injured personnel", said the Lt Governor. Lieutenant Governor also inquired

about the health of Pitambar Nath Pandit, who was injured in Shopian attack.

The Lt Governor enquired about the well-being of Pitambar Nath Pandit and asked the doctors to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Kashmiri Pandit shot dead, brother injured in militant attack in Shopian

LG, Omar, Mehbooba others condemn attack

HT NEWS NETWORK

Shopian, August 16: Suspected militants shot dead a Kashmiri Pandit and injured his brother in an apple orchard in the Chotipora area of South Kashmir's Shopian district on Tuesday, said the police.

The deceased was identified as Sunil Kumar and his injured brother as Pintu Kumar, the police said. Pintu Kumar was shifted to a hospital, the police added.

#Militants fired upon civilians in an apple orchard in Chotipora area of #Shopian. One person died and one injured. Both belong to minority community. Injured



person has been shifted to hospital. Area #cordoned off. Further details shall follow. @JmuKmrPolice Soon after the attack, a joint team of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Indian Army and paramilitary forces cordoned off the area

to trace the militants behind the attack. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and several political leaders condemned the attack on the Kashmiri Pandits.

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KPSS urges Kashmiri Pandits to leave Kashmir

Srinagar, August 16: Kashmiri Pandits Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS), an apex body of the non migrant Pandits, has appealed to Kashmiri Pandits to leave Kashmir.

"With another attack

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Villagers take out procession to cremation ground

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 16: Qatal-e-Gaarth na manzoor (killing of innocent and destruction are unacceptable) and chants of unity reverberated in the air as villagers of Chotigam took out a

procession to condemn the killing of Sunil Kumar Butt, a Kashmiri Pandit, by militants this morning.

The village saw the second such attack in four months. The residents took out the procession from the

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Court sets rape accused free for lack of evidence

HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, August 16: A fast track court, Jammu (special judge, cases against women) Tuesday acquitted a young man accused of raping a woman on pretext of marrying her in 2013.

The presiding officer of the court, Khalil Choudhary, acquitted the accused—Usman Ali, underlining that statement of witnesses suggests that there is no concrete evidence on record connecting the accused with the commission of offence. The case against the accused was filed on 25 October 2013 following a complaint by

the mother of the girl, who was a student of 11th class at that time. The complainant had alleged that her daughter was continuously raped by the accused on the hoax of marrying her and the complaint was lodged with police after the accused refused to marry the girl.

"The evidence of witnesses is not corroborative leaving doubt in the prosecution case," the court said, adding, "I am unhesitant to record that prosecution evidence cannot be said to definite, positive, consistent and coherent so far as the case against the accused

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Police arrests rape accused within 48 hrs

Srinagar, August 16: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested an accused for allegedly raping a 17-year-old girl within 48 hours after the crime was committed in Budgam district. Police in Soibugh received a written complaint from one (name withheld) on August 13 stating therein that his sister (name withheld) age about 17 years went missing on August 12 at about 16 hours from home. The girl was traced

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OUR BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS

DC Kulgam conducts Surprise Visit to District Hospital; takes stock of healthcare services

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUGUST 16: To take stock of healthcare facilities being provided to the patients, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today paid a surprise visit to District Hospital Kulgam. During the visit, the DC inspected various wards and sections of the hospital and took stock of their functioning. He also enquired about the availability of medicines, diagnostics and other facilities available in the hospital and services being provided to patients at the hospital. During the visit, the DC also interacted with the patients and attendants to enquire about their satisfaction with the services of this health institutions. The DC directed the hospital administration to maintain complete hygiene in and around the hospital and provide better medical care facilities to the patients. He also stressed for proper utilization of human resources and to serve the patients with utmost dedication and sincerity. Later, he also inspected the market outside the hospital and 3 shops were sealed who have encroached on footpaths in the market. Accompanying the DC were ADC, JD-Planning, CMO and other officers. During the visit, the DC also interacted with the patients and attendants to enquire about their satisfaction with the services of this health institutions. The DC directed the hospital administration to maintain complete hygiene in and around the hospital and provide better medical care facilities.



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Van Carrying Provision Items Catches Fire at Exchange Road Srinagar
HT Photo SURKHAB ZEHR

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B

SPECIAL SUB-DIVISION URI

Expression of interest (EOI) (Fresh to NIT No. 28. Sr. No.5)

eNIT No.31of 2022-23/1991-2000/R&B SSD Uri e-tendering DATED: 13-08-2022

For and on behalf of the Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited from approved and eligible Bidders as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) and Terms of Reference at Annexure-I. The Bidder (Firm/Consultant/Agency/Company) should have the eligibility as per Annexure-II under Eligibility Criteria for each of the following works:-

S.No.	NameofWork	Adv. Cost (Rs. InLacs)	Costoff/ DOC (InRupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time&Dateof OpeningofBid	ClassofCo ntractor	M.HofAccount
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
1	Upgradation of Sarai to Jaba Road	10.83	600/-	21700/-	25 days	20-08-2022	BEE CEE DEE	Potholes
2	Improvement of Road from Ziyarat sharief to Khan Mohalla Bijember	33.15	1100/-	66300/-	25 days	20-08-2022	AAY BEE	Potholes
3	Improvements of inner links at Nowshera	6.81	300/-	13650/-	25 days	20-08-2022	CEE DEE	Potholes
4	Upgradation of Khan Mohalla link road (Bijhama-A) by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick wet mix, 50mm thick bituminous Macadam and 25mm thick Semidense.	1.96	200/-	4000/-	07 days	20-08-2022	DEE	Potholes

Positionoffunds:Available

Position of Ts/AA:Sanctioned

1.

TheBiddingdocumentsconsistingofqualifyinginformation,eligibilitycriteria,specifications,Drawings ,billof quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloadedfromthedeptamentalwebsite**www.jktenders.gov.in**asperscheduleofdatesgiv enbelow:

1.	Date of Issue of EOI Notice.	13.08.2022
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents.	From 13-08.2022 01:00P.M To-19-08-2022 4:00 P.M
3.	Bid Submission Start Date.	13-08-2022 From 01:00 P.M.
4.	Bid Submission End Date.	19-08-2022 upto 4.00 P.M.
5.	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online).	20-08-2022 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub-Division Uri.

2,

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Spl. Sub Division Uri (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3,

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Spl Sub Division Uri. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

DIPK NO:-8071/22

Dated:-.13-08-2022

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

R&B Special Sub-Division, Uri.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

SPECIAL FOREST DIVISION TANGMARG

Extension Notice 2nd

Reference to:- e-NIT NO: - 05 of 2022-23 DATED:- 21-07-2022 (S.No. 4.5&6)

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost (Rs.in Lakh)
04	Providing & Fixing of barbed wire fencing in cement concrete blocks and planting in comppt.62b Gul -I Baderkote block Gulmarg Range (CAMPA Scheme)	18.72
05	Providing & Fixing of barbed wire fencing in cement concrete blocks and planting in comppt.62b Gul -II Baderkote block Gulmarg Range (CAMPA Scheme)	18.30
06	Providing & Fixing of barbed wire fencing in cement concrete blocks and planting in comppt.63b/Gul -I Baderkote block Gulmarg Range (CAMPA Scheme)	12.11

Due to poor response the critical dates for above noted NITare hereby extended as per the schedule mentioned below: -

1	Bid submission End date	18-08-2022 upto 6:00 PM
2	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	20-08-2022 at 11:30 AM

All the terms and conditions will be same as mentioned in Tender Notice and Document

DIPK-8110/22

Sd/-

Divisional Forest Officer,

Special Forest Division,

Tangmarg.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for registration of my residential house located at Village Dandmooha under Home Stay/Paying Guest House Scheme to facilitate tourist trade, vide order no 89-JK(TSM) of 2022 of Department of Tourism JK . if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in department of tourism or Assistant Director Tourism Office Gulmarg within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.
Manzoor Ahmad Lone
S/O Abdul Ahad Lone
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Habibullah Sheikh
S/O Abdul Gani Sheikh
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

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Manzoor Ahmad Khan
S/O Late Abdul Ahad Khan
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for registration of my residential house located at village Dandmooha under home stay /paying Guest House Scheme to facilitate Tourist trade vide order no 89- jk(TSM)of 2022of Department of Tourism jk.if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in department of tourism or Assistant Director Tourism office Gulmarg within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained
Name..Ajaz ahmad Lone
S/o Late Abdul Ahad Lone
R/o..Dandmooha Tehsil kreeri Distt. Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Shabir Ahmad Rather
S/O Mohammad Kamal Rather
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

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FAYAZ AHMAD LONE
S/O HABIBULLAH LONE
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Nabeela Naseer Daughter of Naseer Ahmed Gazi Resident of Gazriyal of 8th Class want to make it known to one and all that my School Leaving Certificate has been misplaced/ lost somewhere. I need to apply for the duplicate certificate of the Same.
Anybody having any objection in this matter can approach the concerned authorities within seven days of the publication of this notice.
No objections shall be entertained or accepted after the above said time period

Nabeela Naseer
D/O - Naseer Ahmad Gazi
R/O - village Gazriyal District Kupwara

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Ghulam Hassan Rather
S/O Mohammad Ramzan Rather
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

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Fayaz Ahmad Rather
S/O Abdul Samad Rather
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

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Sanaullah Teli
S/O Abdul Aziz Teli
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

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Abdul Majeed Sheikh
S/O Abdul Jabbar Sheikh
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

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Tariq Ahmad Sheikh
S/O Mohammad Assadullah Sheikh
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for registration of Guest House with Tourism Department if anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may contact with Director Tourism Department or Tourism office Gulmarg within seven days from the publication of this notice after no objection will be entertained
Name...Riyaz Ahmad parray
S/o Abdul Aziz parray
R/o kalandara

Public Notice

I am applying for registration of my Guest House with Tourism Department if anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may contact with Director Tourism Department or Tourism office Gulmarg within seven days from the publication of this notice after no objection will be entertained

Name...Abdul Rashid Rather
S/oAbdul Ahad Rather
R/o.... Dundmuha

DDC Kupwara inspects ongoing developmental works in Nutnussa, Tirich, Kandi Khass, Athrotu Asks engineers to accelerate developmental tempo, maintain timeline

KUPWARA, AUGUST 16: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Khalid Jahangir today visited Nutnussa, Tirich, Kandi Khass and Athrotu in Handwara sub division of Kupwara district and inspected various ongoing developmental works including Transit Accommodation at Nutnussa and construction of borewells at Tirich, Kandi Khass. He was accompanied by Executive Engineer PHE Division Handwara and other concerned officers.

While inspecting construction of borewells at Tirich, the DDC was informed that 400 feet deep borewell has been constructed under Jal Jeevan Mission. The scheme costing Rs.366.33 lakh will provide potable drinking water to the target population of 3098.

Likewise, while inspecting borewell also known as production well at Kandi Khass, the

DDC was informed that 500 feet depth has been constructed and 90% work has been completed so far. The scheme costs Rs.531.26 lakh with target population of 10238 souls will get drinking water facilities.

The DDC also inspected borewell at Athrotoo which has so far got 167 feet depth. He was informed that 40% of work has been completed so far. The scheme costs Rs.153.43 lakh with target population of 4964.

The DDC also took stock of construction of Transit Accommodation at Nutnussa. He was informed that the accommodation is projected for 12 blocks at an allotted cost of Rs.1713.44 lakh. He was informed that 4 blocks are under progress out of which 3 are at concreting level while as, one is at Trench level. He was further informed that 6 blocks are targeted to be constructed by the current financial year.

He was also informed that over Rs.60 lakh have been expended

target period.

Regarding borewells, he di-

the DDC directed the concerned engineers to speed up the exe-



so far on the project. The DDC directed the concerned engineers to use additional manpower and machinery so that the project is completed within the

rected concerned engineers to ensure completion of work and requisite yield tests done by this week on Tirich and Kandi Khass. While as, at Athrotu,

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NHM J&K to hire Tribal ASHAs for Healthcare outreach

Gol approves ASHAs for serving Tribal Population of J&K

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 16: In a significant move to strengthen the grass root level health services in J&K, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has approved ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) for serving the Tribal/ nomadic population of J&K. J&K has a unique blend of diverse climate conditions, cultures, languages, economic practices and other identities. The tribal population in itself is a classic example of heterogeneity.

In June 2021, the Tribal Affairs Department, J&K initiated the first survey of the transhumant tribal population. It was aimed

at welfare planning in the wake of the long-felt need for focused development. For catering the health care needs of such nomadic population, J&K has got the sanction of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs). The ASHAs for these areas will be chosen among nomadic population which is surveyed by tribal department.

Mission Director, NHM J&K, Yasin M. Choudhary while giving details informed that as per the report received from the Tribal Affairs Deptt, more than 80 thousand transhumant populations undertake biannual migration between valleys or villages

and highland pastures, along with livestock. To provide better healthcare services to these nomads, we have got the approval of about 334 ASHAs from the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi. ASHAs being engaged by NHM, J&K are working as abridge between Health Department and the community. All the health schemes of NHM/ J&K Govt. are being implemented by ASHAs at the grass root level. ASHA is a link through which the health care needs of the people are being catered. At present, J&K has engaged about 13000 ASHAs who are serving

the rural as well as urban population of J&K. All the health schemes, whether Centrally sponsored or State Govt. schemes are being implemented by ASHA at the grass root level. Tribal ASHA shall be a literate woman from within the tribal community who shall be trained for implementing all the health schemes of NHM/ J&K Govt. among her Tribal community. By engaging the ASHAs for nomadic population, J&K Govt. shall provide access to health care services to this big transhumant tribal population, which they are lacking till now, Yasin added.

Forest Department celebrates I-Day, 2022

Dedicates Amrit Sarovars to the people; organizes plantation programs

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 16: The Forest Department celebrated Independence Day, 2022 with much fervour and happiness.

On the occasion, Flag hoisting ceremonies were organised at Forest Headquarter, Sheikh Bagh, Srinagar and similar programmes were held at Circle level, Divisional level and at Range Headquarters.

The forest frontline and ministerial staff of South, North and Srinagar Circle, Kashmir participated in these events with much enthusiasm and zeal.

Conservator of Forests South Forest Circle, Ir-

fan Ali Shah along with forest officials hoisted

District Administration whose efforts for For-



the National flag at Circle office, Bijbehara and also visited many Amrit Sarovar sites in different districts of South Kashmir. Several Forest officials of South Kashmir were felicitated by the

est Protection, greening initiatives, and people's welfare were duly recognised.

To mark the event, ceremonial Plantation events were organized in all Territorial Forest Divisions

of South Forest Circle at various Amrit Sarovar sites as part of Deliverables 2022-23 assigned by the Government to the Forest Department. Various dignitaries including PRIs, Officers from respective District Administration at different levels participated in these events.

It was informed that till now 27 Amrit Sarovars (water bodies inside forests) have been rejuvenated and many more will be rejuvenated in the coming months which will help conserve biodiversity, restore back natural heritage and lead to inclusive development as well.

KVK Budgam organises Plant Clinical Camp at Khansahab

BUDGAM, AUGUST 16: The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam today organized a day-long plant clinical camp at Khansahab, here.

Around 150 farmers from the area participated in the said camp. Besides, the programme was attended by Scientists of Kendra and University, Officers from the line departments, Resource Persons from IFF-

CO. The purpose of the programme was to discuss and deliberate about the issues faced by the farmers related to the Crop Husbandry for their on-spot redressal. Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone, Sr. Scientist and Head KVK Budgam discussed the role of KVK in dissemination of technology. Earlier, Dr. Vaseem Yousuf, SMS Plant Protection KVK Budgam welcomed

the guests and farmers. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam today organized a day-long plant clinical camp at Khansahab, here. Around 150 farmers from the area participated in the said camp. Besides, the programme was attended by Scientists of Kendra and University, Officers from the line departments, Resource Persons from IFFCO.

NGT stays Riverbed Mining in Shali Ganga

NKC Projects Ltd asked to halt its work immediately

Srinagar August 16 (KNS) The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has stayed the riverbed mining (RBM) by a Gurgaon based construction company that is executing work on Srinagar Ring Road. The NGT double bench of Justice Sudhir Aggarwal and Prof A Senthil Veil (expert member) on Friday issued an order restraining M/S NKC Projects Pvt Ltd. from undertaking riverbed mining

(RBM) in Shali Ganga stream in Trumbi Bagh, Lalgam Panzan area in Chadoora tehsil of District Budgam.

The Tribunal while considering an appeal filed by social activist and Chairman RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat in the matter, held that environmental clearance (EC) was granted without any replenishment study which was a violation of Sustainable Sand Mining

Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020.

"Hence ex facie EC granted to R-4 (M/S NKC Projects Pvt Ltd) which has been challenged in Appeal are illegal," said the NGT order

The order further reads "since it has been prima facie shown that no replenishment study was conducted, till disposal of the Appeal, we

restrain Respondent No 4 (NKC Project) from carrying out any mining activities pursuant to the impugned ECs."

The NGT also noted that the no preparation of replenishment report is not disputed by the firm and was in the view that no further mining activities pursuant to the impugned EC should be permitted.

When contacted Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, said

DDC Kupwara reviews progress of works under SSY, BADP 2022-23

Asks officers to complete works within given timeframe



KUPWARA, AUGUST 16: The District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Khalid Jahangir today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of works under Samridh Seema Yojana (SSY) and BADP for the current financial year.

On the occasion, the DDC took a detailed review of all ongoing works and received feedback from the concerned officers. He set timeline for each work and stressed upon the officers to expedite the pace of progress and ensure completion of the works within the given time frame.

The meeting was informed that under BADP, 134 works have been taken up by 19 departments at an estimated cost of Rs.7605.81 lakh. Of which 61 works have been completed with a cumulative expenditure of Rs.4802.38 lakh upto March 2022. These 134 works include 72 works of RDD; 11 of R&B Kupwara, 7 R&B Handwara, 9 SSD Tangdar, 5 JK Housing Board, 2 JKPCC, 4 of Health, 7 of Agriculture, 2 of Forest, 5 under Model villages, 2 of S&T; 1 each of MIS, PHE Handwara, I&FC Handwara, Education, ITI Handwara, MC Handwara, MC Kupwara, MC Langate.

The meeting was also informed that 81 works

have been taken up by 9 departments under Samridh Seema Yojana for the year 2022-23. Out of which 70 works have been accorded Administrative Approval with total outlay of Rs.1381.31 lakh.

JD Planning, ACD Kupwara, CEO, CAHO CAO, DHO, Executive Engineers of different departments and other concerned officers attended the meeting. The meeting was informed that under BADP, 134 works have been taken up by 19 departments at an estimated cost of Rs.7605.81 lakh. Of which 61 works have been completed with a cumulative expenditure of Rs.4802.38 lakh upto March 2022. These 134 works include 72 works of RDD; 11 of R&B Kupwara, 7 R&B Handwara, 9 SSD Tangdar, 5 JK Housing Board, 2 JKPCC, 4 of Health, 7 of Agriculture, 2 of Forest, 5 under Model villages, 2 of S&T; 1 each of MIS, PHE Handwara, I&FC Handwara, Education, ITI Handwara, MC Handwara, MC Kupwara, MC Langate. The meeting was also informed that 81 works have been taken up by 9 departments under Samridh Seema Yojana for the year 2022-23. Out of which 70 works have been accorded Administrative Approval with total outlay of Rs.1381.31 lakh.

Pr. Secy SDD reviews progress on finalisation of Action Plan for Skill Mapping across J&K

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 16: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon today chaired a meeting to review the progress on finalisation of Action Plan for Skill Mapping of education across Jammu and Kashmir by UNICEF under YuWAAH initiative at Civil Secretariat here. The meeting was attended by Mission Director Skill Development Mission, Leena Padha; Director School Education Jammu, Ravi Shankar Sharma; Director SDD, Sudershan Kumar; Chief Adolescent Programming, UNICEF (YuWAAH), Dwarika Sriram; State Engagement Officer, NSDC, representatives of Labour & Employment, Education and Social Welfare departments and other concerned officials, both in person and through video conferencing.

Speaking during the meeting, Dr. Samoon remarked that the idea of this partnership between the SDD and UNICEF is to create employment avenues for youth and help them gain skills which form the core of modern present day digital world. While deliberating on several aspects of this initiative by UNICEF under YuWAAH, Dr. Samoon asked the representatives of UNICEF

to study the core objectives of NEP-2020 under which the Skill training courses are being given prime importance. He asked them to complete the Skill Landscape Analysis by the end of this month so that the objective of this partnership is achieved. The Principal Secretary further delved upon the officers and representatives of UNICEF to show full commitment towards implementation of this mission as this is an opportunity to help our youth in getting better livelihood opportunities. He directed all the concerned persons to work in a coordinated manner so that the aim of this partnership is achieved.

During the meeting, Chief Adolescent Programming, UNICEF (YuWAAH) gave a detailed presentation to the Principal Secretary about YuWAAH initiative. Pertinently, the Skill Development Department (SDD) of Jammu and Kashmir and YuWAAH, a UNICEF-initiated multi-stakeholder global platform, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) last month to work together closely for enabling youth in J&K, connect them to aspirational work and engage them as active change makers.

Comm Secy Revenue visits Kulgam, reviews Development scenario of district

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUGUST 16: Commissioner Secretary, Revenue, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today paid a visit to Kulgam district and reviewed the overall developmental scenario of the district.

During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary, who is also the incharge Secretary for Kulgam district, chaired a meeting with senior officers of the district and took detailed review and stock of financial and physical status of various ongoing work projects in the district. He also assessed the progress on implementation of various Centrally sponsored schemes in the district in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, ADDC, ADC, SDM, D.H. Pora, JD-Planning, CMO, CEO Executive Engineers from PHE, PDD, Tehsiladars, Pathwaris and other concerned officers.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary directed them

to expedite the pace of work on all ongoing



projects for their timely completion so that they can be dedicated to public for use.

While reviewing status of Digitization of Jamabandis in the district, the Commissioner Secretary was informed that the process of Digitization of Jamabandis is going on and 168 Jamabandis out of 273 have been completed.

Litigants of DCPF to Contact DCDRC directly for listing, hearing of consumer Complaints

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 17: It is hereby brought to the notice of public that Consequent upon the constitution of District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC), Srinagar by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the litigants who were/are having cases pending disposal before the erstwhile District Consumer Protection Forum (DCPF), Srinagar are informed that they shall either contact directly with the office of the Commission or with their respective counsels for the purpose of listing and the consequent hearing of their complaints. It is hereby brought to the notice of public that Consequent upon the constitution of District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC), Srinagar by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the litigants who were/are having cases pending disposal before the erstwhile District Consumer Protection.

He appreciated the staff involved in Digitization of Jamabandis and working dedicatedly in digitization process.

During the meeting, Bidhuri also reviewed progress made on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in the District.

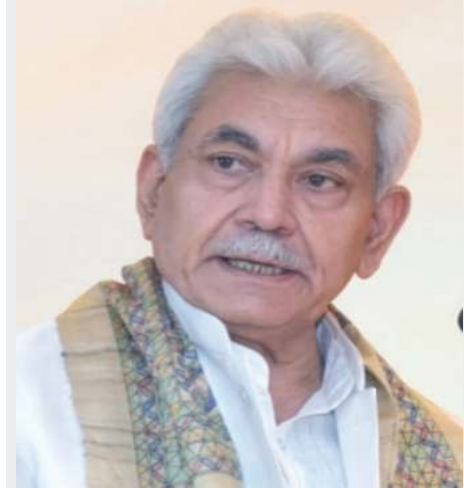
The Commissioner Secretary was informed that there are 140 schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission going on in the district with.

Commissioner Secretary emphasized upon the officers that every effort has to be made to ensure that the goal of tap water to all households must be achieved as per the projected timeline.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the chair that there are 2534 works in district plan including 427 ongoing works and all new works stands tendered and allotted and more than 200 works out of 427 ongoing works were completed.

The DC also apprised the chair that Aspirational Block plan has been finalized and all works have been accorded.

Independence Day Speech of LG Manoj Sinha



My dear brothers and sisters,

India, the mother of democracy, wants peace and the welfare of the entire humanity, but we are also ready to defend our freedom, sovereignty and integrity with full zeal. A befitting reply is being given to those who are trying to mislead our youth with a nefarious proxy war. A final blow is being dealt to the terror ecosystem operating at the behest of the neighbouring country. We will push the last nail in the coffin of terrorism. Strike, stone pelting and protests have become things of the past. I appeal to the 1 crore 30 lakh citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to speak with one voice against terrorism and atrocities on the innocent.

In this Amrit Kaal of independent India, Jammu and Kashmir is soaring to a new height. A strong, peaceful and prosperous union territory is witnessing rapid growth over three successive years, which is unprecedented in history. The nightmare of seven long decades is over and a fear-free, corruption-free new Jammu and Kashmir is emerging to take on the future challenges.

Last year, on this auspicious day, I invoked revered Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji's wisdom for social justice and all-around progress with the spirit of insaniiyat, jamhooriyat and kashmiriyat. We have to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of citizens by becoming self-reliant, by displaying unflinching integrity, dedication and unwavering devotion to the values enshrined in the Constitution. After 25 years we should be remembered fondly by our future generations just like we recall the contributions of the great men who laid the foundations of a New India. Panchayati Raj Institutions are working with determination for the development of every individual and safeguarding the interests of all sections of society. By assimilating each other's customs and traditions, by mutual understanding and mutual adjustment of all religions and sects, the message of Kashmiriyat is being spread to the whole world. Every section of the population is being made an equal partner in the developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir. There are limitless possibilities and challenges before us. To achieve the goals of economic equality and social justice, innovative entrepreneurs, intellectuals, educationists, farmers, youth and women shall have to come together. The elixir of freedom is the launching pad for the quantum leap into the glorious future. This is an occasion when we, as citizens of India, have to take a pledge to protect and expand the achievements of 75 years.

This spiritual place has bestowed the world with wisdom and the mantra of composite culture for centuries. The mountain peaks here symbolize the devotion of Shankaracharya and the flowing rivers celebrates the devotional songs of Lal Ded. The leaves of Chinara embody the spiritual ecstasy of Nund Rishi and the deodar trees reverberate the melodies of Habba Khatoon.

Abdul Ahad Azad Sahib has written: "Chalaan chumm sharr hubaban, izteraban, valvalan ander, Yivan chumm zindagi hund soz safaran manzilan ander".

"My wishes are fulfilled in love, in impatience, in passion, I get the essence of life in journeys, in destinations."

Jammu and Kashmir is not just a piece of land but a symbol of the cultural and spiritual heritage of the country. Kalhana has written in Rajatarangini

"Sandhya Devi Jalan Yasmin Dhate Nisalile Giri -

"The taste of the water of Sandhya Devi testifies to the existence of virtue and absence of sin.

The Goddess appears in the form of a swan in the lake situated on the holy Bhedgiri from the source of the Ganges."

This is the land of Mother Saraswati, the abode of all virtues and the enlightened dream of Chaitanya. From Mount Harmukh to the summits of Vindhyas, from Jhelum to Prayag Sangam, from Bhedagiri to Baba Kedarnath, every breath, every heartbeat carries the fragrance of Hindustan and the aspirations for the supreme glory of the tricolour. There may be thousands and lakhs of obstacles and challenges, but each and every Indian should unite to fight these challenges and be the architect of the future of India - this is the resolution of Independence Day.

"Ek ankur phoot kar bola ki main haara nahi hun, ek ulka-pind hoon, taara nahi hoon, mrityu par jeevan vijay udhyoosh karta, mainamar lalkar hun charaa nahi hun mainamar lalkar hun charaa nahi hun" "A sapling said that I am not defeated, I am a meteorite, not a star. Life is victor over death, I am an immortal challenger not a whimper, I am the immortal challenger, not a whimper." Dear brothers and sisters,

Three years ago, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji laid the foundation for modern and equitable socio-economic development in Jammu and Kashmir. Under his guidance, J&K has been making remarkable achievements for the holistic development of the region. Despite many odds and challenges, we have been able to complete a whopping 50,726 projects in the last financial year.

Over the last three years, the pace of execution of developmental schemes has increased by five times on account of a resurgent institutional framework. Districts are the basis for the implementation of policies and programmes; the district CAPEX budget has been increased four-fold to Rs 22,126 crore for the completion of various developmental projects. Grass root democratic institutions like Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies have been empowered to actively participate in the decision-making process to cater to the needs of common citizens. There are around 20,000 such works/projects under execu-

tion presently which have been solely identified by the people.

In the last two years, the government has endeavoured to develop areas which had remained neglected till now. Dalits, tribals and socio-economically backward classes have benefited from an equitable governance system, and so have the women of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Union Territory has achieved new horizons of success in the field of business, economy, education, culture and sports.

The aspirations of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have been synchronized with the aspirations of the country today. Their dreams are not confined to personal development but transcend to create a good future for society, nation and the entire humanity. The youth of today aspire for an equitable society free from poverty, unemployment and exploitation. They want a society which challenges and harnesses their creativity. Peace is a pre-condition for the establishment of such a social and economic order and the Government has laid the foundation for realizing these 21st-century dreams. I want to convey to the youth that India is presently a torch bearer for the conscience and development of the whole world. The youth of the country have proved their mettle in almost every sphere of scientific and technological development around the world. The government has bridged the chasm and opened all forms of communication for all-around development. Let us reaffirm our commitment and resolve to build a strong, advanced and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

As many as 30 thousand government jobs have been provided to the youth in the last three years with complete transparency. Certain complaints were received about the irregularities which are being probed. We will ensure stringent punishment for those found guilty. The administration has also planned a recruitment drive to fill the vacant positions this year. Self-employment opportunities have been provided to 5.2 lakh young boys and girls under various programmes. Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program, Jammu and Kashmir has been successful in establishing 21,640 manufacturing and service units in the last financial year, thereby emerging as the best performing region in the country. Under

only. Out of this, a groundbreaking ceremony for proposals worth Rs 38,080 crore was held in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji in April this year. J&K has emerged as the top performer in the category of UTs in the ranking of strengthening of the start-up ecosystem. In order to strengthen the ease of doing business ecosystem, 150 e-services of 18 departments have been made available on Single Window Portal which has been integrated with the National Single Window Portal operated by the Central Government.

The results of the MoUs signed with reputed foreign investors like Emaar, Lulu and DP World shall soon be visible on the ground. 22 proposals worth Rs 4400 crores have been approved for establishing a Medicity which shall also increase the number of MBBS seats in the UT by a whopping 1000. The golden period of industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir has been ushered in through the new industrial development policy of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

08 clusters of handicrafts and handlooms are being established to provide a global market for the rich heritage of handicrafts of Jammu and Kashmir. The Handicraft Department is completing the process of the census of all artisans associated with handicrafts. Central Khadi and Village Industries Board have established 5851 units last year through which around 47,000 new job opportunities have been created. The Silk Weaving Factory in Srinagar, which was closed for many years, has been revived. Financial assistance given to handicraft artisans under the Artisan Credit Card has been doubled from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh. 26 new units have been established under the karkhandaar scheme. For securing a place in the global market for valuable handicrafts and enhancing their exports, 7 Crafts - Carpet, Pashmina, Sozni, Khatamband, Walnut Woodcarving, Papier-mâché and Kani Shawl have been GI Tagged.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The administration is working diligently to transform the archaic electricity network and systems in the Union territory. Work has already commenced on five major hydropower projects in collaboration with NHPC and in the next three years, we shall be in a position to generate the quantum of electricity cumulatively generated in the last 70 years. In the last two years, the transmission capacity has been



this Programme, 1.73 lakh new job opportunities were created, which is the highest among all the states and Union territories of India.

Under Mission Youth, opportunities are being provided to young boys and girls to become entrepreneurs through schemes like Mumkin, Tejaswini, Rise Together and Parvaaz, we have made significant strides towards making urban and rural women financially independent through Hausla, Saath, Umeed and House Stay programmes. As many as 5 lakh rural women have been empowered through Self Help Groups, thereby neutralizing the sense of insecurity and despondency. The administration is sensitive to the problems faced by women in government jobs and has decided to establish crèche facilities in all the districts and offices in Jammu and Srinagar.

Adequate resources have been made available for the inclusive growth of the region. Government spending in the social and economic sectors has increased by 43.83% and 45.60% respectively. Efforts are being made to take the benefits of development to the last person standing in the queue.

The online services of all departments have been brought under the Public Services Guarantee Act with fixed timelines so that the administration is accountable to the general public by cutting delays in the delivery of public services. We have decided to celebrate 5th August every year as the day of the Resolution for Freedom from Corruption.

Jammu and Kashmir has been ranked at the top among the UTs in e-governance service delivery. 209 public services are being provided online and Rapid Assessment System (RAS) has been established to obtain direct feedback from the public about these services. The feedback received so far reveals the approval ratings for most of the services are above 80%. Through Aapka Mobile, Hamara Daftar initiative, we have lived up to our commitment to make public service delivery faceless and cashless.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Transport infrastructure is a pre-condition for the economic and social transformation of any region. In the last two years, road and tunnel infrastructure has been prioritized and Rs 1 lakh crore is being spent to build a robust road network. Last year, Jammu and Kashmir has set a new record of constructing 6,450 km of road length. Jammu and Kashmir rank third in achieving the target of the longest road length in the country. Earlier 6 km of road length was constructed per day which has increased to 20 km of road length per day. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Jammu and Kashmir rank fourth in the country. In the last two years, a total of 169 bridges have been constructed to strengthen the transport system and in the last financial year, 7610 km of road length has been macadamized which used to be around 2500-3000 km previously. Travel time between Jammu and Srinagar has been reduced from 12 hours to 7 hours

In the 70 years since independence, Jammu and Kashmir was able to attract cumulative investment worth Rs 14000-15,000 crores whereas investment proposals worth Rs 56000 crores have been received in the past one and a half years

enhanced from 8234 MVA to 11,016 MVA and the distribution capacity has been enhanced from 12,745 MVA to 16,574 MVA. 95,000 smart meters have been installed in Jammu and Srinagar cities and 6 lakh smart meters shall be installed by March 2023 for quality and reliable power. While the per capita energy consumption for the country as a whole is 1208 units, the same for Jammu and Kashmir is significantly higher at 1384 units.

Jammu and Kashmir has been ranked in the category of front runners in the Sustainable Development Index of NITI Aayog. Jammu and Kashmir is performing better than the national average on 12 parameters of health. Whereas, the neonatal mortality rate for the country as a whole is 24.9 per 1000 births, the same for Jammu and Kashmir has come down to single digit i.e. 9.8. Similarly, while the infant mortality rate for the country stood at 35.2, the same for Jammu and Kashmir is 16.3, the Under-5 Mortality Rate for the country is 41.9 and 18.5 for Jammu and Kashmir. The sex ratio at birth for the country as a whole stood at 929 and for Jammu and Kashmir, it stands at 976. The national average for institutional births is 88.6% while as for Jammu and Kashmir the same stood at 92.4%. The national average of Fully Immunized Children is 83.8% while as for Jammu and Kashmir, it is 96.5%. The national average Life Expectancy rate is 69.4 years, while as for Jammu and Kashmir the same is 74.

J&K has emerged as a role model in the entire country in COVID vaccination and COVID management. In the last financial year alone, 159 projects in the health sector have been completed at a cost of Rs 670 crore. In the current financial year, we have set a target of completing 220 health care projects at a cost of Rs. 1757 crores. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme, 80% of the population of Jammu and Kashmir has been covered, and the government is spending Rs. 1.7 crore per day on health care of the general public.

The average water coverage for Jammu and Kashmir is 57.86% which is much higher than the national average of 50.30%. All schools, Aanganwadi centres and health care institutions have been provided with tapped water connections and the government is committed to realising the dream of providing water to every household by next year.

PMDD projects were stalled for a long time due to policy paralysis, but in the last two years alone, 30 out of 53 projects have been completed by eliminating all bottlenecks. Out of the remaining 23 projects, 12 projects shall be completed in this financial year. The construction of the world's highest railway bridge on the Chenab River is going on in full swing and the dream of connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari with railways will be realized by next year.

Farmers are the backbone of the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. In the last two years, the government has taken a multitude of policy decisions for improving their conditions. J&K has been ranked 3rd in the whole country for monthly farm income. Jammu and Kashmir ranks 5th in the country in the category of better performing states for reforms in agriculture and allied sectors. More than 2500 hectares

of agricultural land has been brought under High-Density Plantation and the global market has been provided for the Kashmiri fruits and vegetables under Parwaz Scheme. The Shahpur Kandi project, which was pending for four decades, is finally being executed at a cost of Rs. 2793 crores. The project shall be completed by March next year and shall irrigate 32,173 hectares of land.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Some radical reforms and initiatives have been initiated in the Revenue Department. Under the Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani Project, revenue records like Jamabandi, Girdwari, Mutation and Mousavi have been made digitally available to common citizens who can access these records without visiting the office of Patwari or Tehsildars, besides filing applications for rectification. So far, 16 lakh citizens from all 20 districts have availed this facility.

Land passbooks are being issued to all land owners in three languages viz. Urdu, Hindi and English. De-mystification of land records is also being carried out so as to ensure that people can have access to their records in popular languages. This facility is being provided in the Jammu and Srinagar districts in the first phase of the project. With these land passbooks, land owners have been empowered to use their land as a financial asset for obtaining loans easily from banks and other financial institutions.

Under the Svamitva Scheme, Jammu and Kashmir has become the first UT in the country to issue ownership cards. Srinagar is the first district in the entire country to achieve 100% saturation under this Scheme. Since independence, till now only 300 Patwar-khanas were functional in government buildings in Jammu and Kashmir. Under a special campaign launched in March this year, 1662 Patwar-khanas have been established in government buildings in a month's time. To ensure transparency and accountability in the revenue administration, the government has prescribed specific timings for patwaris to attend to the public. To prevent any manipulation of revenue records, the process of seeding mobile and Aadhaar numbers with revenue records has been initiated. By bringing 24 services of the Revenue Department under the Public Service Guarantee Act, the provision of these services to the public has been ensured in a time-bound manner.



Under the Forest Rights Act, the tribal brothers have been vested with rights over water, forest and land thereby securing the future of their coming generations. The government shall complete more hostels for the tribal youth than the cumulative number constructed in the last 44 years. Scholarships are being provided to 1.69 lakh tribal children and the top 100 performing children are being provided coaching for NEET and JEE. Similarly, 100 promising children from the tribal community shall be provided coaching for the Civil Services Examinations. Skill training is being imparted to 2000 youth belonging to the tribal communities and 800 tribal students studying in hostels have been provided tablets and sports kits. From this year, smart cards are being given to all the migratory population so that they do not face any kind of inconvenience in travel. 40 trucks were provided by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the transportation of goods and cattle of migratory families.

The Central and UT Government is fully committed to the rehabilitation and welfare of Kashmiri Pandits. Sincere efforts are being made at the administrative level and the people should also come forward for achieving this objective.

Out of 6000 jobs, appointments have been made on 5502 posts and recruitment for 458 posts has been initiated which shall be completed soon. We have been able to address the demands of employees appointed under Hon'ble PM Package to a great extent. The construction of 6000 transit accommodations for facilitating their return under PMDD which was very sluggish, has received a new impetus. 1000 units have been completed and 1100 units more will be completed by this year. Further, the Government has set a target of completing the remaining 3900 units within one and a half years. All PM Package and minority employees have been deployed in safe places. Jobs and housing, although important, are not the only solutions for their rehabilitation and welfare, so other efforts are also being made. Kashmiri Pandits and other displaced communities facing the brunt of displacement have been given justice by implementing the Jammu and Kashmir Displaced Immovable Property Act, enacted in 1997, with effect from last year. Till June this year, 8000 complaints have been received, on the basis of which, 2414 kanals of land have been retrieved from illegal occupation by taking action on 6500 complaints thereby providing justice to these 6500 families after three decades.

All major social welfare schemes- Mission Indradhanush, Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, Disability Pension, Supplementary Nutrition, SC-Pre-Matric Scholarship, SC-Post-Matric Scholarship, Minority Pre-Matric Scholarship, Minority Post-Matric Scholarship, Merit cum Means Minority Scholarship Scheme, Sugar and Food Grain Subsidy, Poshan Abhiyaan, Nutrition Tracker, UJALA, Ujjwala, Saubhagya, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Kisan Credit Card have been saturated to 100% in the last three years. Under Saubhagya Yojana, 8.57 lakh beneficiaries have been covered by providing electricity connections. Under the Ujjwala scheme, 12.41 lakh rural women have been provided LPG con-

nections and it is being ensured that all sections of the society benefit from the developmental efforts.

Realizing the vision of inclusive growth, the Aspirational Block scheme has been launched in 44 blocks. Jammu and Kashmir is the first UT or state in the country to do so and also the first state or UT in the country to launch District Good Governance Index.

Dear brothers and sisters,

A record 12 million tourists who visited Jammu and Kashmir this year, testify to the overall development and change that has taken place in the Union territory. This is the highest-ever visitor figure the Tourism Department has ever seen. The long-pending demand of night-flight operation of the residents of Jammu and Kashmir has been fulfilled. 75 offbeat tourist destinations are being developed in Jammu and Kashmir as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. Jammu and Kashmir had been a favoured shooting destination for Bollywood. A comprehensive Film Policy was launched last year to attract filmmakers after decades and within a year of the notification of the policy, as many as 140 shooting permissions for films and web series have been issued. Soon, a film studio will be launched with state-of-the-art facilities. This, besides providing new opportunities to the young talent of Jammu and Kashmir, shall boost the business ecosystem of the Union territory.

Earlier, merely 2 to 3 lakh youth used to get opportunities for participation in sports every year. We have set a new record and 17.5 lakh youth were provided the opportunity to participate in sporting activities last year. The Government has set itself a target of providing sports opportunities to 35 lakh youth. The FIFA standard renovated and upgraded Bakshi Stadium has been dedicated to the young players and play fields have been established in all Panchayats. Women's teams for Rugby, Football, Cricket, Volleyball, Kabaddi and Hockey have been formed in all 20 districts. To secure the career progression of talented and meritorious sports persons, a new sports policy has been notified and the process of their appointment to government services has been initiated for clearing the backlog from 2014-2021. 22 indoor multi-purpose halls have been set up in all 20 districts of the Union Territory and 40 state-of-the-art sports grounds have been constructed to host national-level tournaments. 38 Khelo-India Centers have been established in various sports disciplines. Presently, work on 948 Sports Infrastructure projects is underway which are expected to be completed in this financial year. The Educational system of the UT has been overhauled and aligned as per the recommendations of the National Education Policy, 2020. Through the Aao School Chalein campaign, 1.7 lakh students from disadvantaged sections have been brought back to the classrooms. Jammu and Kashmir has secured the first position in the loyalty program of teachers training. In the National Achievement Survey, UT has been ranked No. 1 in primary education and third in middle school education in the country. With a view to providing quality education to the youth in remote areas of the UT, 25,000 additional seats at the graduate level have been provided by setting up 50-degree colleges. This is the biggest addition in the Higher Education sector in the last 70 years. A uniform academic calendar has been introduced in all higher educational institutions.

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we celebrate 75 years of our Independence, the world order is entering a new phase. All citizens, farmers, youth, labourers, women, craftsmen, entrepreneurs, engineers, teachers, artisans and public representatives of Jammu and Kashmir have to fulfil their obligations with regard to a new resolution for the next 25 years of the journey of Jammu and Kashmir.

Today, on this auspicious occasion, I want to call upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir that this is a golden opportunity to restore the pride and excellence of Jammu and Kashmir. Let us build a self-reliant Jammu and Kashmir for the coming generations and realize the dreams of our ancestors. Let us create a society where every citizen is a fellow traveller in the journey of the development of the nation and lives a life full of dignity and honour, bereft of any discrimination. Let us build a social system which benefits every individual. Let us unite against the conspiracies and thwart the mala-fide intentions which have pushed Jammu and Kashmir into darkness for decades.

We must reiterate, today, our resolve to defend every inch of our territory and convert the challenges into opportunities. The future belongs to the youth. Let us resolve to fully support young men and women in building a bright future for Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir is on the move. I call upon every section of the society to make their valuable contribution to a happy, peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

It is only on the strength of trust and coexistence that we can create a golden future for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Let us take a pledge to make Jammu and Kashmir Nisha-Mukt, Bhadratachar-Mukt and Rojgaar-Yukt.

Let us walk into the bright future of Jammu and Kashmir with the lines of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar ji-

"Aazadi ka yeh taaj bade tap se Bharat ne paaya hai

Mat poocho iske liye desh ne kya kuch nahi ganwaya hai

Hai phoot rahi laalima timir ki toot rahi ghan kaara hai

Jai Ho! Ki swarg se chooth rahi aashish ki jyotidhara hai

Ho jahan satya ki chingari sulage, sulage, woh jwala bane

Khoje apna utkarsh abhay, durdaant shikha vikraal bane

Aage who lakhshya pukaar raha, haankte hawa par yaan chalo

Surdhanu par dharte hue charan, meghon par gaate gaan chalo,

Meghon par gaate gaan chalo"

India has found this crown of freedom with great tenacity,

Don't ask what the country has not lost for this, Redness is bursting, there is a cracking cube of blackness,

Hail that there is a stream of blessings leaving from heaven.

Where the spark of truth, smoulders, it becomes a flame,

Find your lofty goals without fear, the wicked crest becomes formidable.

Ahead the target is calling out, fly on the wind, Let the feet be on the sun, sing a song on the clouds.

Let's sing a song on the clouds.

Jai Hind!

VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

HEADLINES TODAY

EDITORIAL

LARGE SCALE DEVASTATION

Although there is variation in scale of devastation due to flash floods, the frequency has increased recently. Many lives have been lost while damage to property has been on large scale with vehicles and bikes washed away at many places and residential houses and household goods suffering deterioration due to entry of gushing waters. The tragedies which unfold also frame different imperatives including reexamining the ways in which mountains and high-altitude regions are infringed upon or development activities carried out. In fact, these incidents are a call to the scientists and academicians to investigate the numerous nuances of regions glaciology and to policymakers to be abreast with such research while taking decisions that impact fragile ecosystems. The assessment of flood prone areas of the country has been carried out by different expert committees in the past but there is urgent need for specific measures and appraisal concerning this region. Pertinently the Rashtriya Barh Ayog in the year 1980 estimated the total area liable to floods in the country as 40 million hectare (mha). The extent of maximum area affected by floods in any year during 1953-2010 as per the Working Group Report (year 2011) on Flood Management and Region Specific Issues for XII Plan is 49.815 mha including 0.514mha in Jammu and Kashmir. In the present scenario, flood management including erosion control measures need to be revised. Prominently, flood management and anti-erosion schemes are formulated and implemented by local Governments as per their priority. Various measures need to be revisited. While conventional flood control including reducing flood flows by diversions work at times, flash floods happen in a jiffy and as such measures against them need to be worked out on scientific basis for the areas prone to it. There is also need to work as regards non-structural measures including facilitating timely evacuation of the people and shifting of their movable property to safer grounds by having advance warning of incoming flood through setting up a flood forecast-ing system. There is as such the need for putting in place an integrated flood management approach to provide a reasonable degree of protection against damages. There should be more investments in forecasting systems in order to provide more lead time to the local authorities to plan evacuation of people and take other remedial measures.

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DECODING MY SEVENTY-TWO YEARS IN INDEPENDENT INDIA

NITYA CHAKRABORTY

I first participated in Independence Day celebrations on August 15, 1950, in Calcutta at Prince Ghulam Mohammad Road near Lake Market. I was nine years old. Our family came as refugees from East Bengal, then in Pakistan, in March 1950 and stayed at my oldest sister's residence. And there, about five months later, I became a part of festivities along with my nephews and nieces. Apart from patriotic songs, we had a march past in the locality. Our seniors gave all the children a packet of sweets each. A film related to freedom struggle was also screened.

This programme in Calcutta in 1950 was a new awakening for me, with a sense of real freedom. Earlier in 1947, on August 14, our family took part in the celebrations in Jamalpur town belonging to the Mymensingh district. My father was a teacher at a most renowned school there and he was friendly with the local Muslim leaders. When it was known in early 1947, that Mymensingh would become a part of Pakistan, we got apprehensive. Already, our family had been a victim of riots in Noakhali in 1946. Our house was burnt a few days after Durga Puja was celebrated in our ancestral home. Our family members escaped at night after witnessing the burning from a hideout, with the help of a Muslim family. We fled to Chandpur on a ramshackle boat via a canal flowing into the Meghna River.

After staying at a refugee camp for two days, we reached Jamalpur. Within ten months, Partition took place. On the first Independence Day of Pakistan, I took part in it along with my school friends. I was worried that some unsavoury remark might be hurled against the Hindu boys by the Muslim fellows. But nothing untoward happened. We were relieved. For the next two years, 1948-49, I took part in the celebrations as children do

no matter where they are. However, I was picking up hints that soon we would leave Pakistan for India, Jamalpur for Calcutta.

Meanwhile, in 1948-49, a major transformation took place in my understanding. My eldest brother, who was studying in a Calcutta college, came to Jamalpur during vacations and gave me some books, both in Bengali and English related to Marxism, and also about Soviet Union and China. He told me stories about the march of the Red Army during the barely three-years-old Second World War and how China would soon be taken over by the communists. He said the centre of the communist revolution would shift to India after the takeover of Peking and the road of the coming revolution lay en route Calcutta.

I started reading the books with enthusiasm. Some parts I could understand to some extent, but most I did not. But his one remark struck me the most: "This Independence of India and Pakistanis is all fake; the real struggle will start now." What he meant was that the handover of state power to the governing elite of India meant little for the suffering millions in the Partition-afflicted country, with innumerable poor and down-trodden, many of whose near and dear ones had perished in the 1943 British-engineered Bengal famine. The real revolution would mean upliftment of every single man, woman and child to lead a life of dignity and freedom.

My brother left for Calcutta after the vacation ended, but my entire mind was focussed on how to get to Calcutta at the earliest and become a participant in that great battle for change. For me, Calcutta emerged as the gateway to the New World. Finally, our family of five, parents, my immediate elder brother, sister and me, arrived in Calcutta on March 13, 1950. Fortunately, when the entire railway platform at Sealdah station was a huddle of

thousands of refugees with no place of their own to go to, we took a taxi and left for a low-key middle-class locality where my eldest sister stayed in their spacious three-bedroom flat with a big corridor inside. Within weeks, the families of my sister-in-laws arrived from Comilla as refugees and by April end of 1950, there were 18 people in that flat.

In October 1950, just before the Durga Puja festival, our family of seven including my eldest brother who was also managing a job while studying M. Com, moved to a tiny one-room house in Dhakuria, a bustling locality in South Calcutta. For the next twenty years, Dhakuria was the place which nurtured me in social, cultural and political terms. In December of that year, I attended a mega festival of IPTA (Indian People's Theatre Association) at Saheed Nagar, an adjacent residential place set up by the refugees for themselves.

That night, the programme lasted for nearly five hours. I heard songs sung by radio and playback legends like Salil Choudhury, Debabrata Biswas, Nirmalendu Chowdhury and many others. A Bengali play 'Arunodayer Pathe' (Towards Sunrise) staged by a group, based on the famous play 'The Rising of the Moon,' mesmerised the large audience. At midnight when I came back walking from the festival venue to our one-room abode, I was a completely new boy. What the books of Rebati Burman, Emile Burns and the Communist Manifesto could not do, the one night of IPTA programmes did and how. I became an avowed communist, influenced by the progressive people's cultural movement striving towards a shared modernity of socioeconomic, political parity. Egged on by the internationalist dreams, I also started 'thinking global'.

During 1951-52, the first general elections were held in India after the adoption of the Constitution,

and the entire process of conducting elections was a tremendous success. I was not yet a voter but as a young school student, I vigorously campaigned in the state assembly polls for the Socialist Republican Party candidate Jyotish Joarder, who was supported by the Communist Party of India (CPI). All CPI workers in the local area worked for his campaign and he won with a handsome margin. In 1952's first parliamentary elections, the CPI emerged as the largest opposition party nationally. Even in the West Bengal assembly elections, the CPI emerged as the main opposition party. In 1953, Joseph Stalin, the supremo of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union died. It was a terrible shock to the communists throughout the world. Small rallies were held in most of the localities in Calcutta after the news of his demise was declared officially. I also took part in a mourning procession. My mourning eldest brother told me after I came back from the procession, that if Stalin had not been at the Soviet helm, Hitler would have conquered the world.

1954 was marked by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's Panchsheel ideals and the slogan Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai. This was the period when China became a favourite even to the diehard nationalist Indian. Prime Minister Chou En Lai became very popular when he visited India. Nehru, it seemed, was equally fond of him. 1955 was marked by the historic visit of the two Soviet leaders, Nikita Khrushchev and Nikolai Bulganin. Calcutta went crazy during the visit. I also ran more than 100 metres at Vivekananda Road crossing when the convoy was passing. The prestige of both China and Soviet Union in India peaked during this time among the ordinary people.

But for the communists, 1956 came with a shock. The Report of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the CPSU, supremo

at the 20th Congress of the Party revealed the atrocities committed by Joseph Stalin who died three years back. The CPSU chief officially briefed on the report to the other communist parties of the world. This was soon followed by the uprising in Hungary against Soviet troops. The developments led to the execution of the Hungarian communist leader Imre Nagy. For the first time, the global communist movement was in turmoil since the Joseph Broz Tito episode of 1948, questions posed about the relationship between socialism and democracy.

At the national level, 1957 was the year of the second general elections. For the first time, the CPI formed its first state government in the country led by Chief Minister EMS Namboodiripad in Kerala. In the parliamentary elections, the CPI got 27 seats with nearly nine percent of votes. The CPI emerged as the main opposition party in the state assemblies of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. But the Kerala government was dismissed by the centre in 1959 and this led to big protests throughout the country. In Calcutta, a massive procession was organised by the CPI against the dismissal of the EMS government. I was a part of that protest rally.

In 1959, on August 31 in Calcutta, a huge peasants' rally at Esplanade, organised by the CPI and other left parties, was attacked by the police and the beating was so brutal that about 80 people died. I was at one side of the rally along with my college friend Debabrata. Suddenly, the policemen came and started beating us with lathis. I stepped aside a bit and kicked the concerned cop. Before he was ready with another charge, I ran and straightaway reached the café near the Metro cinema. The next three days saw spontaneous protests by the supporters of the left parties in Calcutta and the districts.

- TO BE CONTINUED...

BIHAR DEVELOPMENTS ARE GOING TO HAVE IMPACT IN UTTAR PRADESH IN 2024 POLLS

PRADEEP KAPOOR

Bihar developments leading to the formation of new government without BJP will impact the politics in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh before 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Significantly, the main opposition party7 Samajwadi Party welcomed the latest turn of events resulting in humiliation of BJP.

Enthusied by the developments in Bihar, Samajwadi Party national President and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav said on Quit India Day Bihar sent the message BJP baghao (remove BJP).

Leader of the Opposition in UP Assembly Akhilesh Yadav said that it was a good start in Bihar and political parties and people in others states too would stand against BJP.

Although opposition parties have welcomed the developments in Bihar, but nobody openly talked about

alliance.

UP sends 80 members to Lok Sabha and there is realisation in opposition parties that only a mahagathabandhan like Bihar could stop BJP in UP.

It may be mentioned that from 10 MPs in 2009 Lok Sabha polls, BJP got 71 in 2014 and 62 in 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Now enthused by the success in 2022 assembly polls UP CM Yogi Adityanath has set the target for all the 80 seats in 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Samajwadi Party has claimed the party alone was capable to defeat BJP in UP. It may be mentioned here that SP has alliance with Apna Dal faction and RLD.

Akhilesh Yadav's uncle and President of Pragatishheel Samajwadi Party Shivpal Yadav who is out of the alliance with nephew said if Bihar type of maturity was required in leaders of opposition parties, then only BJP could be defeated.

Another important back-



ward leader Om Prakash Rajbhar of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party said that there was need for backwards and Dalits to come

together to defeat BJP. He said SP and BSP should join the alliance to defeat BJP.

It may be mentioned Rajbhar and his party were part

of alliance with Samajwadi party but parted company after the elections.

The politics of alliance started in 1993 in UP when Samajwadi Party tied with BSP, and the combination came to power. But later on, the alliance ended in bitterness with both the parties blamed each other for the collapse of alliance.

Samajwadi Party joined the alliance with Congress in 2017 assembly polls and slogan was given with Rahul and Akhilesh Yadav moving in one rath UP ko yeh saath Pasand hai.

However, BJP won the assembly elections and SP-Congress alliance collapsed.

Again in 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Samajwadi Party entered into alliance with archrival BSP. Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati addressed joint rallies. Although Samajwadi Party could retain its five seats, but BSP went from nil to 10 seats. Even after the gain of 10 seats in Lok Sabha due to support

from Akhilesh Yadav and his goodwill in minorities, Mayawati terminated the alliance.

Again in 2022 assembly polls Samajwadi Party entered into alliance with RLD, Apna Dal faction, Mahan Dal, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party, Pragatishheel Samajwadi Party. But after the polls there was much bitterness in alliance members and Mahan Dal, Shivpal Yadav and Om Prakash Rajbhar moved away.

Unless the main opposition parties reach to broader understanding and show the maturity like in Bihar then only, they can stop BJP in UP. Political observers feel that the national opposition parties should play a role in persuading the non-BJP parties to come to an understanding against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Only by restricting BJP to a minimum in UP, the opposition can hope to unseat BJP at the centre.

IPA SERVICE

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S 'ACHHE DIN' NOW NEEDS 25 YEARS MORE

S. SETHURAMAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned his eagerly awaited address on the 75th Independence anniversary, more an electoral plank for 2024 while throwing up a 25-year agenda for the nation to be rid of all ills plaguing it at present. He put Corruption and Nepotism as major challenges while arguing for support to causes like safety of women and freer opportunities for the widening talent pool in India. His approach seems designed to cover up failures on these fronts. The Prime Minister Modi, however, claimed his Government had entered an "effective phase" in the fight against corruption.

BJP's dominance of India's politics, based on the totality of votes, though varying at state levels, has not met legitimate expectations of impoverished masses over a decade-long majoritarian governance.

Nor at any time has there been any serious approach to seeking consensus on major policies while charging the opposition with obstruction in disorderly ways. Mere holding of elections and manipulations for a majority in the House is taken to confer democratic credentials, let alone civic rights



and basic freedoms.

The Constitution stands virtually sidelined in the governance of the nation.

Apart from the politically appointed Governors with most performing to expectations of the Centre in political terms, the Modi Government has taken to promoting a "double engine" government at state level



as true federalism. The Prime Minister has been playing up this "double engine" after claiming its dramatic effect in recent UP elections with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath more dependant to secure his own position. Mr Modi has talked of co-operative federalism through double engine, especially in non-BJP states and particularly in Tamil

Nadu finding Chief Minister M K Stalin a harder nut to crack.

Rhetoric and Drama have always marked Independence Day observance for the ruling party. But "maximum governance and minimum government" having proved ineffective, and Hme Minister Amit Shah's declarations of BJP triumphalism in the coming decades, Prime Minister Modi has had to come up with a longer-term plan. Now the pledges listed for the next 25 years should see India become a developed nation in 2047 - 100th year of independence.

Mr Mody's tactical deviations in his latest performance are designed to sustain and enlarge popular enthusiasm for his leadership and style of governance, having already made some gains every year in the popularity ratings.

Whatever it might be, the Congress has greater challenges to overcome, as the main opposition on an enlarged national plane, through hard field work with credible programmes which could produce better results than in 2019. And Ms. Sonia Gandhi cannot afford to look down upon any other contenders for positions in a multi-party national Front to meet the national challenge in 2024.

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BRIEFLY NEWS

Ajith to shoot in Arakku Valley for '#AK61'?

If rumours doing the rounds in the industry are to be believed, actor Ajith Kumar is to next shoot at the scenic Arakku Valley in Vizag for his upcoming heist thriller that is being directed by H Vinoth.

The grapevine has it that Ajith will be shooting for the climax of the film in Arakku Valley for a week.

The film, which is being tentatively referred to as #AK61, has a plot that revolves around a bank heist.

The unit had erected a giant set resembling Chennai's popular landmark Mount Road in Hyderabad where certain important scenes of the film were shot in its previous schedules.

Rumours suggest that Ajith, who recently chose to take a break from shooting by going on a riding expedition in Europe and then following it up with participation in a shooting competition, is refreshed and eager to shoot.

The last schedule of the film is yet to get over. Once the film is done, Ajith is expected to move on to his next project, which is to be directed by Vignesh Shivan.

'LOTR' series drops special video describing Nuimenor as nautical society

A special video from the upcoming streaming series, 'The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power' was unveiled on Tuesday.

Taking the viewers on the journey of the lesser-known Middle-earth Second Age, the latest clip shows Galadriel, played by Morfydd Clark, introducing Numenor, as "the westernmost of all mortal realms."

Surrounded by the ocean, the island kingdom offers picturesque views with a grand history. Actress Cynthia Addai-Robinson, who plays Miriel, the queen regent of Numenor, describes it as "a very nautical society at the height of its power."

Pharazon, a Numenorean advisor, essayed by actor Trystan Gravelle explains how "half the island wants to cling to the Elvish culture, while the other half wants to go their separate ways." On the other hand, Elendil, a Numenorean sailor, played by actor Llyod Owen who foresees the tragedy that's about to befall on the characters.

Set thousands of years before J.R.R Tolkien's 'The Lord of the Rings and the Hobbit', the series revolves around major events including the fall of Numenor.

'The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power' is set to drop on OTT platform Prime Video on September 2, in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada with new episodes dropping every week.

'Naamkarann' actor Karam Rajpal keen on revealing his real self in reality shows

After quitting TV show 'Rang Jaun Tere Rang Mein', actor Karam Rajpal wants to explore reality shows.

"I wish to explore reality TV shows too. They are amazing experiences in themselves. I feel participating in them will help me to introduce myself to the audience. As they have only known me by my reel characters," he says.

Karam has been part of several daily soaps such as 'Mere Angne Mein', 'Naamkarann' and others. The actor says he enjoys essaying prominent characters in the show.

"As an actor I'm open to essaying both positive and negative characters. I have been a good boy both onscreen and my audience has enjoyed watching me in both the shades. So, I'm not limiting myself to any particular shade, I'm open to exploring prominent characters. I'm always excited to play challenging and promising roles in a good story."

"When asked why he left 'Rang Jaun Tere Rang Mein', he replies: "As the show was taking 20-year leap and I had to play a character double of my age, I was not keen on doing that. So, I decided to quit the show."

Sidharth finally reveals his 'future plans' with Kiara on 'Koffee With Karan'

In the seventh episode of the popular chat show 'Koffee With Karan' actors Vicky Kaushal and Sidharth Malhotra will be seen getting candid about their personal and professional life.

In the upcoming episode, fans will catch a glimpse of Vicky and Sidharth talk about the 'Uri: The Surgical Strike' actor's wife Katrina Kaif and Sidharth's rumoured girlfriend Kiara Advani.

The promo clip shows the three personalities recalling the time Vicky was told about Katrina's comment about how they will look good together.

The 'Raazi' star pretended to swoon back then and he recreated the same this time, falling in Sidharth's lap.

Sidharth quipped: "Iska toh roka hua tha yahan pe (he had a roka right here on the couch)."

The 'Shershaah' star, who has still not confirmed that he is dating Kiara, let it slip that he is manifesting the same for himself.

When Karan questioned him further, he regained his composure and was tagged a 'beeba munda (simple innocent boy)' for it.

Sidharth also shared that he is manifesting a "happy future".

"I manifest a brighter and happy future," he said.

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

MRIDULA OBEROI LEFT A BANKING CAREER TO PURSUE HER ACTING DREAMS

Actress Mridula Oberoi, currently seen playing a negative role Nimmi in Ektaa R Kapoor's show 'Appnapan', shares a few memories as she completes five years in the industry.

The actress recalls arriving in Mumbai to fulfil her dreams. She says: "I remember, I landed in Mumbai only with three things: conviction, belief and a purpose in life leaving behind everything, my family, my kid, financial security, comfort, luxurious life which is not easy to get out of but I believed in myself and dared to follow my inner voice."

She goes on to say: "I still remember the day I landed, it was raining while waiting for my cab. I called home and said to my dad that this is the place I was searching for in so many years of life. The city has surely made me a better person. I have evolved, outgrown my fears of life and have gone limitless."

Hailing from Pathankot, Punjab, the

actress left her banking career to pursue her dreams in acting. She says she got a lot of opportunities after coming to Mumbai but initially it was not so easy for her and she had to work hard on her acting skills.

"It was like learning on the sets only since I came from a banking background. Like you say, hands-on practice makes you learn quicker. And then I luckily got so many popular shows and the audience loved my skills."

She worked in Bollywood movies like 'Jugjugg Jeeyo', 'Love Aaj Kal 2' and did a number of TV shows such as 'Kumkum Bhagya', 'Naagin 6', 'Bhagya Laxmi' and many more.

"I also remember my first show, Beyhadh, where I did a cameo for 12 days and hardly spoke 5 lines in all those days. Since it was a very popular show I was recognised," shares the actress while referring to her journey in the entertainment industry.



'Eternally Confused And Eager for Love' finds a fan in Priyanka Chopra

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas seems to be loving the Indian comedy-drama streaming series, 'Eternally Confused And Eager for Love'. The actress had also expressed her sentiment for the show as she recently shared the poster of the show on her social media.

'Eternally Confused and Eager for Love', which is available to stream on Netflix, is raunchy in all the right spots, but with a beating heart at its centre. It stars Vihaan Samat as the protagonist, who plays the role of a guy seeking love and his adventures endured in his path.

Reacting to the appreciation, Vihaan Samat, who was earlier seen in another Netflix drama series 'Mismatched', said in a statement, "It's an honour to be mentioned by PC for my work and I'm glad that people are loving the show."

The actor further mentioned that he could connect with his character on a subconscious level which helped him to portray it better, "I really connected with Ray's character and it was an awesome journey. I'm excited to see what the future holds for me now."



Debina Bonnerjee, Gurmeet Choudhary expecting second baby

Four months after they welcomed their first bundle of joy, a daughter named Lianna, actors Debina Bonnerjee and Gurmeet Choudhary have announced

that they are all set to become parents again. Debina shared a picture with Gurmeet and daughter Lianna along with a picture of the sonography in her hand to announce her pregnancy. She wrote in the caption: "Few decisions are divinely timed and nothing can change that..this is one such blessing..coming soon to complete us..#babyno2 #mommie-again #ontheway #pregnancydiaries

#daddyagain #gurmeetchoudhary #debinaonnerjee." Their fans and industry friends have congratulated the couple. Actress Tina Datta commented: "Wooahhh" 'Om Shanti Om' actress Yuvika Chaudhary also congratulated the couple, saying: "Wow..congratulations" Debina and Gurmeet, who got married in 2011, welcomed their first child in April 2022.

Angelina Jolie draws attention to atrocities on Afghan women after Taliban takeover

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie, who is known for her humanitarian work, wants the world to take cognizance of what's happening with women in the theocratic state under Taliban ruled Afghanistan.

The 'Girl, Interrupted' star recently wrote in an op-ed in 'Time' magazine, where she recalled her experience of meeting an Afghan refugee woman in Rome. She wrote, "I recently met a young Afghan refugee in Rome who had been months from qualifying as a doctor when the Taliban overthrew the Afghan government in August 2021. Her older sister was studying dentistry at university. Her two younger sisters were doing brilliantly in school."

It's been a year since the Biden administration, acting on Donald Trump's order, withdrew U.S. troops from Afghanistan resulting in Taliban's takeover of the country. The US-Taliban deal or the Doha Agreement laid the foundation of the U.S. troops' exit from the country and subsequent takeover of Afghanistan by Taliban. The deal was signed without taking the Afghan



government into consideration. Angelina wrote about the horrors emanating from the oppressive regime, "Overnight, they (the Afghan refugee and her family) and 14 million other Afghan women and girls lost their right to go to high school or university, their

right to work, and their freedom of movement."

"As we spoke, she hugged her father, who'd worked for decades as an expert in rural development in Afghanistan. He left everything behind when he fled with his family. With tears streaming down her face, she told me

that she wasn't sad for herself, but for all the women of her country", Angelina wrote in her article for 'Time'. Commenting on the progress of Afghan women over the past two decades, Jolie wrote, "One year ago, Afghan women worked as doctors, teachers, artists, police officers, journalists, judges, lawyers, and elected politicians. Afghan children braved repeated suicide attacks on their schools."

She opined that the progress witnessed by Afghan women "has been overturned with unimaginable speed."

"The daughters of Afghanistan are extraordinary for their strength, resilience, and resourcefulness," she added. She then laid out the treatment of Afghan women under the oppressive regime, including public beatings, political imprisonment, kidnapping and forced marriages to Taliban leaders, in her piece.

"Yet despite the dangers, the greatest resistance to the reversal of women's rights in Afghanistan has not come from foreign powers, but from Afghan women themselves, who have taken to the streets," Jolie wrote.

Kriti Sanon wants Vijay Devarakonda, Kartik Aaryan, Ryan Gosling at her swayamwar



From Vijay Devarakonda to Kartik Aaryan, Aditya Roy Kapur and even Ryan Gosling, Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon wants them to be at her swayamvar.

Kriti in a conversation talks about her interest in organising a swayamwar for herself and also shared who all should be a part of it.

During a live show on Rosopo, Kriti said: "Vijay Devarakonda is good looking and he sounds sensible to me. I have seen some of his interviews too and he seems to be very real and sensible. He could be in the Swayamwar. Kartik Aryan could be in it and Aditya Roy Kapur too. Is there anyone else who is single?"

The actress added: "I would love to work with Ryan Gosling and I would also like him to be in my Swayamwar."

On the work front, the 32-year-old actress, who made her Bollywood debut in 2014 with 'Heropanti' starring Tiger Shroff, has a gamut of films lined up for release.

Kriti, who has a Bachelor of Technology degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering, will be seen in movies such as 'Bhediya', 'Ganpath', 'Adipurush' and 'Shehzada'.

'Squid Game' bags two top honours at Hollywood Critics Association awards

The South Korean sensational show 'Squid Game' took home the Best International Series and Best Actor awards at this year's Hollywood Critics Association (HCA) TV Awards. According to the HCA on Tuesday (Korean time), 'Squid Game' was named Best International Series and its lead Lee Jung-jae won Best Actor in a Streaming Series, Drama, at its annual awards for TV programmes, reports Yonhap, a news agency.

For the Best International Series award, the Netflix original competed with the Korean-language epic series 'Pachinko', the Mexican comedy 'Acapulco', the French thriller 'Lupin', the Spanish crime action series 'Money Heist' and the American-Mexican crime drama 'Narcos: Mexico'.

In a videotaped acceptance speech, 'Squid Game' creator Hwang Dong-hyuk said he is grateful for the honour and now working on the series' second season.

"I believe the series has since overcome the limits of a non-English series to create many histori-

cal moments and breakthroughs," he said.

"I do hope to create a better second season and share it with all the fans and critics around the world."

Lee Jung-jae took home the best actor trophy, beating seven other candidates, including Adam Scott from 'Severance', Jason Bateman from 'Ozark' and Tom Ellis from 'Lucifer'.

He was the only non-English performer among the nominees.

The awards came about a month before the Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony slated for September 12, where 'Squid Game' has nabbed 14 nominations, including outstanding drama series and outstanding lead actor.

'Squid Game' is the first South Korean-made content to be included in the final list of nominees for the Primetime Emmy Awards, one of the four major American awards for performing arts and entertainment.

It is also the first non-English language series to vie for television's top honour at the Primetime Emmys.

SKUAST-Jammu celebrates 76th Independence Day

JAMMU, AUGUST 16: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) celebrated the 76th Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. Professor, J.P. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, hoisted the National Flag at Faculty of Agriculture, Main Campus, Chatha and Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, R. S. Pura.

In his address, he advised the university employees to work with full dedication and honesty towards building an Atma Nirbhar Bharat. He said that agriculture and the allied sector proved to be the most resilient to the Covid-19 shock. He exhorted that agriculture sector has experienced buoyant growth in the past two years and

perienced buoyant growth in the past two years and



agriculture and allied sector is the largest employer of workforce. "We as a scientist are fortunate that we are having an opportunity to serve farmers of the country who otherwise are serving the whole nation by providing food" Prof.

Sharma said. He congratulated to all

teaching and non-teaching staff for sanctioning of three faculties viz Faculty of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Dairy Technology and Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry which are now functional from current academic session 2022-23. Prof. Sharma said that increasing importance of allied sectors including animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries in growth and income of the farmers indicates that focus needs to shift more towards harnessing the potential of allied activities, also.

Prof. Sharma emphasised that success can be achieved only by sharing of innovative ideas and extending full cooperation in nation building. He congratulated scientists of the University for release of 21 new varieties of cereals, fruits, vegetables and pulses. He informed that recently research projects to the tune of Rs.11 crore have been sanctioned to SKUAST-Jammu by DBT

and DST, New Delhi for agriculture research and development.

He congratulated sixty six students of the agrivarsity for qualifying National Eligibility Test (NET) during the current year. Vice Chancellor in his speech appreciated the efforts of Veterinary Scientists for creating awareness among farmers regarding the outbreak of prevalent skin disease in animals and its control through medicines. KVK, Jammu also got the appreciation of Vice Chancellor for disseminating mass awareness among farmers for the mentioned skin disease. He also applauded the efforts and resilience of Scientists of Faculties, Research Stations.

DC Kathua kick starts plantation of fruit plants in border village Kunthal

KATHUA, AUGUST 16: Deputy Commissioner, Kathua Rahul Pandey today kick started a Fruit trees Plantation drive organized by the Horticulture department in border village Kunthal in Hiranagar.

The Plantation of citrus fruit is being carried out over an area of 40 kanal of land in village Kunthal under the CAPEX HD Scheme of Horticulture Department in areas having suitable agro climatic conditions.

The Deputy Commissioner also handed over three tractors, two tillers and one MP Plough under SMAM & Special Mechanization Capex scheme of the Horticulture department.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC Kathua Rahul Pandey appealed to the farmers of border areas to come forward and avail schemes of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Poultry and allied sectors to adopt composite farming to enhance their income. He said the government has devised several schemes in Agriculture and Allied sectors where Tractors, Tillers and other farming implements, tools are being given to the farmers at highly subsidized rates to ease out the farming process through technological intervention.

While giving details of the ongoing plantation drive taken up by Horticulture Department, the Chief Horticulture Officer, Kathua Sushil Kumar Angurana said the department has been motivating farmers to adopt horticulture on commercial scale as there is huge potential for it in border areas of Kathua district. "Over 120 hectares of landmass has been brought under the mango, litchi and citric plantation in the district", the CHO added. Speaking on the occasion, the DC Kathua Rahul Pandey appealed to the farmers of border areas to come forward and avail schemes of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Poultry and allied sectors to adopt composite farming to enhance their income.



DDC reviews implementation of RDD sector schemes in Rajouri

RAJOURI, AUGUST 16: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today took a comprehensive review of the performance of Rural Development Department, here in a meeting of the concerned officers.

The meeting took stock of the progress under District Capex budget, Amrit Sarovar programme, construction of houses under PMAY and Awas plus, works taken up, completed under 14th FC, digging of soak pits, secure status of estimation, payment of wages, person days generated etc.

The meeting was informed that out of 3786 works approved under annual Budget, 3405 works have tendered out, while 170 have been allotted for execution.

While taking note of slow tendering and allotment process, the DDC asked

the Block Development Officers to convene joint meetings of the PRIs and contractors to maximize the participation of the Panchayat level contractors.

It was further apprised that 343618 Person Days have been generated as on date, while DDC asked to take effective measures to meet the set yearly target.

Taking stock of the status of secure estimation, it was given out that 28827 works are on the shelf for FY 2022-23 and 11052 MGN-REGA works have been sent to secure.

Regarding construction of soak pits, the meeting was informed that against the target of 130000 units, the work on 23221 units was in progress. Regarding Amrit Sarovars, it was apprised that out of 153 Amrit Sarovars, the work on 42 is complete.

Similarly, the DDC also

took stock of the physical and financial progress made under PMAY and Awas plus. It was informed that against the target of 30661 houses under PMAY-G, the work on as many as 16951 stands completed, while against the target of 10864 houses under Awas plus, the work on 93 houses is complete. The DC set the Target for completion of 10000 PMAY houses in the coming two months.

Asking the concerned officers to adhere to set timelines, he directed them to work meticulously utilising the working season, besides, he also stressed on meeting quality parameters. Asking the concerned officers to adhere to set timelines, he directed them to work meticulously utilising the working season, besides, he also stressed on meeting quality parameters.

DC Ramban chairs meeting of District Advisory Committee on PC & PNDDT

RAMBAN, AUGUST, 16: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Musarrat Islam today chaired a meeting of District Advisory Committee on Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnosis Techniques (PC & PNDDT), here today.

The meeting was attended by the President Municipal Council Ramban, Sunita Sumbaria; ADC Harbans Lal; CPO Dr. Kasturi Lal; CMO, Dr. Kamal Zadui; Medical Superintendent District Hospital, DSWO, CDPO and other members.

Threadbare discussion was held on various issues which included registration & renewal of ultrasound Centres, implementation of pre-conception and prenatal diagnostic techniques Act for monitoring and implementation of PC&PNDDT Act.

While stressing upon effective implementation of the PC&PNDDT Act, the DC passed directions to concerned officers to take action against persons found violating the Act besides conducting frequent inspections of ultrasound clinics to enforce its compliance.

It was informed that the applications have also been received online for provisional registration of establishments in the district. The DC asked the members to follow proper procedure while dealing with applications for grant of provisional registrations. It was informed that the applications have also been received online for provisional registration of establishments in the district. The DC asked the members to follow proper procedure while dealing with applications for grant of provisional registrations.

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 16: The 76th Independence Day was celebrated with high esteem, patriotic spirit and great enthusiasm at Government College for Women (GCW), Udhampur by saluting and hoisting Tricolour and paying tributes to the frontline leaders under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Principal GCW Udhampur Dr. Monika Sharma, who was the chief guest, hoisted the National Flag and took salute at an impressive march past by NCC contingents.

Besides, the Department of Music organized a scintillating cultural programme presented by students of the department based on the theme of patriotism and culture and heritage.

Complimenting the audience on the auspicious day, the Principal recalled the services of frontline



leaders including Mahatma Gandhi and sacrifices made by numerous freedom struggle heroes in attaining freedom.

Dr. Monika said that it is now the prime duty and responsibility of every citizen, especially the youth to keep this hard won freedom intact and flourish day by day by maintaining unity in diversity by following the footsteps of our freedom struggle leaders in letter and spirit.

HoD Music, Dr. Seema Sharma, HoD Zoology Dr.

Sanjeet Kour, HoD Chemistry Prof. Kewal Kumar, HoD Botany Prof. Ashni Devi, senior faculty members, non teaching staff and a large number of students were present on the occasion. Dr. Monika said that it is now the prime duty and responsibility of every citizen, especially the youth to keep this hard won freedom intact and flourish day by day by maintaining unity in diversity by following the footsteps of our freedom struggle leaders.

Kishtwar: District level Committee discusses road safety measures

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Ashok Sharma (who is the Chairman of Road Safety Committee) today chaired the District Road Safety Committee meeting here in his office Chamber. During the meeting, different issues regarding Road safety were discussed with all the stakeholders and NGOs. Numerous directions were issued to the concerned to make the journey on the district roads safe. The executing agencies were asked to install Crash Barriers at risky spots of different routes, identify Black spots and display QRT/ emergency Health care contacts on all roads of the district including NH-244. The strict enforcement of Motor Vehicles Act and creation of Road Safety Clubs in the schools and colleges was also stressed upon. Additional District Development Commissioner Sham Lal; Additional Superintendent of Police, Rajinder Singh; OC 118 RCC M Y Gautam; JD-Planning, Mohammad Iqbal; ARTO, Romesh Samotra; XEN PMGSY Marwah, Mohammad Aslam Lone; EO Kishtwar Municipality.

KATRA, AUGUST 15 – To commemorate the monumental occasion of 75th anniversary of India's Independence under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Sh. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board hoisted the tricolour amid rains with traditional fervor and patriotism at Katra, the base town for pilgrimage to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

The main function at Katra was held at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, where Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, took salute at an impressive march-past by the contingents drawn from J&K Police, CRPF, NCC Boys and Girls, Scouts and Guides at the Sports Complex, besides the students of various educational institutions. The rain did not dampen the spirits of either the students or the people, who were present till the main function ended. The cultural programmes were shifted to Spiritual

Growth Centre, Katra.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Anshul Garg greeted the people and dedicated this Mahotsav to the people of India who have been instrumental in bringing India this far in its evolutionary journey. Paying rich tributes to the freedom fighters, the CEO said that the Nation owes gratitude to these great leaders who sacrificed their lives to secure freedom from foreign rule.

He thanked the government of India for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign bringing the flag home collectively as a nation in the 75th year of independence which became symbolic of not only an act of personal connection to the Tiranga but also an embodiment of our commitment to nation-building.

CEO asserted the benefits of many government schemes initiated had now reached the doorsteps of people including Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to provide Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural household i.e. Har Ghar

Nal Se Jal (HGNSJ) by 2024, besides, the construction of



six-lane Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway by which the travel time from Delhi to Vaishno Devi will be reduced to six hours only.

He also gave details of various major infrastructure development projects already completed by the Shrine Board, ongoing and those in the pipeline, besides high-tech crowd management initiatives taken by the Shrine Board. He said that Shrine

Board has been developing and continually upgrading



the pilgrim-centric facilities and in this context efforts are being made to create modern facilities like Durga Bhawan, Skywalk, Spiritual theme park, New Locker facility, hi-tech services like RFID tag, CCTV surveillance for safety, security and pleasant divine experience of devotees. Besides, efforts are ongoing to enlarge the staff accommodation at various sectors of the Shrine Board.

While speaking on the upcoming Durga Bhawan, he contended that Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha, Chairman Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has been laying very high priority to the speedy enlargement of the logistical framework and accordingly aiming at accentuating additional facilities for meeting the accommodation needs of the pilgrims, Durga Bhawan is upcoming shortly for pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. It will accommodate nearly 2000 pilgrims every day by maximizing space utilization which significantly enlarges the logistical framework for the pilgrims in the Bhawan area.

On construction of Sky Walk, he said that on its completion there will be decongestion of traffic for the devotees to ensure their easy crossover and to overcome the problem of multidirectional movement at Bhawan. The Chief Executive Officer also underscored the development of a Spiritual Theme

Park by the Shrine Board around Katra. He said that having such a facility would prolong the stay of pilgrims, giving a fillip to the town's economy.

The Chief Executive Officer asserted that the safety and security of pilgrims is top priority of Shrine Board and in this endeavor, for the purpose of real-time tracking of pilgrims on the track, ensure proper crowd management and to manage registration of pilgrimage in seamless / hassle free way, the Shrine Board has started RFID based yatra access cards for the registration and verification of pilgrims desirous of visiting the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. These cards shall be mandatory for every pilgrim for commencing the yatra. He further added that the RFID Card is free of cost for the pilgrims and it has to be worn throughout the track for its validation at verification counters established at various identified locations enroute Bhawan. This RFID card is to be mandatorily.

GDNCC Cadets of GCW Udhampur organizes Quiz to celebrate Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

UDHAMPUR AUGUST 16: A quiz competition was organized by 1st J&K Girls Battalion NCC Srinagar, Govt. College for Women, Udhampur here under the patronage of the College Principal Dr. Monika Sharma.

The event was hosted in continuation of the series of activities under Har Ghar Tiranga programme and Independence week celebration under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The theme of the quiz competition was Har Ghar Jhanda. In all, 15 cadets participated in the competition with great zeal and enthusiasm. The cadets were divided into three teams namely Saffron, White and Green, having five members in



each team. The quiz was

conducted in six different

rounds. On the basis of their overall performance, team Saffron won the 1st prize and team White and team Green won the second and third prizes, respectively.

The Principal Dr. Monika Sharma appreciated and encouraged the cadets for participating in the celebration of 75 years of India's Independence more enthusiastically.

The position holders of the quiz competition were awarded with different prizes. The event was co-ordinated by ANO Prof Shailu Jasrotia. Dr. Seema Sharma HOD Music and Prof Yash Kumar Assistant Professor from the department of music also graced the occasion.

SKUAST Jammu hosts lecture on Entrepreneurship, Employment Opportunities for Youth

JAMMU, AUGUST 16: Vice Chancellor SKUAST of Jammu, Prof J P Sharma on Tuesday felicitated Satish Kumar, Coordinator Swadeshi Jagaran Manch and appreciated the Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan for its role in transforming rural youth and developing entrepreneurship opportunities in India.

Satish Kumar delivered a lecture on Employment opportunities for the youth in UT of Jammu and Kashmir at Baba Jitto Auditorium of SKUAST Jammu.

In his deliberation, Satish Sharma presented a concept note and motivated rural youth and students to become job providers and not job seekers. He elaborated that the Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan campaign aims to coordinate between job seekers and job providers and to encourage and support self-employment for new small scale enterprise, start-ups, cooperative based industries and establishment of employment generation centres at district level. He further added that youths have to make a holistic plan to become a job provider across the nation. Mr Sharma also talked about the slogans for youth and developing entrepreneurship viz.,

Earn while you learn, start earning early, Passionate hard work, Risk taking capacity, Nation first Swadeshi must.

In his presidential address, Prof J P Sharma, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu talked of Self-employment, agribusiness, start-ups and entrepreneurship opportunities. Prof Sharma narrated the stories of successful entrepreneurs actually working on ground. He also advocated the students to Think big and dream big. He informed that the Country has the largest workforce among 207 countries in the world and there are many new initiatives for entrepreneurship and job opportunities for rural youth especially of J&K under Atmanirbhar Bharat with funding under different agriculture and allied sectors. He further added that self-pride of the farmer should be maintained in addition to enhancing his income.

Prof Sharma also briefed about the various schemes available for youth like RKVY-RAFTAAR under which two programmes are functional in the SKUAST-Jammu viz., PRAGATI and UGDAM. Statutory officers of SKUAST Jammu, Head of the Divisions, Scientists, Students, and other staff.

I-Day celebration CEO JK hoists National Flag at Nirvachan Bhawan



JAMMU, AUGUST 16: To mark the celebration of Independence Day, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Jammu and Kashmir, Hirdesh Kumar, hoisted the National Flag in the premises of the Nirvachan Bhawan.

The flag hoisting ceremony, among others, was attended by Additional Secretary CEO office, Sandesh Gupta; Deputy Director Information, Akhtar Hussain Qazi; Deputy Election Officer Rajouri, Babu Ram Tandon, besides other officers and officials.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

ACCIDENT

treatment.”

The deceased ITBP personnel who lost their lives in a road accident at Chandanwari, Pahalgam have been identified as Head Constable Dula Singh (Taran Taran, Punjab), Constable Abhiraj (Lakhisarai,Bihar), Constable Amit K (Etah,UP), Constable D Raj Shekhar (Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh), Constable Subhash C Bairwal (Sikar, Rajasthan) Constable Dinesh Bohra (Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand) and Constable Sandeep Kumar (J&K).

Meanwhile President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar condoled the loss of lives in the accident.

“The tragic loss of precious lives of ITBP personnel in the unfortunate accident at Anantnag, J&K fills me with sadness. My heartfelt condolences for the bereaved families. I pray for speedy recovery of the injured,” Murmu tweeted.

“Saddened by the loss of lives of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel in a bus accident ... My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. My prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured,” a tweet by the Vice President’s Secretariat quoted Dhakhar as saying.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said all possible assistance is being provided to the injured security personnel.

“Deeply anguished by the bus accident near Chandanwari in which we have lost our brave ITBP personnel. My condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured,” Sinha tweeted.

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah also took to Twitter to express their condolences.

The news of a bus carrying ITBP personnel falling into a gorge in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir is very saddening, Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

“I wish the injured jawans a speedy recovery and peace to the souls of the martyred and express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families,” the former Congress chief said.

Abdullah wished the injured a speedy recovery.

“... I send my condolences to the families & colleagues of the brave ITBP jawans killed in an accident in Pahalgam today. A number of ITBP personnel have been injured. I send my best wishes for their speedy & complete recovery,” he said.

Banerjee said, “Deeply pained to learn about the tragic accident in Pahalgam whereby our nation lost several brave ITBP jawans & police personnel. I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of our jawans. Praying for the speedy recovery of those who were injured on duty.

LG

ensure the best possible medical care for his early recovery.

The Lt Governor strongly condemned the terror attack on civilians in Shopian in which a civilian namely Sunil Kumar has lost his life, and Pitambar Nath Pandit received injuries.

“Pained beyond words on despicable attack on civilians in Shopian. My thoughts are with the family of Sunil Kumar. Praying for speedy recovery of the injured. The attack deserves strongest condemnation from everyone. Those responsible for the barbaric act will not be spared”, said the Lt Governor.

KILLED

“Pained beyond words on despicable attack on civilians in Shopian. My thoughts are with the family of Sunil Kumar. Praying for speedy recovery of injured. The attack deserves strongest condemnation from everyone. Those responsible for barbaric act will not be spared”, tweeted Sinha’s office.

The former chief minister and National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah called the killing of Kumar “sad news”.

“Terribly sad news from South Kashmir today. An accident & a militant attack have left a trail of death & suffering. I condemn the militant attack in Shopian unequivocally in which Sunil Kumar was killed & Pinto Kumar injured. My condolences to the family,” Omar tweeted, also referring to the bus accident in the Pahalgam area in which at least six Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel were killed.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti said that the residents of Jammu and Kashmir have become “cannon fodder in Delhi’s question for manufactured normalcy”.

“Terribly sorry to hear about the targeted killing in Shopian. Condolences to the deceased’s family. GOI continues to behave like an ostrich with its head buried deep under the sand. Every resident of J&K has become cannon fodder in Delhi’s quest for ‘manufactured normalcy,” she tweeted.

“Yet another dastardly attack by coward terrorists in Shopian. We strongly condemn this heinous act of violence. My condolences to the family,” tweeted People’s Conference head Sajad Lone.

Last week, a migrant laborer from Bihar was shot dead in the Sumbal town of Bandipora district. A laborer — also from Bihar — was killed and two others injured in a grenade attack at Pulwama’s Gadoora on August 4.

At least 25 people, including four non-local residents, have lost their lives in targeted killings this year.

KPSS

on Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley, the militants have made it clear that they are going to kill all the Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir,” the President of KPSS Sanjay Tickoo, said in a statement.

“Irony is that the local OGWs (overground workers) work with them (militants) to kill their neighbours,” he added.

Tickoo who braved the most turbulent times in the over three decades long insurgency said Kashmir is a place where tourists are safe and no attacks were executed during the Amarnath yatra.

“But local non-Muslims, particularly the Kashmiri Pandits, are vulnerable,” he said.

He said the judiciary and the government have failed miserably to protect Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir.

“As such KPSS is appealing to all the Kashmiri Pandits to leave Kashmir and don’t fall trap to sugar coated statements from Kashmiri society,” he said.

“No Kashmiri Pandits is safe in Kashmir. For Kashmiri Pandits only one option left (is to) leave Kashmir or get killed by religiously fanatic minds who have the support of the local population,” he said.

According to KPSS there are around 800 non migrant Pandit families who live in 242 places across Kashmir.

The appeal by the KPSS, comes at a time when, over 5,000 Kashmiri Pandit employees who had returned to Kashmir under the Prime Ministe

VILLAGERS

house of the victim to the cremation ground where the body Sunil Kumar was consigned to flames amid slogans of “Hindu Muslim Sikh Itihad (unity of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs)”.

Those who took part in the procession raised slogans against the killing of Kumar and said it was against the principle of Islam.

Several people from the area joined the procession from Butt’s residence where Muslim neighbors were seen consoling the family. Butt was shot dead while he was in his orchard along with his cattle. His brother suffered injuries

in the incident.

He was cremated this evening.

COURT

is concerned.”

The court observed that a clear room for doubt has been left out in the prosecution evidence.

“Here it is pertinent to note that it is not part of the duty of the accused to show as to why a false allegation has been leveled against him and why particular witnesses have deposed against him but it is bounded duty of the prosecution to establish its case against the accused beyond any reasonable doubt,” the court said as per copy of the verdict with GNS, adding, “Further it is beaten law that strong suspicion, co-incidence and grave doubt cannot take place of the legal proof.”

Suspicion however, grave is not proof in absence of the reliable evidence and it is always unwise to act on mere suspicion, the court underlined.

“Thus, prosecution case fails and accused is accordingly acquitted of the charges leveled against him,” the court said, adding, “Accused is relieved from bail and surety bond executed.”

BUDGAM

out same day but she disclosed that she was kidnapped and raped by one Liyakat Ali Dar, a resident of Wahabpora Budgam.

The accused was absconding but after strenuous efforts of the police he was arrested from Wadwan area of the district.

A case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Budgam and investigation taken up, Police added.

TRANSFAR

Surbhi Raina, Jr. Scale JKAS, Under Secretary , BOPEE is transferred and posted as Under Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board.

Mamta Rajput, Jr. Scale JKAS, Administrative Officer in the J&K Services Selection Board, Jammu, is transferred and posted as District Social Welfare Officer, Jammu.

Anil Kumar, Jr. Scale JKAS, Assistant Director Employment Jammu (Central) is transferred and posted as Under Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board.

Pulkit Dutta, Jr. Scale JKAS, CDPO, Billawar, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board.

Abdul Raqib Bhatt Jr. Scale JKAS, Block Development Officer, Bandipora is transferred and posted as Under Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board.

Kashif Altaf Bhat, Jr. Scale JKAS, presently posted as Under Secretary in J&K Services Selection Board, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department.

Sadia Ahmed, Jr. Scale JKAS, Block Development Officer, Dhanasal, is transferred and posted as Administrative Officer, J&K Services Selection Board, Jammu.

Harjinder Singh, Under Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Skill Development Department.

Altaf Hussain Bhat, Administrative Officer in the J&K Services Selection Board, is transferred and posted as Administrative Officer, Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K.

Bishan Dass, Under Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Rafia Nabi, Under Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department.

RAMBAN

large number of complaints from general public regarding the harassment by certain news portals operating with the jurisdiction of district Ramban without proper permission from the authority.

The order further adds that based on the information furnished by the district information officer it has been established that the aforesaid news portals are operating without any permission from the authority and hence they are being banned from the district.

However, he quit the politics in August 2020.

Doctor dies of electrocution while hoisting tricolor in Kathua

Kathua, August 16: A doctor has reportedly died due to electric shock while hoisting a national flag on the rooftop of a hospital in Kathua district of Jammu, officials said on Tuesday.

The doctor, identified as Pawan Kumar of Chadwal area, died of electric shock when he come in contact with 11KV power line at the roof top of the government primary health center (PHC) at Haria Chak while hoisting the tricolor, they said.

A police team reached on the spot and shifted the body to Hiranagar hospital, the officials said.

Man crushed to death by train in Awantipora

Srinagar, August 16: A 50-year-old man was crushed to death by a moving train in Malangpora of Awantipora area in south Kashmir’s Pulwama district this afternoon, sources said.

Identifying the deceased as Mohammad Yousaf of Malangpora, sources said the deceased was knocked down and ran over by the train, resulting in his instant death.

A case has been registered in this regard for further investigations.

MeT predicts widespread rain in Kashmir, isolated showers in Jammu

Srinagar, August 16: Weatherman has forecast widespread light to moderate rain and thundershowers over Kashmir Valley and isolated showers in Jammu region in next 24 hours.

A meteorological department official here said that scattered light to moderate rain and thunderstorms were expected in the subsequent two days in J&K.

In last 24 hours till 0830 a.m., he said, Kathua had highest rainfall in J&K, recording 43.6 mm followed by Batore with 26.0 mm, Gulmarg 19.6 mm, Jammu 14.2 mm, Katra 6.2 mm, Pahalgam 5.4 mm, Kukernag 4.4 mm, Banihal 4.1 mm, Qazigund 3.4 mm, Srinagar 0.8 mm and Kupwara 0.6 mm.

Regarding minimum temperature, the MeT official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 19.6°C against 20.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.5°C above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 18.0°C against 18.2°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.7°C above normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 14.2°C against 17.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 17.2°C against 18.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal for the place, he said.World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 10.6°C against 12.8°C on the previous night. It was 1.5°C below normal for the north Kashmir place.

Jammu and Kashmir’s agriculture exports making waves globally

Srinagar, August 16: Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory is fast becoming the export hub for agriculture and allied goods and the trade and export policy (2018-2028) along with numerous government schemes has given impetus to efficient production and marketing strategies, creating new benchmarks for J&K in the international market.

In the last three year, the Union Territory has witnessed a record-breaking growth of around 55 percent in exports. A large chunk of this percentage comprised of agricultural goods.

Many export success stories are making rounds in Jammu and Kashmir. Agri-preneurs have birthed unique products such as cold saffron beverages, dispersible saffron ke-hwa tablets, apple chips, apple powder, walnut butter, and a mechanized unshelled walnut processing chain.

J&K’s major agricultural exports include apples, barley, cherries, corn, millet, oranges, rice, peaches, pears, plums, walnuts, almonds, saffron, sorghum, wheat, and vegetables. The exotic vegetables propagated for export to Europe include broccoli, brussels sprouts, asparagus, lettuce, and red cabbage.

Renowned scientists and policy planners of the country under the chairmanship of Dr. Mangala Rai are preparing a futuristic roadmap for accelerated development of agriculture and allied sectors.

70 percent of J&K’s economy is agriculture-based, so there is immense scope for harnessing the real potential of agriculture and allied sectors. The idea is to invest in crops that provide local food security and commercial export value. Value addition to Agri products, their processing, packaging, and market outreach are being planned for the maximum profit per input.

A month back Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated a two-day multi-stakeholder convention on the holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) Srinagar. It requires all stakeholders’ concerted effort to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision for J&K – Food Security, Self-Sufficiency, and Global Leadership in Agriculture.

Under the PMFME (Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises) scheme of “One District One Product” the singular focus of J&K’s districts will be on the production of: Jammu – Dairy Products; Rajouri – Spices; Poonch – Mutton and Poultry processing; Kishtwar and Doda – Walnut processing; Ramban – Honey processing; Udhampur – Pickles and Jam; Reasi – Organic vegetables; Kathua – Spices; Samba – Mushrooms; Anantnag – Trout fish; Pulwama – Saffron; Shopian – Apple; Kulgam – Apple and Spices; Srinagar – Flowers; Budgam – Exotic vegetables; Baramulla – Dairy products; Kupwara – Walnut; Ganderbal – Honey; and Bandipora – processed Poultry and Mutton.

Beekeeping is one of the oldest employments in the state. Locally grown honey has been traded for centuries given the flora of the Valley. Beekeeping also allows the production of propolis, beeswax, bee-venom, pollen, and royal jelly.

As India is the sixth major natural honey exporting country, Beekeepers in the Valley have a ready base to capture

HDFC Bank launches 'Vigil Aunty' campaign to promote freedom from fraud



Srinagar, Aug 16, KNT: HDFC Bank launches a new campaign, ‘Vigil Aunty’, which will encourage people across the country to practice safe banking habits. This will complement the Bank’s popular ‘Mooh Band Rakho’ campaign which urges people not to share their confidential banking information with others. Ms. Anuradha (Anu) Menon, who popularised the Lola Kutty character, will be the protagonist of this campaign. Through a series of videos, reels, chat shows, Ms. Menon, as Vigil Aunty, will be creating awareness on safe banking do’s and don’ts.

Vigil Aunty will motivate citizens to stay vigilant by keeping them informed about the modus operandi of financial fraudsters, ways to detect cyber fraud attempts and how to stay safe. She will host chat shows on social media platforms and discuss some of the recent incidents of cyber frauds with celebrity guests.

Vigil Aunty will be a social media influencer with a presence on Instagram and Facebook. She will also have her own WhatsApp number (+91 72900 30000) to connect with customers. HDFC Bank’s website will have a dedicated page that will create awareness on cyber frauds. Sameer Ratolikar, Chief Information Security Officer, HDFC Bank, said: "Fraudsters are increasingly adopting social engineering tactics to steal money from customers' bank accounts. On the pretext of offering certain services or promising help, the fraudsters are luring customers into sharing their PINs, OTPs, passwords, and other confidential banking information with them. Hence, there is a need to educate customers on safe banking habits and make them aware of the various modus operandi used by fraudsters."

Ravi Santhanam, Chief Marketing Officer and Head – Corporate Communications, Liability Products and Managed Programmes, HDFC Bank said that the online world, customers are increasingly engaging with social media influencers and content creators to seek information and guidance on a wide variety of topics, ranging from food to travel to entertainment. Hence, we decided to create our very own social media influencer, Vigil Aunty, to provide customers with information on safe banking habits.

The campaign will run for four to six weeks to popularise Vigil Aunty and encourage people to follow her on social media and/or through WhatsApp. However, as a social media influencer Vigil Aunty will have a continuous presence in the digital ecosystem and will continue to inform customers about various modus operandi of financial fraudsters and how to stay safe from them.

2454 Vaccinated, 803 samples collected in Ramban

RAMBAN, AUGUST 16: As per District Immunization Officer Ramban, Dr. Suresh, the Health Department today administered covid vaccine precaution doses to 2454 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 803 samples including 220 RT-PCR and 583 RAT samples besides administering Covid vaccine to 2454 persons at various dedicated Vaccination Centres in the district.

Medical and Veterinary Camp organised at Maidanan and Neelam villages.

Sheikh Sanjeel



- 1) As part of the initiative on behalf of the Armed Forces to win the hearts and minds of the local populace residing in the valley, Dagger gunners org a Medical cum Veterinary Camp for the locals of Maidanan and Neelam villages near Boniyar.
- 2) The event turned out to be a great success as the efforts made by Indian Army were highly appreciated by the locals. The medical needs of the locals were taken care by reaching out to the large gathering of villagers by a civil doctor and RMO from the Army. Totally 130 patients were attended today.
- 3) The ailments of the pets were looked after by the Army Veterinary Corps Medical representative. Totally 40 animals were attended .
- 4) There was a “deworming campaign” conducted for the school going kids upto 15 years which was attended by 35 kids of the region.
- 5) These acts and gestures of concern for locals will go a long way in establishing harmony and bonhomie with the population in the valley at large.

Govt UPS Banshalla celebrates 75th Independence Day

Malwana (Banshalla): Govt Upper Primary School Ban-shalla Zone Gundna Malwana tehsil Gundna of district Doda.

The flag was hoisted by Ward Member Sh. Mohd Iqbal shall Ward No. 6 of Panchayat Malwana East. The student of the school and done March Past salute the national flag with respect.

Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Batt was the Chief Guest and Mukesh Parihar Former State President, All India Students Federation (AISF) J&K was Guest of Honour, Mohd Iqbal Shall Panch was the special Guest on the occasion.

Beside this various speeches, skits, dance, tarana was also done by these students on this auspicious occasion.

Chief Guest Rtd. Sub. Inspector throws the light on the importance of national flag and role of various freedom fighters for achieving this day of independence.

Javaid Hussain teacher and Methan Kumar teacher of the same school were the stage secretary on the occasion.

The Headmaster of the shool Om Singh Parihar thanks all participant, Guest and students from the core of heart for making this programme a success. Meanwhile Headmaster throws lights on the role of various freedom fighters and needs to celebrate this programe every year and everywhere.

Approximately more than hundred villagers of the said village were also present on this occasion.

Army organises National Flag rally at buta phatri gulmarg



As the whole Nation is celebrating 75th year of Independence with absolute euphoria, in run up to the occasion and boost local participation,

The event witnessed a bike rally of 92 indls on ATV bikes mounted with National Flag. Locals from all near by villages gathered to cheer up for the rally. Total of 1176 people gathered and sang National song with heart and soul.

The event provided an opportunity to Bakarwals to celebrate 75th year of Independence and showcase their spirit of patriotism. Bike rally indls were appreciated for their enthusiasm and involvement in celebration. *LOC*: Butapathr

ITBP official from Rajouri honoured with police medal

Farooq Rather

Srinagar,16-Aug: Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force Kanpur, UP personnel, a resident of Rajouri district was awarded for bravery, on the occasion of Independence Day.

Kuldip Raj, ASI of 32 B.N ITBP resident of Godhera area was awarded with Police Gallantry Medal award for undertaking an Anti Naxal Operation in the forests of Chhattisgarh in which he neutralized 1 Naxalite and saved the troops from an ambush and also recovered lot of arms & ammunition. Notably,20 (ITBP) force personnel were awarded various service medals on the occasion.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hoisted the Tricolor in Kolkata,Aug 15,2022. H.T.Photo SOURAV DUTTA.

More than 6 crore Tiranga selfies uploaded on the Har Ghar Tiranga website under Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan

New Delhi, August 16, 2022 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched “Har Ghar Tiranga” campaign to encourage people to bring the Tiranga home and hoist it to celebrate 75 years of India’s Independence. The idea behind the initiative was to strengthen the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the people and to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in the spirit of Jan Bhagidari. States, Union Territories, and Ministries participated extensively in the campaign with full fervor. NGOs and Self-Help Groups from various places also contributed towards making Har Ghar Tiranga, an iconic benchmark in the success path of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Various events involving people from all walks of life were organized at locations connected with Freedom Struggle, to portray the patriotism and unity of the entire country. Several new milestones like Guinness World Record of World’s ‘Largest Human Image of a Waving National Flag’ in Cricket Stadium, Sector 16, Chandigarh with the participation of 5,885 people have been created during the campaign. The event was organised by the NID Foundation and Chandigarh University to strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. In another stupendous achievement, more than 6 crore Tiranga selfies have been uploaded on the Har Ghar Tiranga website till date. The programme conceived in a hybrid format envisaged a physical & emotional connect with the flag it-

self in the personal context and also envisaged a collective celebration and amplification of patriotic fervour through the act of uploading a



selfie on the special website created for this initiative. (www.harghartiranga.com). Also, to mark the celebrations under ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign as a part of ongoing ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, the District Administration Srinagar established a national record by displaying 1850-metre long National Flag at Bakshi Stadium to celebrate 75 years of Independence. Shri G Kishan Reddy, the Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER) thanked the citizens of the country and said, “The entire nation has come together to make Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign a success. This kind of enthusiasm from people across different walks

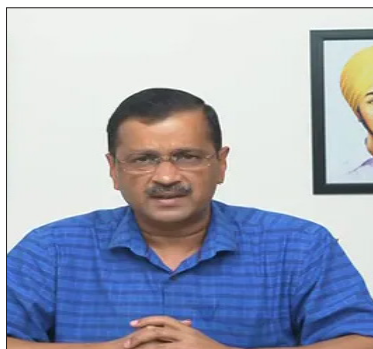
of life is a symbol of unwavering spirit of unity and integrity of the nation”. He added, “The entire nation took part in Har Ghar Tiranga

and more than 6 crore selfies have been taken and uploaded with the Tiranga till date. It reflects our love and pride for this great Nation. I would request all those who have taken selfies with the Tiranga to continue uploading pictures on the Har Ghar Tiranga Portal to continue the festive spirit”. Shri G Kishan Reddy, added “Thank You India, for furthering the clarion call of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji to join the Har Ghar Tiranga movement”. He added, “Whenever the Prime Minister has made a call to the citizens of the nation, be it in asking those who do not require LPG subsidies to give it up or in recognising the efforts of the COVID-19 front line warriors or in the case of

Har Ghar Tiranga, the people have responded with overwhelming enthusiasm”. As India embarks on its 76th year of Independence wrapping up the 75 week countdown to 15th August, 2022 was the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative of the Government driven by the nodal Ministry for Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Ministry of Culture. The government of India had taken various steps to ensure the supply of flags across India. Post Offices in the country started selling flags from 1st August 2022. In addition, state governments also tied up with various stakeholders for the supply and sale of flags. The Indian National Flag was also registered on the GeM portal. The government of India had also tied up with various e-commerce websites and self-help groups to streamline the process of the supply of the Flag. The initiative of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12th March 2021 to celebrate and commemorate 75 glorious years of Independence of India. Since its launch, the initiative has successfully showcased the magnificence of Indian culture all across the globe. With over 60,000 events successfully held across 28 States, 8 UTs, and 150+ countries, the initiative of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is one of the largest programs ever organized in terms of scope and participation. The commemoration of 75 years of independence started on 12th March 2021 as a 75-week countdown to 15th August, 2022 and will continue till 15 August, 2023.

Ready To Work With Centre On Health Services, Education, Says Arvind Kejriwal

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday urged the Centre to use the Delhi government’s expertise in improving school education and healthcare facilities across India to make it the number one country in the world. He also appealed to the BJP-led Union government to not term free education and health care facilities as “freebies”. There has been political acrimony over the issue of freebies with the BJP accusing Mr Kejriwal of using it as a “bait” to trap people for power. Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after inaugurating the Bundelkhand Expressway in Uttar Pradesh, cautioned people against what he called the “revdi culture” of offering freebies for garnering votes and said it is “very dangerous” for the development of the country. Prime Minister Modi had used “revdi” as a metaphor for freebies being promised by some parties to woo voters and said the people, especially the youth, should guard against it. “We are ready to work with the Centre to improve health services and education. I also request the Centre to stop calling them freebies,” Mr Kejriwal said at a press conference held virtually. There is a need to open government schools on a large scale, improve them, regularise guest teachers and train teachers for children’s future. Then India can become a “rich country”, the Delhi chief minister and AAP national convener said. “All this can be done in five years. We have done this. I urge the Centre to use our expertise to improve gov-



ernment schools and healthcare facilities. All state governments can work together,” Mr Kejriwal said. He also appealed to the BJP-led Union government to not term free education and health care facilities as “freebies”. There has been political acrimony over the issue of freebies with the BJP accusing Mr Kejriwal of using it as a “bait” to trap people for power. Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after inaugurating the Bundelkhand Expressway in Uttar Pradesh, cautioned people against what he called the “revdi culture” of offering freebies for garnering votes and said it is “very dangerous” for the development of the country. Prime Minister Modi had used “revdi” as a metaphor for freebies being promised by some parties to woo voters and said the people, especially the youth, should guard against it. “We are ready to work with the Centre to improve health services and education. I also request the Centre to stop calling them freebies,” Mr Kejriwal said at a press conference held virtually.

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee dances with folk artists at Independence Day Celebrations

Sourav Dutta,



Kolkata: Indians are celebrating the country’s 75th Independence day with pomp and flair. Citizens from all corners of the country have come together to commemorate our brave freedom fighters. Bengal Chief Minister danced with the folk artists during the 76th Independence day celebrations in Kolkata. Banerjee was present at the Independence Day function of the state at Kolkata’s Red Road. While Paying homage to the Indian freedom fighters, the West Bengal Chief Minister said that “Indians must uphold the dignity of the country’s democratic values”. “Indians should preserve the sacred legacy of their forefathers who got the Independence. Today we pay homage to the supreme sacrifices of our forefathers that led to our country’s independence”, she added. Banerjee congratulated the people on India’s 75 years of Independence on Twitter. She wrote, “

31 New Ministers In Bihar, Most From Tejashwi Yadav’s Party

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expanded his cabinet today, with the biggest chunk of seats going to alliance partner Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). Here are the top 10 updates on this big story. A total of 31 ministers were inducted into the cabinet today from various parties that are part of Mahagathbandhan or the Grand Alliance, including the Congress. The RJD got about 16 ministerial berths, followed by the Janata Dal (United) which kept 11. Nitish Kumar retained most of the ministers from his party, including Ashok Choudhary, Leshi Singh, Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, Sanjay Jha, Madan Sahni and Bijendra Yadav. From RJD, Tej Pratap Yadav, Alok Mehta, Surendra Prasad Yadav and Ramanand Yadav, Kumar Sarvajeet and Lalit Yadav took oath as cabinet ministers. From Congress, Afaq Alam and Murari Lal Gautam will be inducted into the cabinet as ministers, while

Hindustani Awam Morcha’s Santosh Suman was also sworn in. The Bihar cabinet can have up to 36 ministers, including the Chief Minister. Some ministerial berths will be kept vacant for future cabinet expansion, sources said. Nitish Kumar had broken away from the BJP and formed a government with the RJD and other parties earlier this month. The Chief Minister and his deputy - RJD’s Tejashwi Yadav - took oath on August 10. Sources said he felt that the BJP was attempting a repeat of the Maharashtra model - where the Uddhav Thackeray government was dismantled with the rebellion by senior Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde who is now the Chief Minister. The Bihar Grand Alliance has a combined strength of 163. Its effective strength climbed to 164 after Independent MLA Sumit Kumar Singh extended its support to Nitish Kumar.

Nuclear War Would Cause Global Famine, Says Rutgers University Study


A major global study has predicted that even a small conflict between two nations during which nuclear weapons are used would lead to worldwide famine. The study by Rutgers University further said that more than 5 billion people would die of hunger amid a full-scale nuclear war between the United States and Russia, according to Science Daily. The university scientists studied the consequences of six different nuclear war scenarios. In the worst-case scenario, a full-scale conflict between the US and Russia would wipe out more than half of mankind, according to the study published in the journal Nature Food. “The data tells us one thing: We must prevent a nuclear war from ever happening,” said Professor Alan Roebuck, one of the authors of the study. This comes weeks after United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres said that “humanity is just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation”, reported Sky News. Meanwhile, during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, Ukraine’s defence intelligence agency has warned of further Russian “provocations” at the captured Zaporizhzhia nuclear power fa-

cility, while the mayor of the city where the plant is located has been shelled again, the outlet further said. The five of the six scenarios analysed were based on lesser battles and one on a war between the US and Russia. Even the most improbable scenario resulted in hunger, with world average caloric production dropping by seven per cent within five years of the battle. In the most extreme scenario, a full-scale nuclear battle, worldwide average caloric production fell by nearly 90% three to four years after the combat ended. Crop production would drop by 75% in two years, starving billions.

20 People Burnt Alive In Bus-Tanker Accident In Pakistan’s Punjab Province

Lahore: At least 20 people were burnt alive in a collision between a passenger bus and an oil tanker in Pakistan’s Punjab province today, rescue officials said, the second major road accident in the province in three days. The accident occurred on a highway in Multan, some 350 kms from Lahore, allegedly because of over-speeding, the police said. Traffic remained suspended on the highway for several hours after the accident. “Twenty people have died in a collision between a bus which was going to Karachi from Lahore and an oil tanker. After the collision, both the bus and tanker caught fire and the passengers were burnt alive,” a Rescue 1122 spokesperson added that six passengers who suffered burn injuries were shifted to

Nishtar Hospital in Multan where their condition is stated to be critical. “Most bodies of the passengers who died

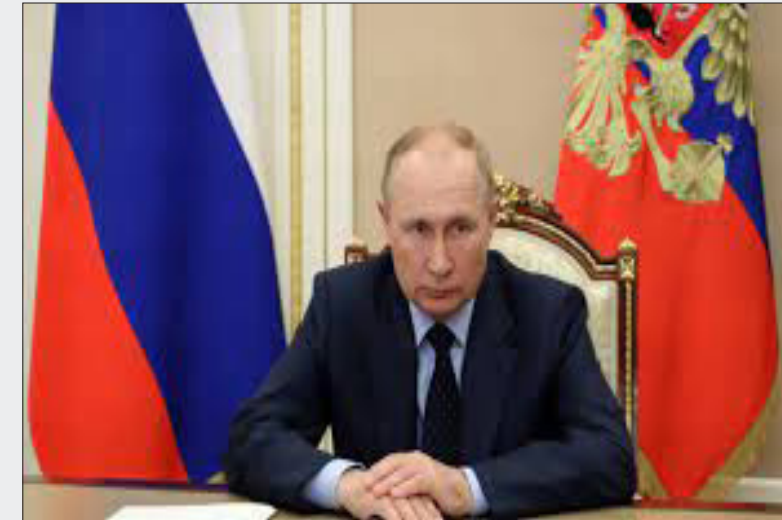


are burnt completely and beyond recognition. These bodies will be handed over to the families after a DNA test,” he said. He further said after the accident the fire engulfed both vehicles and the rescue operation was very difficult for the rescue and firefighter teams. Punjab Chief Minister Parvez Elahi has expressed grief over the loss of precious lives in the accident and directed the health authorities concerned to provide better treatment to the injured. He also directed the administration to cooperate with the families of those who died to identify them. On Saturday, at least 13 people were killed after a loaded truck collided with a passenger bus in Pakistan’s Punjab province.

Putin boasts of Russian weapons prowess, says Moscow is ready to share it with allies

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that Moscow valued its ties with countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa and was ready to offer modern weapons to its allies. Putin used a speech at an arms show near Moscow to boast of Russia’s advanced weapons capabilities and declare its willingness to share technology with like-minded countries. “[We are ready to offer our allies the most modern types of weapons, from small arms to armoured vehicles and artillery to combat aviation and unmanned aerial vehicles,” Putin said at the opening ceremony of the “Army-2022” forum near Moscow. “Almost all of them have been used more than once in real combat operations.” He was speaking nearly six months into Russia’s war in Ukraine, where Moscow has suffered repeated setbacks and heavy losses. Western military analysts say the poor performance of Russian troops and weaponry could make its arms exports less attractive to potential buyers.

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suffered repeated setbacks and heavy losses. Western military analysts say the poor performance of Russian troops and weaponry could make its arms exports less attractive to potential buyers, such as India, which have heavily relied on its technology in the past Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that Moscow valued its ties with countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa and was ready to offer modern weapons to its allies. Putin used a speech at an arms show near Moscow to boast of Russia’s advanced weapons capabilities and declare its willingness to share technology with like-minded countries. “[We are ready to offer our allies the most modern types of weapons, from small arms to armoured vehicles and artillery to combat aviation and unmanned aerial vehicles,” Putin said at the opening ceremony of the “Army-2022” forum near Moscow. “Almost all of them have been used more than once in real combat operations.” He was speaking nearly six months into Russia’s war.

Volodymyr Zelensky Warns Of “Catastrophe” In Ukraine Nuclear Plant: Report

Kyiv: A “catastrophe” at the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southern Ukraine would threaten the whole of Europe, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned on Monday. “Under the cover of the plant, the occupiers are shelling nearby cities and communities,” Zelensky said in his evening address. “Any radiation incident at the Zaporizhzhia NPP can affect the countries of the European Union, Turkey, Georgia and countries from more distant regions. Everything depends solely on the direction and speed of the wind,” he said. “If Russia’s actions cause a catastrophe, the consequences may also hit those who remain silent so far.” Zelensky called on the international community to adopt “new tough sanctions against

Russia” and not to yield to “nuclear blackmail”. “All Russian troops must be immediately withdrawn from the plant and neighbouring areas without any conditions,” he said. The plant, Europe’s biggest nuclear facility, was captured by Russian troops at the beginning of March, not long after Moscow launched its invasion of Ukraine. Since the end of July, Zaporizhzhia has been the target of a number of military strikes, with both Moscow and Kyiv accusing each other of being behind the shelling. The fighting at the plant was the subject of an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council last Thursday. Ukraine has accused Russia of using the plant as a base for possible attacks and for storing weapons.

DIO Kupwara awarded on 76th Independence day



HT-NEWSNETWORK

KUPWARA, Aug. 15: The District Information Officer, Kupwara, Mohammad Yousuf Mir was felicitated with a special award on the eve of 76th Independence Day celebration at District Police Lines Kupwara. The Officer was awarded for his meritorious, distinguished and outstanding performance in the field of media coverage and public relations. The award was given by Chairman District Development Council Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpori, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Khalid Jahangir and other dignitaries. It is pertinent to mention here that Mir has also received awards and appreciation during other occasions for his meritorious services in the field of media.

Subash Chander Chibber assumes charge as Director YSS

Jammu Aug 17: Subash Chander Chibber a senior JKAS officer Tuesday assumed the charge of Director, Youth Service and Sports (YSS) here. Immediately after assuming the charge, he convened a meeting of officers of the Department in which he highlighted the need for further strengthening the activities and core competence of the Department. While interacting with the officials, the Director asked them to work with utmost sincerity and dedication.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the 131st edition of Durand cup football 2022, Kolkata. Aug 16, 2022. H.T. Photo SOURAV DUTTA

Big Applause from all across for the dedicated Team of Headlines Today

Zargar Gulzar, Dr Abdul Qayoom, Sheikh Sanjeel, Tajamul Bukhari, Abu Hasnain felicitated at various district headquarters across Kashmir Valley



HEADLINES TODAY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT DR. AB QAYOOM felicitated on the occasion of Independence Day Celebration at DPL Handwara.

HT NEWS-NETWORK

Handwara, Aug. 15: On the occasion of 76th Independence Day Celebration many dignitaries of Sub district Handwara were felicitated on the occasion. The celebration concluded with award distribution ceremony among the participants of 15th August the 76th anniversary of India's independence. Special Correspondent Headlines Today, Senior Journalist, DR. AB QAYOOM, was also felicitated with an appreciation certificate for "best media coverage" from ADC Handwara Nazir Ahmad along with SP. Handwara Seema Nabi Qasba (IPS) and Tehsildar Handwara.



Special Correspondent Headlines Today ZARGAR GULZAR awarded...

HT NEWS NETWORK...

Zargar Gulzar was amongst the prominent personalities who were awarded by for their meritorious Services in their fields. Senior Journalist and analyst Mr Zargar Gulzar was felicitated for his Excellent performance and work in the field of journalism, on 76th Independence Day Event held at DPL Baramulla.

DDC Baramulla Safina Baigh awarded Mr Gulzar and Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar and SSP Baramulla were also present on the award distribution function.

Sheikh Sanjeel, Reporter with Headlines Today felicitated by SDM Uri on 76th Independence Day.

HT NEWS NETWORK

A young and energetic Journalist working with daily English newspaper Headlines Today, Mr Sheikh Sanjeel was awarded for his selfless reporting at sub district headquarters at Uri on the occasion of 76th Independence day Celebrations. Sanjeel is a young Journalist working with Headlines Today as Reporter and Video Editor...



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