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HEADLINES TODAY

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two teenagers saved from drowning in Jehlum

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: River Police in the nick of time rescued two teenagers from civil-lines area of Srinagar from drowning in river Jehlum on Wednesday.

Two boys Ehsan Javaid Lone (16) and Faheem Nisar Khandru (14), both residents of Raj Bagh Srinagar were taking bath near Zero Bridge Srinagar when they start drowning. The River Police patrolling team intervened on right time and retrieved both the boys from the river Jehlum.

A River Police official one of the boys Ehsan Javaid barely know ABC of swimming and yet he took a dip in the Jehlum following the footsteps of his friend.

"Thankfully we were on patrol and retrieved both the boys alive. We contacted their families and handed them over to them," he said.

4 residential houses gutted in Spore fire mishap

BARAMULLA, Aug 24: Four residential houses were gutted in a fire incident in Kharmohallah Lal Bab Saheb Arampora area in north Kashmir's Sapore here on Wednesday.

Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services Abdul Khaliq said four residential houses were gutted in a fire incident in Sapore area.

"Teams of firefighters along with locals doused off the flames within no time. Four fire tenders and four water motors were used to douse the flames. However, being neck to neck, the fire engulfed the houses in a jiffy. In this incident one house was completely gutted while three houses were gutted partially," Abdul Khaliq said.

He further said that no loss of life has been reported in the incident.

"The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained," he added.

CB arrests disengaged Engineer

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: Crime Branch Kashmir on Wednesday arrested a dismissed engineer of Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board who allegedly misrepresented himself as State Level Technical Expert (SLTE) in Srinagar.

The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir arrested an accused identified as Hakim Muzamil, a resident of Baghwanpora Lal Bazar Srinagar upon the receipt of a written complaint filed by Managing Director J&K Housing Board. The complainant alleged that the accused Engineer who has been disengaged from J&K Housing Board as State Level Technical expert (SLTE), is misrepresenting himself as SLTE Expert of the Board and misusing Official Seal. Crime Branch Kashmir conducted an enquiry into the matter & during probe the allegations leveled had got prima facie established and accordingly a Case FIR No. 67/2022 U/S 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC of Police Station EOW of Crime Branch Kashmir has been registered.

Bear mauls elderly woman in Tral

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: A 55-year-old woman was injured in a bear attack in Sangrama area of Tral in South Kashmir on Wednesday.

An official said the bear attacked a woman identified as Rehmat Begum Wife of Ghulam Muhammad Malik near her house, leaving her injured. He said the injured woman was immediately shifted to SDH Tral where from she was referred to SMHS Srinagar for advanced treatment.

Jammu DM orders imposition of Sec 144 to prevent rallies, protests at Tawi Bridge

Jammu, Aug 24 (UNI) The District Magistrate Jammu Avny Lavasa on Wednesday imposed Section 144 to prevent rallies and protests at Tawi Bridge. Lavasa, as per order, said that Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 3282 of 2020 has directed that the occupation of public ways for protests is not acceptable and the administration should take action to keep such areas clear of encroachments or obstructions. "It has been observed that multiple organizations, groups, individuals try to hold protests, rallies and dharnas at Tawi Bridges, thereby causing obstruction and grave inconvenience to the General Public as the Tawi bridges are a major thoroughfare in the city and these

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LG terms people's participation must for seamless, robust governance system

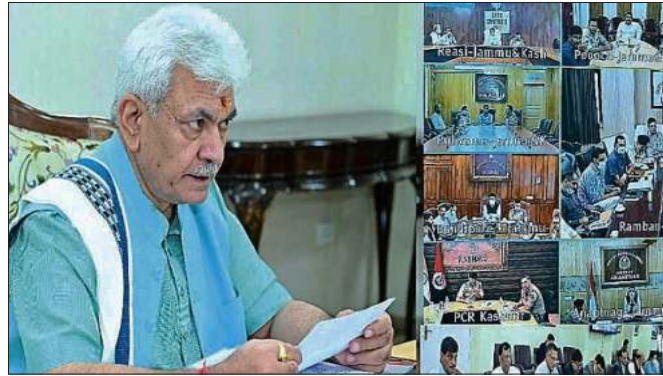
Ask people to work hand in hand with admin for decisive war against drug abuse

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 24: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday terms people's participation vital and inseparable part of a seamless and robust governance system, besides removing social ills from the society.

The Lt Governor was interacting with the applicants of JK-IGRAMS during the "LG's Mulaqaat- Live Public Grievance Hearing" at the Civil Secretariat, where he called upon the people to work hand in hand with administration for a decisive war against drug abuse in J&K.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor observed that a sizeable percentage of complaints from public are being resolved promptly



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through LG's Mulaqaat. "It shows the trust and confidence of public and integrity, transparency and fairness of the officers responsible for addressing the complaints", he added. The Lt Governor directed the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police to intensify their efforts against drug peddlers with the help of local residents. He further asked the Deputy Commissioners to maintain digital records of their meetings with public and submit the action taken report on the grievances received periodically.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

CS for Involvement of PRIs in war against drugs

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today held the 3rd UT Level NCORD meeting to take a comprehensive review of efforts being made to mitigate the menace of drugs here.

The meeting was attended by ACS, Home; Principal Secretary, Higher Education; Principal Secretary, School Education; Divisional Com-

missioners, Jammu/Kashmir; ADGP, Kashmir/Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Secretary Health; MD, NHM; Excise Commissioner; Zonal Director, NCB Jammu; SSP, ANTF and all the Deputy Commissioners and District SPs. Outstation based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

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Army foils 2 infiltration bids in Rajouri in 48 Hrs

2 militants killed, 1 captured alive, another manages to flee

M S Nazki

RAJOURI, Aug 24: The Army on Wednesday claimed that it foiled two major infiltration bids in Nowshera sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district by killing two militants, capturing one alive while as fourth one managed to flee in an injured condition.

The Army along with Jammu and Kashmir police organised a Press Conference in Rajouri in which Brig Kapil of Nowshera Brigade and SSP Rajouri Mohammad Aslam briefed media persons about the operations. In a statement, the army said that in last 48 hours, two major infiltration



Army officers and a captured militant. On 21 August 2022, in the morning hours, alert soldiers deployed in Jhangar sector of Nowshera spotted movement of two to three terrorists on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Hybrid militant, associate arrested in Sapore

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: One hybrid Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant and an overground worker who was helping militants have been arrested in north Kashmir's Sapore while arms and other incriminating material were recovered from their possession, police said on Tuesday.

The arrests were made in a joint operation conducted by Sapore Police along with security forces. Incriminating materials including arms and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Former Bar president among 3 lawyers raided in Babar Qadri murder case

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday conducted searches at the residence and office of three lawyers including former J&K High Court Bar Association (JKHBA) president Mian Qayoom in connection with the 2020 murder of outspoken Kashmiri lawyer Babar Qadri.

Vijay Kumar, additional director general of police (Kashmir) said the searches were conducted at premises linked to lawyers, Miyan Qayoom, Manzoor Dar and Muzaffar in connection with Babar Qadri's murder. Police said simultaneous searches were carried out at four locations, two in Barzulla area and one each in Brein Nishat and Mai-



suma. "All procedures as per due process of law were followed in the searches so conducted in presence of executive magistrates. Deputy Superintendent level officers personally supervised and led these searches at all locations," the Srinagar Police said in a statement.

Qadri, in his 30s, was shot dead by two people who came as clients to his Srinagar house and shot

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Army warns against 'unauthorized' sale of outfits resembling combat uniforms

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, Aug 24: In the interest of national security, the Army warned the public on Wednesday against the unauthorized sale of outfits resembling its combat uniforms, according to an official.

The Northern Army Command, in collaboration with the police, has already conducted a series of awareness campaigns in Udhampur to discourage sellers from selling unlicensed uniforms, he said.

The measure was implemented because easy access to Indian Army uniforms in open markets poses a potential threat to the security of

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Omar calls for huge participation of people in elections to protect J&K's identity

NC hints to contest on all 90 Assembly segments

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the only way to protect J&K's identity is to first register and cast vote in huge numbers in elections, whenever it's held. This he said while addressing a provincial committee meeting here at the party headquarters

in Srinagar, a party statement said. The meeting was also marked by threadbare discussions on party affairs and the mounting apprehensions among the public with regards to inclusion of 25 lakh new voters as claimed by J&K's Chief Electoral Officer in a press conference.

Alluding to inclusion of 25 lakh new voters in

Jammu and Kashmir, Omar said the entire matter begs clarity from the Election Commission of India.

"All this has triggered fears of demographic flooding and political disempowerment within the public. We are yet to ascertain if the final electoral rolls are also to include those ordinarily residing voters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

All party meet aimed to mislead bonafide voters of J&K: BJP

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday said that all parties meeting convened by NC President, Dr Farooq Abdullah's at his residence was aimed at politicizing the statement of Election Commission of India (ECI) to create a confusion among 'bonafide' voters of Jammu and Kashmir.

It may be in place to mention that all parties meeting come close on the heels of ECI recent statement re-

garding likely inclusion of 25 lakh new voters in the existing voter list and that post Article 370 abrogation, an ordinarily residing person can become a voter in the UT to exercise his right to franchise. Addressing a press conference at BJP head office at Jawahar Nagar here, party chief state spokesperson, Adv Sunil Sethi lashed out at People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) for politicizing the ECI statement. He said the center does not plan to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

J&K logs 259 new COVID-19 cases, no death

SYED TAJAMUL BUKHARI

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: Jammu and Kashmir reported 259 positive cases of COVID-19 including 21 from Jammu and 238 from Kashmir divisions, taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 476703. Moreover, 303 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 25 from Jammu division and 278 from Kashmir division. According to the daily Media Bulletin on novel Corona virus (Covid-19), out of 476703 positive cases, 2169 are Active Positive (384 in Jammu Division and 1785 in Kashmir Division), 469755 have recovered and 4779 have died; 2347 in Jammu division and 2432 in Kashmir division. The Bulletin also informs that 26,383 doses of COVID Vaccine have been administered in the last 24 hours across Jammu and Kashmir

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Outlook Traveller Awards 2022

J&K bags award for promoting offbeat destinations, adventure tourism

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24, 2022: J&K Tourism has bagged an award for promotion of off destinations at the national level at the Outlook Traveller Awards-2022.

The award was presented by Union Minister for Tourism & Culture, G Kisan Reddy to Secretary, Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez at a glittering function here this evening.

The award was given to the Tourism Department for promoting Gurez in the category of offbeat tourism destinations.

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Lt Governor attends the book launch of 'A New India- Selected Writings' of Arun Jaitley



NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today attended the book launch of 'A New India- Selected Writings' of Shri Arun Jaitley. The event was presided over by Sh M Venkaiash Naidu, former Vice President of India.

Paying his tributes to the stalwart of Indian Politics and Padma Vibhushan

Shri Arun Jaitley, the Lt Governor said that Shri Jaitley ji has brought immense grace to public life.

His pursuit for reforms under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji ensured that the dream of making India a developed nation is realized soon, added the Lt Governor.

Shri Arun Jaitley ji was a man with vision, who vociferously supported the true integration of J&K with India, removing the discriminatory practices prevalent in the erstwhile state, the Lt Governor observed.

As voice of the people of J&K, Arun Ji in his blog on 2 Dec 2013 had highlighted their plight, demanding abrogation of Article 370. His last blog on 6 August 2019 was also on J&K. Through, his writing, he contributed immensely to bring

CONTINUED ON PAGE 07

Business booms as valley sees huge influx of tourists this year

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: Tourism in Kashmir has flourished this year as the valley marked a rise in number of tourists from the whole country. Number of foreign tourists visiting Kashmir has also increased this time Kashmir's tourism players are quite satisfied with business after the huge influx of tourists this year as the valley has received a huge footfall of tourists from the whole country. A good number of tourists have also come from other parts of the world which have immensely benefitted all. After many years, the tourism industry is doing



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REMEMBERED ON 22nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY LATE NISHAT ANSARI (Writer, Poet, Critic & Educationist) Born:28-10-1930 | Died:25-8-2000

زندگانی تھی تیری مہتاب سے تابندہ تر
خوب تر تھامج کے تارے سے بھی تیرا سفر
مٹی ایوانِ حشر مرقدِ فروزاں ہو تیرا
نور سے معمور خاکی شبتاں ہو تیرا
آساں تیری لہد پہ شبنم افشانی کرے
بیزہ نورستہ اُس گھر گی تمبھانی کرے

ANSARI FAMILY
Delina Baramulla

More than 40 Political workers from PC join Apni Party in village Dogerpora area of Rajwar Handwara Senior vice district president "Bhat" greets the new entrants into the Party fold.

DR.AB QAYOOM

Handwara, Aug. 24: Several political workers of Peoples conference (PC) joined Apni Party in Dogerpora village of North Kashmir's Handwara sub-district in an enthusiastic event organised by Apni Party on Wednesday. The function was presided over by Apni Party's Vice District President Kupwara Ab Rashid Bhat along with Handwara team who greeted the new entrants into the party fold. The joiners include Waseem Ah Mir, Fayaz Ah Mir, Ab Rashid Sofi, Ab Gani Mir, Nazir Ah Mir, Mohd Hayat Mir, Jamsheed Ah Khan, Mohd Irfan Khan, Gh Hassan Natta, Irfan Ah Sofi, Tariq Ah Sofi, Javid Ah Sofi, Ali Mohd Mir, Tawseef Ah Sofi, Iqbal Ah Sofi, Maharaj

udin Sofi, Zakir Ah Sofi, Tawseef Ah Sofi, Naik Na-



with Handwara team including Haji Ab Raheem ent on the occasion. Welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, Ab Rashid Bhat said, "I wholeheartedly welcome you into Apni Party's fold, and I assure you that the entire leadership especially Handwara team will be behind you when you are out there to serve the people in your respective areas." He added, "The main purpose of Apni Party is to serve the people and pave a way for their better future. We are working day in and day out to execute our agenda, which is to ensure peace, prosperity, and the development of J&K, and political and economic empowerment of its people." He further said, "The more people join us the more we get strong, which eventually will enable us to serve the people better."

tal, Ajaz Ah Sofi, Gh Rasool Jatal, Mohd Delwar Mir, Ab Ahad Mir, Shameem Ah Khan, Tariq Ah Mir, Mohd Samander Mir, Manzoor Ah Mir and Mohd Shafi Mir. (PC workers) Apni Party's Senior vice district president/Constituency head Handwara Ab Rashid Bhat along

wani, Mohd Maqbool Bhat, Gh Ah Hajam, Ali Mohd Lone, Ab Khaliq Sarpanch, Gh Mohiuddin Bhat, Ab Rashid Mir, Fayaz Ah Mir, Gh Qadir Wani, Waseem Ah Mir, Mohd Shafi Bhat, Manzoor Ah Sofi, Mohd Shafi Dar, Aashiq Hussain Dar and others were pres-

DC Baramulla presides over Public Darbar at Sopore; listens to public issues/ grievances

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 24: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today held a day-long public darbar under the District Administration's outreach programme at Dak Bungalow Sopore where she heard the issues and grievances of the public and PRIs.

Chairperson, Municipal Council Sopore, Masarat Kar, different stakeholders including PRIs, civil society members, among other prominent citizens of the area were present on the occasion. Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla Aijaz Abdullah Saraf, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore Parveez Sajad, Joint Director Planning M. Yousof Rather, various concerned officers attended the public darbar.

At the outset, the Chairperson Municipal committee Sopore presented a Power Point Presentation wherein she highlighted the issues and grievances of the people meant for the overall welfare and socio-economic development of the town.

The people from adjacent villages also raised various issues before the DC including improvement in water and electricity supply, macadamization of main and link roads, education and healthcare facilities.

After listening to the grievances and issues of the general public, the DC issued on spot directions to the concerned officers of line depart-



ments to look into the issues of the people so that they are redressed on priority. While highlighting the raising concerns of the stray dog menace in the town, the people informed the DC that the increasing stray dog population has posed risk to the lives of the people, thereby making it difficult for the people to come out from their homes. Taking a serious note of the issue, the Deputy Commissioner directed Municipal Council Sopore to look into the issue and coordinate with the Animal Husbandry Department. She further directed to allocate funds for the same and utilize men and machinery to curb on stray dog menace and ensure cent percent sterilization of the dogs.

The PRIs also raised various demands of their pursuits during which the DC assured that all their genuine demands shall be taken up for redressal. The DC directed the Tehsildar and Municipality concerned to vigorously register the street vendors of the town and associated relocation plan for them under Pradhan Mantri SVANIDHI scheme. They were directed to identify the patches meant to rehabilitate the vendors for their welfare.

Moreover, the DC also exhorted upon the concerned officers to work with zeal and cohesion in order to accomplish the developmental works. She also directed all the departments to ensure fully coordination with PRIs to achieve the targets.

Director Sericulture visits Cocoon Auction Market Sarnal Anantnag

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 24: The Director Sericulture Development Department (SDD) J&K, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri visited Cocoon auction market at Sarnal Anantnag today to facilitate the sale of Cocoon for sericulture farmers from different parts of South Kashmir.

A good number of silkworm farmers are partici-

pating in the auction market to sell their produce to the buyers, who are found quite enthusiastic and satisfactory regarding the quality of silk and arrangements put in place by the District Sericulture Officer, Anantnag.

The Director while interacting with both the farmers and the buyers from different parts of

J&K and country, heard the suggestions from both the sides and assured all possible measures for the development of the Sericulture and the welfare of the farmers.

He further said that the silk industry is an old industry of J&K which provides employment to a large number of people, adding that the auction market has been organized to provide an opportunity to the farmers to sell their

produce at satisfactory rates. He asked both the sellers and buyers to keep a positive attitude while dealing with each other.

The Director was accompanied by Additional Director SDD Kashmir, Shabir Ahmad Bhat; PEO SDD Kashmir, M Abdullah Bhat; District Sericulture Officer Anantnag, Fayaz Ahmad Bhat and Section Officer SDD Anantnag, Peerzada Aijaz Ahmad Shah.

Public Notice

I have lost my 9Th pass certificate under Admission no 40 and My DOB certificate. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Govt Boys High School Seer Jageer within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

HAFIZA BANO
D/O AB REHMAN DAR
R/O DARIA SEER

Public Notice

I have lost Registration certificate (RC) of my motor cycle Yamaha Solo under registration no JK09A 5149 Model Dec 2015. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact ARTO Kupwara within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

ZAKIR MAQBOOL BHAT
S/O MOHD MAQBOOL BHAT
R/O UDIPORA LANGATE KUPWARA

Public Notice

I have lost my driving licence under licence no 35941. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact ARTO Sopore within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

PARVEEZ AHMAD DAR
S/O GH MOHAMMAD DAR
R/O TAPPER WARIPORA

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.

RAFEEQA BEGUM
D/O ABDUL AHAD CHOPAN
W/O SONAULLAH CHOPAN
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 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.

Mohammad shafi khanday
S/o Mohammad Asadullah khanday
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MUFFASIL (R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM

Engineering Complex Budgam PIN No.191111
E-mail:- xennrbdivbud@gmail.com , Phone-FAX:- 01951-255208

TENDER NOTICE

E-tendering NIT No: 127-MDB of 2022-23/7996-8016 DATED:- 22-08-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, Fresh e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Earned Money	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	M.H
1	Upgradation of road from Main road to H/O Mohammad Ashraf and others at Kanchatipora Khag.	7.00 lacs	300/-	Rs.14000/-	20 days	DEE/CEE	4059 (UT) State sector
2	Development of link road from Main road Ziyarat Sharief Kulbugh	2.50 lacs	200/-	Rs.5000/-	15 days	DEE	District Sector

Project Authority: Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Kashmir

Position of AAA = Accorded, Position of TS = Accorded, Position of funds: Available/Committed

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-08-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22-08-2022
3.	Bid submission Start Date	22-08-2022
4.	Bid Submission End Date	29-08-2022 upto 4.00 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	30-08-2022 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7 days of receipt of LOA.(The bidder has to provide 3% of allotted Cost as Performance Security within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid) in shape of CDR/FDR/BG

DIPK-8478/22
DATED:-22.08.2022

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Muffasil (R&B) Division
Budgam,

DC Srinagar reviews functioning of the Revenue Department Directs for launching massive anti encroachment drive

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 24: In order to review the functioning of Revenue Department to ensure efficient, effective and prompt public service delivery system in the District, a meeting of all Revenue Officers of the District was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Besides, the Regional Director Survey Land Records, Kashmir, Nazir Ahmad Khwaja, the meeting among others was attended by Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Chief Agriculture Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub Divisional Magistrate West all Tehsildars, Block Development Officer and representatives of RAMTech.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of all vital matters including removal of encroachments on Kahcharai and State Land, digitization of Jamabandies, providing of land, uploading of revenue record regarding PM Kissan, identification of land for construction of Panchayat Ghar and Solid/Liquid Waste Management cells.

While reviewing the progress with

regard to digitization of Jamabandies, the DC was informed that out of total 137 Jamabandies of Srinagar district digitization of 135 Jamabandies have been completed so far and rest 2 Jamabandies of Nandpora and Batmaloo will be digitized soon.

The DC stressed the concerned to accelerate the pace of the balance work of digitisation of Jamabandies to ensure its completion under set timeline without fail.

The DC also emphasised on completing the target of uploading revenue records regarding PM Kissan on the designated portal at the earliest. He sets timeline one week for integration of PM-KISAN data with Revenue Records.

With regard to identification of land for construction of Panchayat Ghar and Solid/Liquid Waste Management cells in Panchayat Blocks of the District, the DC directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats to submit panchayat wise requisition for the land so that concerned Revenue authorities identify the suitable land for the purpose as per the laid down guidelines.

While reviewing the pace of an-

response from the concerned District Officers present in the Grievance Redressal Camp.

He assured the people that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be looked into on priority.

The DC also gave on the spot direction to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

He assured the people that the demand of providing an ambulance for PHC, Lasjan will be fulfilled within two days to facilitate the local patients.

During the Camp, Programme Officer ICDS Srinagar gave a detailed awareness about various welfare schemes of the Government including Laadli Beti, PM Matru Vandna Yojna, Supplementary nutrition, Old age pension etc.

Later, the DC inspected the proposed site for development of a playground for the local youth.



of Water supply in the area, installation of ATM facility, providing of ambulance and transfer of inner roads for maintenance to R&B and providing of playground in the area.

The DC after giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, sought on the spot

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The DC after giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, sought on the spot

of Water supply in the area, installation of ATM facility, providing of ambulance and transfer of inner roads for maintenance to R&B and providing of playground in the area.

The DC enjoined upon them to work with added zeal and missionary approach to safeguard State/ Kahcharie land from land grabbers, besides ensuring prompt and hassle free public delivery system in the District. While reviewing the pace of anti-encroachment drives, the DC directed all the Tehsildars to launch an anti-encroachment drive on a massive scale in all the Tehsils of the District thrice in a month so that all identified encroached State/ Kahcharie land is retrieved from the land grabbers in a time bound manner and enforce legal action against the violators.

Progressing J&K: Kishtwar district to be power hub of North India with completion of 6000 MWs of Hydroelectric Projects

J&K achieved last mile connectivity, 100% saturation of Central Sector Scheme of Universal Household Electrification

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 24: Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district will become North India's major power hub generating nearly 6,000 MWs of power after the completion of the ongoing power projects. The surplus power from Kishtwar will not only be utilised for other parts of the UT, but will also be sold to other States. Pertinent to mention that 1000 MW Pakal Dul Project, 624 MW

Kiru Project, 540 MW Kwar Project and 930 MW Kirthai Project are all located in close vicinity of each other, along with 850 MW Rattle Project which has been revived as a Joint venture between the Centre and the UT. It is pertinent to mention that CMD (Chairman & Managing Director), National Hydro Project Corporation (NHPC), A K Singh called on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and briefed him about the status of the ongoing power projects in Kishtwar, which when completed will turn Kishtwar into a major power hub generating nearly 6000 MW of power. Pakal Dul HE Project (1000MW) is under active construction after river diversion was carried out. The project will generate 3230 MWs annually and expected to be completed by July 2025.

Kiru HE Project (624 MW) is also under active construction. The river diversion was carried out recently and after completion it will generate 2272 MWs annually. The project is expected to be completed by July 2025. The work on Kwar Hydro Electric Project (40MW) started in 2022 and the project will generate 1975 MU's annually and scheduled completion is in November 2026. Similarly, Rattle HE Project (850 MW) is under construction and work started by awarding EPC Contract in January 2022. The scheduled date of commissioning of the project is 10th Feb 2026 and once commissioned, project will generate 3136 MU's annually. Kirthai-II HE Project (930 MW) is

under investigation and will generate 3329.52MU's annually on commissioning. With the commissioning of all these projects, the power requirement of Jammu and Kashmir will be improved drastically and will help in achieving the goal of zero carbon emission. Recently, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Rattle (850 MW) and Kwar (540MW) hydroelectric projects, to be constructed on Chenab river in Kishtwar at a cost of around Rs 5,300 crore and Rs 4,500 crore respectively. Similarly, in Gurez area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district, Kishanganga hydro power- 330 megawatt (MW) project on the river Kishanganga, a tributary of Jhelum

project is a success story. This project added a new dimension in the growth journey of Jammu and Kashmir. The project in Bandipora district provides 13% free power to the J&K including 1% for local area development fund. The Power project comprising three turbines is spread over 750 kanals in Karalpura Matrigam and 4200 kanals in Gurez area where from the water comes through a tunnel measuring 23.5 kilometers. J&K administration has initiated various reforms to overhaul the power sector in the UT. The government is working on a mission mode for developing new power infrastructure and improving the existing one to meet the power demands of the people.

Unprecedented milestones have been achieved to ensure last mile connectivity and 100% saturation of Central Sector Scheme of Universal Household Electrification. More than 6500 new distribution transformers have been installed and reliability of power distribution has been ensured in both rural and urban areas. Transmission and distribution capacity has been increased. More power has been supplied even during peak days. Important power projects which were hanging in balance for decades are now being executed. In next three years, J&K is set to generate the capacity equivalent to what was achieved in 70 years.

JKRLM teams up with RSETI Budgam to host a one month Training course for SHGs

BUDGAM, AUGUST 24: Continuing to skill up the Rural Women, Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) in collaboration with Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI) Budgam, today inaugurated one month long Training Course for Self help group (SHG) members of JKRLM at Kralpora Village, District Budgam. 30 SHG members from Block Bagati Kani Pora (BK PORA) will be trained in Tilla embroidery. The training on tilla embroidery has been tailor made to suit the vogue taste and trends of youth. Mission Director Kashmir JKRLM Indu Kanwal Chib, expressed her satisfaction about getting the SHG members at Block Level enrolled for training courses in various skills and said that such programmes would go a long

way in generating self employment amongst the rural populace is skilling up the rural women to generate livelihoods and simultaneously exploring the market places for their finished products. In order to boost the confidence among the SHG members Mission walks an extra mile by opening up the new business windows for the SHG members. She added.



SHG members. MD further stated that women have an innate capacity to be a contributing member in the society and they need only an enabling environment for reaching out to their potential and exploring their capabilities, which is the major focus of JKRLM. Speaking on the occasion Block Programme Manager BK Pora, Madina Bukhari said "these kinds

of training courses aim at rejuvenating the traditional skills and help the rural women earn their livelihood". Adding further she said that Tilla embroidery is one of the most popular Kashmiri handicrafts which has seen a re-appearance in recent times as young female folk are getting more fascinated by it", she added. JKRLM in its multidimensional approach to alleviate poverty among

the rural populace is skilling up the rural women to generate livelihoods and simultaneously exploring the market places for their finished products. In order to boost the confidence among the SHG members Mission walks an extra mile by opening up the new business windows for the SHG members. She added. On the occasion Director RSETI Budgam Rukhsana Ul Nisa informed that the month-long training course will be free of cost for the SHG members and a certificate will be provided to the participants at the end of the course after due scrutiny of the skills acquired by the trainees. She further thanked JKRLM for their efforts and coordination for getting the women SHG members onboard for this training.

DC Anantnag convenes meeting for setting up DDRC

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 24: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom today convened a meeting of District Management Team (DMT) for setting up District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC). Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that identification of a location for DDRC has to be finalized on priority. He solicited the opinion from members of DMT and directed the members to conduct on spot verification. The meeting discussed engagement of manpower and their nature of service as well as nomination of DDRO for coordinating the activities of DDRC and coordination with other departments.

Regarding selection of implementing agencies, Dr Basharat directed Nodal Officer District Red Cross to submit a proposal. He said based on evaluation of the proposal, further course of action will be decided. Briefing the members, DSWO Anantnag said that the DMT has to identify a rent free and barrier free building in the vicinity of hospitals/ healthcare centres. He said the DDRC will comprehensively provide various services like surveys, providing of prosthetic aids, etc. Javed Tak, Patron of HWO Helpline and a prominent social activist from the district, said that

children with disabilities should have easy access to the DDRC being established. He raised the issue regarding accessibility for persons with special abilities in public places and government institutions. The DC assured him that necessary action will be taken in this regard. DDRC is an initiative by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, to facilitate comprehensive services to Persons with Disabilities in the rural areas. These units have a group of rehabilitation professionals for providing services like identification of Persons with Disabilities, Awareness Generation.

CHC Pattan, PHC Kakapora, UPHC Shastri Nagar got National Certification under NQAS, LaQshya initiative of National Health Mission

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has accorded National Certification under National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) Programme to PHC Kakapora (Pulwama) and UPHC Shastri Nagar (Jammu), and National certification under LaQshya to CHC Pattan (Baramulla) in recognition of the high standards of quality and

ensuring Respectful Maternity Care in the concerned hospitals. The certified facilities were assessed by a team of highly qualified and empaneled assessors from the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in the month of June & July, 2022 and have been rated as Quality Certified under NQAS and LaQshya programs of the National Health Mission as communicated by Additional Sec-

retary & Mission Director, NHM, MoH&FW GoI, in a letter addressed to the UT Government. The National Certification will be valid for a period of three years subject to annual verification of the scores by the State Quality Assurance Committee. PHC Kakapora and UPHC Shastri Nagar shall receive an additional annual grant of Rs.3.00 lakhs each as part of NQAS certification.

DDC presides over Block Diwas at Gagren, Shopian

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 24: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today listened to public issues during the weekly Block Diwas programme held at Gagren, here.

Sarpanches, Panches, senior citizens and the public of Gagren and adjoining Panchayats attended the event and projected scores of demands and problems.

They demanded Public Park at Padpawan, Passenger Shed at Padpawan, road construction to Krachpathri, development of Play fields, construction of protection



bund, shifting of electric poles and construction of drainage system, better availability of electricity and other issues of public importance. Responding to the de-

mands, the DDC assured the public that all their genuine issues would be addressed in a time bound manner as per norms. The DDC directed the officers to work

in coordination for equitable development of all Panchayats.

He also directed concerned officers to resolve all the genuine demands of the public on priority and submit the detailed report of pending issues so that the same are projected to higher authorities for consideration and appropriate action.

Among others, the programme was attended by ADDC Shopian, Manzoor Hussain; DSHO, CAHO, Block Development Officers of Shopian, Ramnagri besides officials of line departments and PRIs of Shopian.

DD Council, Administration to make joint efforts for saturation of major policies & schemes: DDC Kupwara

Addresses Block Diwas at Sogam Lolab, Wadipora-Handwara, Konagabra-Karnah

KUPWARA, AUGUST 24: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara,



Doifode Sagar Dattatray today chaired a Mega Block Diwas function at block headquarter Sogam of Kupwara district.

SSP Kupwara, Yogal Manhas; DDC Member Sogam, Nasir Lone; SDM Sogam, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat; CAHO, CAO, AD Food, Executive Engineer PDD, DSHO, Tehsildar, BDO, block officers, besides, PRIs and people in large number participated in the block diwas function. Addressing the block diwas, the DDC said "I feel privileged to have my first Block Diwas event in most beautiful valley of Lolab after assuming the charge as Deputy Commissioner Kupwara.

The DDC said that the importance of Block Diwas lies in the fact that the officers from administration come together and listen issues of the people at their doorsteps which provides a distinct experience to them.

The DDC said the District Development Council is now with us which has an imperative role in making saturation of major policies and centrally sponsored schemes in the district in coordination with the administration. He said that it is the joint responsibility of both PRIs and administration to fix the loopholes in the public delivery system to make it more vibrant and responsive. The DDC directed the officers to focus on their specialised areas and be more

proactive in the field to resolve maximum issues of the people.

Referring to the big developmental projects, the DDC said that projects like Medical College and Four Lane road have already been taken up which shall provide major relief to the people of Kupwara district in terms of better connectivity and healthcare facilities after their completion.

Regarding Education, the DDC directed the CEO to ensure maintaining of proper teacher-student ratio in the area for better results on ground.

Regarding drug menace, the DDC said that the UT Government is committed for eradication of drug menace and appealed PRIs and civil society for joint efforts in uprooting the menace from the district.

Regarding Agriculture, the DDC directed Chief Agriculture Officer to sit with the people and demonstrate cultivation of different high yield varieties of vegetables and double cropping to improve the farmers income.

Emphasizing the role of Gram Sabhas, the DDC said that the plans made by Gram Sabhas have to be prioritized for consideration to ensure good governance at grassroot level. The DDC assured the PRIs and the people that in coming days an action plan will be formulated by the District Administration in coordination with officers to make public delivery smoother and better.

Earlier, DDC Member and PRIs spoke and put forth developmental issues of their concerned areas before the DDC.

The DDC heard them patiently and directed the concerned officers for disposal of the issues raised.

Block Diwas programme was also held at Wadipora Handwara which was chaired by ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir. At Konagabra-Karnah, Block Diwas was chaired by SDM Karnah, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather.

PRIs, general public and officers from local administration attended the block diwas programmes. People and PRIs projected their issues which were given reply by the officers.

Mega Block Diwas held at Panchayat Halqa in Khag Block

BUDGAM, AUGUST 24: A mega Block Diwas was today held at Panchayat Halqa Sugan in Block Khag of Budgam district. The Block Diwas was chaired by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Budgam, Dr Akramullah Tak.

During the programme, various public representatives and respected from village Sitharan, Sugan, Drung, Shonglipora, Lassipora, Kokerbagh and other adjoining villages raised their issues and demands with the ADDC for prompt redressal. DDC Member Khag, Moulvi Nisar Ahmad, who was also present on the occasion stressed on approval and work execution of Zampathri Water Supply Scheme to supply potable water to the whole area. He also demanded Girls Higher Secondary School facility be created in the area for women students, besides development of park, F&EM service station, Bank branch and other facilities.

The demands raised by locals included upgradation of High School Higher

Secondary level, macadamization and development of roads and links in the area, development of Kusturwan Park, accommodation for health centre, animal husbandry dispensary and Agriculture, Horticulture centres, new water pipelines, work execution on Tosamaidan project, release of SBM payment, fencing of local shrine, development of playground, awareness generation about self employment schemes, BPL ration cards to eligible beneficiaries, additional panchayat halqa for Sugan, J&K Bank branch, improvement in health and education sectors and work on irrigation related projects. On the occasion, the Coordination Committee Tosamaidan submitted a list of demands with the ADDC and demanded early resolution of their genuine issues. The ADDC emphasized on robust development of the area. He also stressed on the development of all roads including links and improvement in all other sectors including education and health facilities in the area.

ADC Handwara hears grievances of PRIs during inspection of Health & Educational institutions

DR Abdul Qayoom

KUPWARA, AUGUST 24: After conclusion of Block Diwas programme at Wadipora, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir visited Primary Health Centre Wadipora, Government Higher Secondary School Wadipora and Middle School Wadipora to know the issues there. He was accompanied by Tehsildar Handwara and PRIs. During the inspection of PHC Wadipora, the ADC heard several grievances from PRIs which include erection of snow breakers at PHC so as to ensure hassle free movement of patients to the health facility during winters and deployment of Dentist and additional doctors to the PHC. The PRIs also demanded completion of an under construction building of Higher Secondary School Wadipora, besides, proper fencing of HSS and Middle School was also raised. The ADC gave a patient hearing to them and assured that he will take up the same issues with the concerned departments for their redressal.

CS launches e-Market for sale of mining material Asks for making the construction material readily available on govt approved rates

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 24: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today launched here the web portal (e-Market) for sale of mining material in the UT of J&K. On the occasion the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers of the Geology & Mining Department to ensure that the construction material is readily available to the customers on the already approved rates. He asked the Department to make this process hassle free so that the customers finds it easy and reliable to use. Dr Mehta maintained that the step is highly appreciable for it would help in checking the illegal mining besides allowing the customers to find material on competitive rates with access to vast market from the comforts of their homes. He asked the Department



to make the portal the best way to fetch the mined material for different developmental purposes. The Chief Secretary also directed the Deputy Commissioners to monitor the process and see that there is no overcharging or scarcity of such materials in the market. He asked them to submit daily reports in this regard.

He also asked for carrying out third party checking of rates and availability of these materials in the market for gauging the ground reality. The Chief Secretary was informed that there are more than 200 registered miners in the UT dealing with extraction of different minerals. It was further revealed that all of them are onboard on the web portal that can be accessed by logging into <http://geologymining.jk.gov.in/>. The meeting was further appraised that the both the vendors and customers have to register on the portal. The customers can then directly order the material like sand, bajri, nallah muck, stones, crushed bajri, etc from the portal. They can do cost comparison besides the items are available at approved rates.

Workshop on Swachh Bharat Mission- Grameen Phase-II held in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24: Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Union Ministry of Jal Shakti organized an orientation workshop on Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) Phase 2.Vini Mahajan, Union Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS) chaired the workshop. Nicola Osbert, Chief of Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), UNICEF; Arun Varika, Special Secretary DDWS; Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) & Panchayati Raj J&K, was the Guest of Honour.

Officer on Special Duty (OSD) RD&PR J&K also participated in the workshop. During the workshop, there were short films and presentations on Liquid Waste Management, Biodegradable waste Management, Go-bardhan scheme, Plastic waste Management etc. Commissioner Secretary RDD, Mandeep Kaur was appreciated for the initiative taken by the RDD&PR for ensuring sanitation along the Shri Amarnath Yatra Route and ensuring zero land-fill of the waste generated. The Department undertook the herculean task of converting the bio-degradable garbage into compost and non-biodegradable material along the Yatra route by compressing to 'Bales' and shifting to Base camps, where it was segregated and recycled.

DC presides over grievances redressal camp at Kulgam

Listens to people for redressal of their issues, grievances

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUGUST 24: The District Administration Kulgam today organized Mega Block Diwas in three blocks of the district viz. Devsar, Kulgam and D.H.Pora to take appraisal of the public issues, grievances and demands.

The grievance redressal programme witnessed overwhelming response of PRI representatives and people, who visited the programme places in large numbers to flag-off their issues, grievances and demands with the visiting Officers for redressal.

Meanwhile, to take first hand appraisal of public grievances and demands, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat presided over grievance redressal camp at Kulgam.

People from Ashthal, Kanipora, Boh, Khee Jo-

gipora, Chabagund, Aakhran, Bolsoo, Pranhah and other areas participated in this grievance redressal camp and apprised the DC of their issues and grievances for timely redressal. People demanded Flood protection bund at Nalla Veshov, construction of additional accommodation for School, making Filtration plant functional at Chabagund, land for health centre and Nayabat in Bolsoo and extension of Daderkoot Khee Jogipora road besides other issues and grievances for redressal. Officers on the spot responded to the queries and demands of people pertaining to their departments.

A delegation of youth from Khee Jogipora demanded development of playfield and direction was passed to the concerned for early demarcation of land for develop-



ment of playfield. The DC, after giving patient hearing to the public addressed scores of grievances of immediate nature on the spot. ADC, ACD, ACR, Tehsildar, BDO and

other officers were also present in the grievance redressal camp. Earlier, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Kulgam, Mohammad Imran Khan also briefed about

the action taken on various grievances and issues raised in previous Block Diwas. Meanwhile grievances redressal camps were also held at Block Devsar and

Manzgam where officers remained available to listen and redress the issues and grievances of people. Officers on the spot responded to the queries and demands of people pertaining to their departments.

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Block Diwas held at Kokernag, Qazigund

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 24: The weekly Block Diwas was today held in twin blocks of Qazigund and Kokernag in Anantnag, here.

At Qazigund, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Bashir Ahmad Wani presided over the event while at Kokernag, the event was presided over by Riyaz Ahmad Shah, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Anantnag.

People in large numbers attended the Block Diwas at Qazigund and demanded up-gradation of local infrastructure in the Health, Education sector besides extension of road connectivity, water and power facilities in the area. They also raised issues regarding management of traffic in Qazigund town.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC stressed that the Block Diwas mechanism has been instrumental in bridging the gap between people and directed the officers to ensure that all grievances raised are resolved fulfilling the aim of organizing these programs.

He said that the Government is fully committed to last mile delivery of public services. He said that several services particularly related to revenue are being provided online and people should take ben-

efit of this facility. He said online delivery of services has not only reduced the time of delivery but has also cre-



ated an accountability mechanism and responsibility of delay will be fixed on the erring officers.

The ADC stressed on coordination among PRIs and officials to ensure welfare of the public. In Kokernag, demands regarding

macadamisation of roads, execution of works under MGNREGA, upgradation of electric poles, among others were raised by the

participants. The ACD said that several works are being implemented by Rural Development for welfare of the panchayats. He said it is the responsibility of the public to conduct social audits of these works and ensure that pub-

lic money is being spent responsibly and for community benefit.

Addressing the grievances of people, he directed the concerned line departments to ensure that the issues are resolved in a time bound manner. Among others, Block Diwas was attended by PRI members from both blocks. The block was attended by SDM Dooru, Tehsildars, and representatives from line departments besides members of the media fraternity, fixed on the erring officers.

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Bhagat introduces theme of Developing DGGI, DGGI Dashboard to Haryana Civil Service Officers

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 24: The outgoing Director General, J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development (IMPARD), Saurabh Bhagat today held an interaction session-cum-panel discussion here with Haryana Civil Service Officers.

The Civil Service Officers, who are undergoing Mid-Career Training at Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Gurgaon; and are presently on a training tour to IMPARD Srinagar under the leadership of K. L. Prasad, IES (retd.) as participants of "Four Days' Orientation Training for Mid-Career Officer Trainees Course on Good Governance Module of J&K IMPARD - Sharing of

Success Stories of DGGI and DGG Dashboard".

Saurabh Bhagat introduced the Haryana Civil Service Officers to District Good Governance Index (DGGI) and DGGI Dashboard. Speaking on the occasion, Bhagat informed the trainee Officers that under the Kashmir Aelamia Declaration of Behtar Nizam-e-Hukumat of July 02, 2021, IMPARD was entrusted with the task of framing District Good Governance Index (DGGI) to measure the performance of all the Districts across the UT of J&K. Therefore, IMPARD framed, in collaboration with Centre for Good Governance (CGG), Hyderabad, and Director General, Economics and Statistics Department, a DGGI Dashboard after

threadbare discussions in various meetings chaired by V. Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG, in which Saurabh Bhagat participated on behalf of IMPARD. Consequently, J&K became the first UT in India to launch DGGI Index data which includes 10 Sectors, 58 Indicators, and 118 Data Points. The DGGI Dashboard was launched at Convention Centre, Jammu, on January 22, 2022, by Home Minister Amit Shah in presence LG Manoj Sinha and MoS, PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh. Subsequently, the data entries for all the twenty (20) Districts for the months of January to March, 2022, were uploaded on the J&K DGGI Dashboard. Bhagat further said that on January 21, 2022, V. Srinivas,

Road Accident Victims: DC Bandipora provides financial assistance cheques to NoKs of deceased

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 24: The Deputy Commissioner, (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed along with ARTO Bandipora, on Tuesday handed over cheques as interim relief to the NoKs of deceased in Road Accidents.

ARTO Bandipora informed that Rs. One lakh has been provided to Road accident victims in death cases among which 50 thousand is disbursed immediately as interim relief.

The DC handed over financial assistance of Rs. 50 thousand each among the next of kin (NoK) of the two death cases, as interim relief from Road accident fund.

Dr. Owais directed ARTO Bandipora to process other cases and provide financial assistance to the road accident victims as per norms.

Redress the genuine demands of patwaris: Tarigami

Farooq Rather

Srinagar, August 24: Urging the administration to redress the genuine demands of striking Patwaris, CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Wednesday said that the strike of patwaris has paralysed the working in revenue department. The administration has been giving assurances and making promises with the patwaris that their genuine grievances would be redressed, but nothing has been done on the ground, compelling them to go on strike. The demands of increase in the grade pay of graduate patwaris, timely departmental promotion of patwaris and girdawars, which has reportedly not been conducted for the last so many years, enhancement of rent for Patwar Khanas (Private Accommodation) and construction of new Patwar Khanas are all genuine demands, which the government must fulfil. The Government must talk to the representatives of the Association and redress their grievances without any further delay.

SDRF Unit Doda organises awareness camp for students in GHSS Khalani

DODA, AUGUST 24: A one day students' awareness camp was organised on Wednesday by SDRF unit Doda here at Government Higher Secondary School Khalani.

The programme was held under the supervision of the Principal of the host school, Sachla Kumari, while Deputy SP Devinder Singh was the Guest of Honor.

Tariq Ahmed, an expert from SDRF unit Doda presented a detailed deliberation on the topic. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Sr. lecturer Mohammad Ahsan. Deputy SP Devinder Singh, in his address, laid emphasis on leadership and other management skills. The program was attended by all staff members and students of the institution.

Principal of the school presented a vote of thanks to the guest experts. Tariq Ahmed, an expert from SDRF unit Doda presented a detailed deliberation on the topic. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Sr. lecturer Mohammad Ahsan.

Deputy SP Devinder Singh, in his address, laid emphasis on leadership and other management skills. The program was attended by all staff members and students of the institution.

Conservator of Forests visits Kund valley Kulgam

Directs for creation of livelihoods, development of Ecotourism and dedicates Trek route to people

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUGUST 24: The Conservator of Forests (CoF), Irfan Ali Shah today visited several remote areas in Kund valley, Kulgam falling under jurisdiction of Anantnag Forest Division.

During the day-long visit, a massive public outreach program was organised at remote Nageenpora, Kund Valley, Officers from District Administration, Police, DDC members, PRIs and locals of the area participated in the event in large numbers.

The CoF in his address informed that the Forest Department has accelerated its efforts for both Greening of degraded forest areas as well as providing and strengthening of livelihoods for both forest fringe inhabitants as well as local ed-

ucated youth.

He informed that during the current financial year, about 5.50 lac plants are being planted in Anantnag District under various schemes. He informed that under Har Gaon Haryali each village is being covered for greening of areas outside forest areas and for making our villages greener.

Under the 'One Beat Guard One Village' programme thousands of plants are being planted in Anantnag. He said about 4.50 lac mandays of employment will be generated through MGNREGA Convergence by Territorial Forests and its allied wings in Anantnag during the current financial year.

On this occasion, the CoF directed for settling of claims received from locals, forest dwellers etc under Forest Rights Act on fast track basis and for

expediting verification of Kashmiri notice cases for meeting



bonafide timber requirements so that forest fringe and tribal communities get benefited.

He informed that under Forest Rights Act 2546 Claims including 9 claims under Community Forest Rights have

been received by FRC and 110 numbers of claims have been

verified, out of which 16 cases have been cleared by the District Level Committee for issuing title which involves 110.40 hectares of Forest land. The CoF informed that various Amrit Sarovars have been rejuvenat-

ed/ created in South Kashmir. About 30 numbers of Amrit Sarovar sites were thrown open on 15th August, 2022 and various ceremonial plantation drives were carried out on identified Amrit Sarovar sites on the occasion with active participation of PRIs, District Administration and other stakeholders.

He said that a large number of Trek routes have been opened in South Kashmir and many will be opened next month end with the melting of snow in higher reaches.

He directed the forest officials to immediately start work on opening a new 10 km long trek route from Ziyarat Sharief Kund to Waltong Nad area and to collaborate with local trekking and hiking groups for organizing trekking programmes for youth and potential visitors in Kund valley.

DC Kulgam chairs District Level NCORD Committee meeting

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUGUST 24: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss various measures to curb the drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district and review the implementation of decisions and directions passed in previous meeting.

During the meeting, threadbare discussion was held on various issues related to incidence of drug addiction, areas of concern and hotspots of drug use besides cultivation of illicit poppy, cannabis in the district.

The DC sought details from the concerned departments about the measures taken to control the drug menace and cultivation of illicit poppy, cannabis in the district.

It was decided in the meeting that exchange of intelligence/ information about trends of drug trafficking should be shared between the members of the committee for greater success of the agenda of the committee.

The DC asked all the stakeholders to

launch a massive awareness campaign in all blocks of the district especially in drug prone areas involving PRIs, school children and locals in concerned areas.

He also asked for implementing alternative development programmes in areas affected by illicit cultivation of narcotic crops in the district.

The DC urged the Education department for raising awareness regarding anti drug abuse and its ill effects on society in all educational institutions.

He stressed step up vigil against drug proliferation, consumption and intensifying awareness against such addictive substances.

During the meeting it was also informed that a w.e.f 01 January, 2022 to 31 July, 2022, 35 cases were registered under NDPS whereas 12 challans were produced before court of law and 02 persons were detained under PSA.

Further it was given out that intense poppy straw destruction was carried out on more than 110 kanals this season.

The meeting was attended by SSP Kulgam Dr. G.V. Sandeep; ADC, CMO, DSWO, CEO, Tehsildars, DFO, Drug Inspector/Officer and other officers from police and civil administration.

Dr Samoon e-inaugurates placement drive at Govt Polytechnic College Karihama

KUPWARA, AUGUST 24: Skill Development Department in collaboration with District Administration Kupwara today conducted a Placement Drive for pass-outs of Polytechnic & ITIs at Government Polytechnic College Karihama here.

The Placement Drive was e-inaugurated by Principal Secretary Skill Development Department, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon.

Director Skill Development J&K, Sudarshan Kumar was the chief guest on the occasion. JD Planning Kupwara, Superintendent ITI Kupwara, Handwara & Lalpora were also present on the occasion.

Dr Asgar Samoon in his virtual address wished success to participating students and also directed the officers to conduct such programmes on regular basis so that maximum skilled youth could be benefited.

The Director SDD, Sudarshan Kumar inspected all the stalls in the Job Fair and interacted with the employing firms. He also inspected the recently shifted Polytechnic College and interacted with the students and the staff.

During the placement drive, around 120 Candidates and 11 Corporates/Employers from District Kupwara participated.

The Deputy Director Employment & Counseling Centre Kupwara and other officers of Agriculture, Animal & Sheep



Husbandry and Handicraft Departments Kupwara spoke about the various employment generation schemes available in their respective departments.

Meanwhile, District Employment & Counseling Centre Kupwara conducted online Registration drive in which around 16 onspot Registrations were done besides, participants were appraised about the benefits of online Registration, NCS Registration and Self Employment Schemes being run by different departments. They were also appraised about the UT level Mega Job Fair to be conducted by Employment department in first week of September.

HEADLINES TODAY

EDITORIAL

Shrinking agricultural land

While the government is focusing on adoption of new smart technologies to meet the future challenges of Agriculture and allied sectors to increase the efficiency making farming more profitable thus helping small and marginal farmers, there is a big challenge that the agriculture sector is facing and that is the shrinking agricultural land. Kashmir Valley, once a promising food bowl, is losing its arable agrarian land at an alarming pace. Despite standing court directions in this regard, conversion of agricultural land into concrete jungles (commercial and residential complexes) is going on unabated and the Revenue and Civic authorities are only being silent spectators to all this. Along with the intervention of the judiciary, the civil society and media too have been regularly voicing concerns about the issue but nothing much has changed. The constructions on the agricultural land have continued unabated and the concerned agencies vested with the responsibility of saving this precious asset have hardly been doing anything in this regard. It goes without saying that carrying out constructions on the agricultural lands would simply not be possible without active complicity and tacit support of the concerned agencies. Indeed Kashmir Valley which is already dependent on other states for the supply of food wouldn't have lost as much land to non-farming ventures if the concerned authorities had followed law and ensured its implementation on the ground. But it didn't happen. Though turbulent political situations were also a factor as enforcing the rule of law was a tricky business for over a decade or so, it is also a reality that the damage that has been done didn't happen during the turbulent nineties alone. It started before that and is continuing even today when the government claims that it has re-established its writ. Kashmir has the unique distinction of being a place where the government itself initiated this trend of land conversion when it established housing colonies in arable agrarian lands and natural wetlands and flood basins. Once famous Doodhganga stretch along Batamaloo was flooded by the constructions made by then SMC. When the Srinagar Development Authority, that is supposed to take care of Srinagar, constructs its own headquarters in erstwhile water bodies, people feel free to violate each and every law. The disastrous repercussions of that foolish policy showed itself in worst form during the floods of September 2014 when the colonies that have come up in these flood-basins remained dangerously inundated for weeks. So when the government itself is culpable of subverting laws and norms, for the ordinary people it is a virtual go-head to do everything and anything that pleases them, laws, rules and norms notwithstanding.

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LANDMARK BILLS FREE THE FARMER: THE MODI GOVERNMENT IS HERALDING THE PATH FOR FARMERS TO BE ATMANIRBHAR



AMIT SHAH

Indian agriculture has for long suffered from apathy and policies rigged to benefit others at the cost of the farmer. Under successive Congress governments, ringing tributes were ritualistically paid to the industry of "kisan", but the loudly declared intent to help farmers never translated into ground reality. Committees were formed with the avowed objective of developing agriculture and improving farmers' lot, only to consign the recommendations of experts commissioned for the job to the growing pile of files never acted upon. The sickeningly dishonest and dreary pattern was junked in 2014, with the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi determinedly trying to remove the fetters which kept farmers from fully harnessing the potential of Indian agriculture. From the focus on improving the acreage under irrigation and encouraging farmers to diver-

sify into allied activities such as dairying and beekeeping, to hikes in MSP and direct financial assistance worth thousands of crores, a series of measures have marked a fresh approach which stands out from the false, populist pronouncements made by previous governments.

This approach has now seen the passage of two landmark bills by Parliament: Agricultural Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Simplification) Bill and Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Price Assurance Bill. The protests against them represent political dishonesty and the influence of middlemen, considering that they together with changes in Essential Commodities Act to remove cap on stock holdings can herald a New Deal for the agriculture sector.

The first bill is aimed at liberating the farmer from the oppressively unjust situation he had been locked in. He was forced to sell his produce at the local market, where factors such as the domination of a cartel, price information asymmetry, and poor infrastructure worked to his detriment. If the ordeal of having to wait endlessly in adverse and humiliating conditions forced him to submit to the ruthless mandi mafia, high transportation costs ate into his already meagre profit. This virtually amounted to

a state sanctioned heist.

Once the first legislation is enacted, farmers will be freed from the grip of the middleman, and able to sell their produce to buyers from across the country at a price they deem to be fair and at a time of their choosing. Freedom to sell at the farm gate will do away with transportation expenses, and thus boost incomes. This is a giant stride towards the fulfillment of the dream of 'One Nation, One Market' 73 years after Independence.

The second soon-to-be enacted law will help farmers go for contract farming with agriculture trade firms, wholesalers, big retailers and exporters. The provision of market linkages at the sowing stage itself will insulate them from production and price vagaries. It will also lead to introduction of better technologies, technical assistance, crop insurance and credit facilities. Contract farming will also encourage private investment in the financially starved sector and open the way for growth of agro-based industries and better storage, thus removing shackles which caused stagnation. This will lead to higher income for farmers who will be able to modernise farming methods and innovate to suit the demand for cash crops and agro-industry.

In many states, affluent farm-

ers have already been reaping the benefits of collaboration with the corporate sector. This law will help small farmers derive similar gains. They will have the freedom to withdraw from this agreement at any point without penalty, while sale, lease and mortgage of the land will be completely prohibited.

The allegations that the twin legislations are anti-farmer are baseless and have been raised by Congress and others as a smoke-screen to cover their failures. Congress promised to repeal the APMC Act in its 2019 manifesto, but is now putting the interests of middlemen over those of farmers.

The conduct of these political parties in Rajya Sabha during passage of these bills is a dark blot on Indian democracy and parliamentary decorum. It reflects their frustration over loss of support and anti-farmer mindset. That alone can explain the propaganda that has been unleashed that enactment of the two laws will lead to abolition of MSP. The lie has already been exposed with the announcement of MSP for rabi crops this week and with the government's solemn declarations inside and outside Parliament that MSP will continue.

Since 2013-14, MSP for wheat and paddy has increased by 41% and 43% respectively, while there

has been up to 65% rise in MSP for pulses and oilseeds. The quantity of wheat and paddy procured has also increased by 73% and 114% respectively, compared to 2014. In the case of pulses, the increase has been a staggering 4,962%. Increased agriculture credit, higher loan subsidy, soil health card to 16.38 crore farmers, increased support for mechanisation and launch of the Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund etc have been hallmarks of the Modi government's effort to help farmers. During this government's tenure, production of foodgrains has increased by 7.29%, horticulture by 12.4% and pulses by 20.65% respectively. The Modi government has also provided security cover to 13.26 crore farmers under PM crop insurance scheme and direct cash benefit of Rs 94,000 crore to 10.21 crore farmers through PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.

Sardar Patel had famously said, "If anyone has the right to walk on this earth with their head held high, it is the farmer of the country, who produces the wealth of the earth." Today, I feel proud to say that BJP government under Modi's leadership has taken historic and bold initiatives to empower the country's farmers and make them 'Atmanirbhar'.

COURTESY: KAMAL SANDESH

REMEDY OF CHALLENGE AGAINST BLOCKING ORDERS IS ILLUSORY

SHADAN FARASAT AND
DHRUV BHATNAGAR

Big tech companies running large social media platforms prefer engaging with governments, particularly in developing countries, behind closed doors. It is rare to see them openly confronting governments in courts. However, there comes a point when pacifist posturing contradicts the core values which a company purports to uphold. An inability to stand up leads to the kind of situation Facebook finds itself in with respect to hate speech globally.

After exposés in Myanmar, Sri Lanka and India in recent years, and owing to a general reluctance to confront digital authoritarianism, Facebook's content moderation practices have been called into question. Perhaps the name change to Meta was, at least partially, intended to cleanse the company's brand image.

In this context, Twitter's recent petition filed last month in the Karnataka High Court, presumably aimed to protect the integrity of its brand from a government intent on restricting unpalatable speech, is an unprecedented development. But the true significance of this challenge lies beneath Twitter's motivations for instituting it. This case offers a unique opportunity to a constitutional court to address vital public interest concerns, including the impact of opaque ministerial censorship practices

on the free speech rights of social media users.

Twitter's petition challenges the legality of multiple orders issued by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology ('MeitY') under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act ('IT Act'). Twitter has sought the quashing of these orders for being procedurally and substantively deficient in relation to the requirements of section 69A, incompatible with India's free speech protections, and disproportionate for targeting entire accounts instead of individual posts.

During the first hearing on July 26, the court admitted the case, asked the MeitY to respond, and directed Twitter to file impugned takedown orders in a sealed cover to ensure confidentiality. The next hearing is on August 25.

To appreciate the significance of Twitter's petition, the laws implicated here need to be closely scrutinised. The power for content censorship under the IT Act can be traced to section 69A. Under this provision, the Union Government can direct intermediaries (including social media platforms) to disable content for public access on grounds that are largely coextensive with the constitutionally permissible restrictions to speech. This power has been operationalized through the 2009 Blocking Rules, which prescribe the procedure for issuance of blocking directions.

The constitutionality of section

69A and the 2009 Blocking Rules, along with the infamous Section 66A of the IT Act, were challenged before the Supreme Court in 2012. Through its Shreya Singhal judgment in 2015, the court invalidated section 66A owing to its vagueness.

However, section 69A, which had also been challenged before the court, was upheld primarily for three reasons. First, the grounds for invoking this provision are related to the reasonable restrictions to free speech under Article 19(2) of the Constitution. Second, the requirement of issuing blocking directions through reasoned written orders, facilitates challenging them (if necessary) by resorting to the remedy under Article 226 of the Constitution. Third, the 2009 Blocking Rules provide safeguards against the arbitrary exercise of section 69A, including a pre-decisional hearing to originators (persons who generate or transmit content).

Unfortunately, the court overlooked that infirmities in the 2009 Blocking Rules partly undermine the rationale for upholding section 69A. Specifically, though a pre-decisional hearing to impacted originators is provisioned for under Rule 8, as per Rule 9, this safeguard can be entirely dispensed with during 'emergencies', a term which is conspicuously undefined and left to the subjective determination of the executive. Further, while a challenge against defective blocking orders may be initiated by invoking high courts' writ jurisdiction,

in practise, this remedy is rendered illusory by Rule 16, which perpetuates official secrecy by mandating confidentiality of both blocking requests and subsequent actions.

These issues are not just academic. In recent years, the Union Government has exercised its emergency blocking power under Rule 9 to order the removal of content merely supporting the farmers' agitation against the controversial farm laws and criticising the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. This demonstrates the casual invocation of an exemplary power with fewer safeguards.

Additionally, as highlighted by digital rights activists, there are hardly any recorded instances of hearings (either pre- or post-decisional) being offered to publishers by the Union Government. On the contrary, Rule 16 is regularly cited to refuse disclosure of blocking orders, even to publishers whose constitutional rights to speech and equality are directly prejudiced. In fact, because of the shroud of secrecy behind which ministerial censorship takes place, publishers are often not even aware of the existence of blocking orders which restrict their speech.

Twitter's petition, besides being a possible move to protect the micro-blogging platform's interests in free speech, is primarily a vehicle for vicarious representation of persons who couldn't assert their own rights due to procedural opacity. The Karnataka high court's

receptivity to this petition may encourage other fence-sitting social media companies to also challenge excessively broad blocking orders targeting political speech on their platforms.

The case also offers the high court a unique opportunity to imbue much needed transparency in platform speech regulation. Judicial directions requiring public disclosure of section 69A orders and conferring a concomitant right upon impacted users to challenge them, could go a long way towards strengthening transparency. Such directions would not only apprise directly prejudiced publishers about the existence of blocking orders, but would also allow content viewers to assert their constitutionally protected right to be informed.

Indeed, a legal basis for enhanced transparency in content censorship already exists pursuant to the Supreme Court's Anuradha Bhasin ruling of 2020, in which it was held that governmental orders impacting life and liberty ought to be published to facilitate judicial review.

Given the vital constitutional issues involved in this case, it would be a travesty if it myopically devolves into an 'American Big Tech Company versus The Indian Government' battle before court, for what is really at stake here are cherished liberties of the social media-using public.

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COURTESY: THE LEAFLET

SAFFRON FRIENDLY CORPORATE HOUSES ARE EYEING ON GETTING TRIBAL LAND

ARUN SRIVASTAVA

Spate of serial slaughter of the opposition governments by the ruling BJP has of course slowed down but the operation lotus continues to dictate the saffron establishment. Hemant Soren led coalition government in Jharkhand which barely a month back was the prime target for the serial slaughter once again features on the agenda. The only difference is the buying price for a law maker which was then around Rs 10crore has shot to Rs 20 crore. The bidders are frantically trying to break the JMM rank with no shortage of ill-gotten money at their command.

The serial chopping might have acquired substantial momentum, but it is the engagement of the killers in their manoeuvring in Bihar that has forced them to delay the operation. A group of at least 12 ragdolls have descended in Bihar with the sleuths of ED and CBI to destabilise the Nitish government. Interestingly they swung into action on the day Nitish was seeking the confidence of the house.

Only a week back some senior BJP

leaders from Delhi had descended in Ranchi and made personal contacts with some gullible legislators. Of course, they could not succeed in their mission to inflict a chink in Hemant's rank, but they raised the heat.

Even Hemant Soren recently dropped the hint that BJP could resort to any mischief to gain power. The BJP leaders are desperate to dislodge him from the power as the party is deprived of the corporate benefits the state BJP leaders should have got once, they helped them to get their feet. Already some of the giant corporate agencies, like Adani, have started their operations in the state, but the corporates' desire to have the Tribal Land Tenancy Act completely revoked is not taking place. This has been creating obstacles in their path for expansion.

Jharkhand Adivasim particularly from Dunka area, had virtually revolted against this move of the earlier Raghuraj Das led BJP government. Now Hemant in power is firmly against any such move. This is the primary reason that he is disliked by the corporate houses and BJP is determined to throw him out of power at

the earliest. The sooner it takes place it would be better in their interests of BJP's corporate friends.

The failure of the earlier mission to purchase the MLAs has infuriated the BJP leadership. It is worth recalling that a couple of weeks back five persons, including three Congress MLAs were arrested by the Kolkata police from Howrah with a huge amount of cash in their vehicle. Though the legislators were suspended by the Congress leadership, they still continue to be vulnerable. The money seized from them was part of the BJP conspiracy to topple the government.

If the sources are to be believed the BJP leadership has amended its mechanism. Instead of delivering the money in Ranchi, it would be handed over to their link persons or friends in Delhi itself. In that situation they would not be facing the danger of getting exposed and caught. A senior Congress national leader hailing from Jharkhand said "we are maintaining extreme vigil and keeping an eye on the movements of the leaders and MLAs. We are closely watching the movements of the BJP leaders. We will succeed in foiling any

such future move"

Hemant observed "Attempts to topple our government are not new. The BJP has been making such attempts ever since it was voted out of power in Jharkhand. We hear about this every other day. In fact, BJP was trying to make a new political definition and ironically BJP's political ambition is too high". JMM has 30 MLAs in the 81-member assembly, while the Congress has 17 legislators and RJD one. BJP has 26 MLAs in the House.

JMM leaders confide that some friends and sides of Hemant have been lending their services to the BJP in their mission. These people are not at all concerned of the plights and miseries of the Adivasis. They believe in the RSS theory of Vanavasi and hold that the big business should be encouraged in the state at the cost of the adivasis.

Only some time back JMM MLA Ramdas Soren has accused a former party leader of attempting to topple the Hemant Soren led coalition government. He has even lodged an FIR against Ravi Kejriwal and Ashok Agrawal at Dhurwa police station in

Ranchi. Ravi Kejriwal served as treasurer of the JMM till he was sacked from the post and expelled from the party. He used to manage business and financial interests of the Shibu Soren family, and he enjoyed the status and confidence as the right hand of Shibu Soren and Hemant Soren.

Jharkhand Congress in charge Avinash Pande had also alleged that BJP is trying to destabilise the state government through intimidation. He said, "The MLAs are being intimidated and central agencies are being used to create confusion in the government and to destabilise the coalition."

Intelligence sources nevertheless maintain that once the current phase of operation in Bihar is over, they would focus on Jharkhand. The political masters nurse the view that all the potent opposition leaders who can prove to be potential threat to Modi, must be pulled out of power. With Hemant in office BJP cannot hope to get the support of the Adivasis. The problem of the BJP is none of their leaders has the charisma and appeal of Hemant. Soren in Jharkhand

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Choose offbeat courses after XII



VIJAY GARG

If you have completed your twelfth standard but have not yet been able to choose a career, then now is the time for you to take the right decision and move forward in that direction. While choosing a career, the most important thing is to identify your interest and ability and prepare yourself for success. Generally, parents push their children towards becoming doctors, engineers, lawyers etc. after twelfth, but seeing the tough competition in these fields, they are now ready to take the risk of choosing an offbeat career alternative. They are giving priority to the hobby and interest of the students in these courses. If you are also looking for new alternatives in a field full of possibilities, then know about offbeat courses. Cinematography Cinematog-

raphy is literally defined as recording motion. Every scene that appears on the screen is the result of cinematography. A cinematographer brings reality to any scene imagined by a film director or script writer. A genre made up of art and technology, cinematography is a separate part of film making. It plays an important role in his success. Job opportunities There are opportunities to work as cinematographer, video editor, director and photography, cameraman, videographer etc. in this field. Cinematographers have excellent job opportunities in TV and web series, filming units, film studios, video businesses, etc. Course You can do one year PG certificate course in electronic cinematography, two year PG diploma in cinematography for EDM, three year PG diploma in cinematography. You from the twelfth After graduation in any subject, you can take admission in these courses by passing the entrance exam. Some institutes offer BSc in Cinematography, Advanced Diploma in Cinematography, PG Diploma in Cinematography along with Film Making. Advertising Advertising is a great way to promote anything. It is the preferred alternative chosen by companies and brands to market their products/ser-

vices. Therefore, today advertising is a big industry in the country, which is always profitable is After digitalization, this sector has expanded further and new opportunities have been created in it. If you have the ability to do something creative and think differently, then you can advance yourself in this field. Work opportunities You can work in this field as a copy writer, creative director, art director, production manager, media planning manager, PPC etc. You can work in any advertising company. It also has the option of working as a freelancer. Course With graduation in any subject after twelfth By improving communication skills and English, you can enter this field by doing diploma or post graduation diploma courses in Advertising and Communication, Marketing and Advertising, Advertising Management, Advertising and Public Relations. Interior designing It is currently one of the most attractive career options. Be it home or office, hotel or mall, interior designers play an important role in making it colorful and beautiful. Job opportunities Architectural firm, construction firm, real estate company for interior designer. There are opportunities to work in Town and City Planning Bureau, Design Studio, Hotel

and Restaurant, Designing Institute. You can get a job in a firm by working as an interior designer. This field gives an opportunity to work independently and create an identity. Course After 12th you can do Bachelor of Interior Designing or BSc in Interior Designing. Courses like Diploma in Interior Design, PG Diploma in Interior Design and Decoration, Advanced Diploma in Interior Design are also preferred for making a career in this field. are Chartered Accountant Chartered Accountant (CA) is popular as a good career. CAs handle financial accounting and tax management for any organization or business unit. A common perception about Chartered Accountant is that students with commerce or mathematics subjects choose this career, whereas those who have passed twelfth in any subject can take the CA exam. Job opportunities After the implementation of Goods and Service Tax i.e. GST in the country, the demand for CA has increased a lot. CAs have many opportunities to work independently as As a CA you can work with public and private sector banks, public limited companies, auditing firms, finance companies, stock broking companies etc. animation With increasing technology, animation

has become one of the most scoped career options these days. Animation is concerned with designing, drawing and producing graphics or multi media video. Animation has a lot of potential for those who like to create magic in a character. Animation in a wide variety of work from entertainment to the field of advertising Job opportunities are available for professionals. Employment opportunities Animation professionals are in high demand in the advertising department, film and television sector, cartoon production, online and print news media, video gaming, e-learning sectors. Course BSc in Animation and Multi Media, BSc in Animation and Game Technology, BA Hons, BA in 3D Animation, BA in Animation and Graphic Design, BSc in Animation after 12th. Advanced Diploma in 3D Animation, Advanced Diploma in Animation Can do Visual Effects, Advanced Diploma in Animation Engineering. After graduation, you can lay the foundation of a strong career in this field by doing MSc in Animation and Multi Media, Post Graduate Diploma in 3D Animation, PG Diploma in 3D Communication. *Vijay Garg is a Retired Principal Mallot Punjab*

SHIV SENA SUPREMO HAS TO PROVE HIM ONCE AGAIN IN THE BATTLE AGAINST SAFFRONS

SUSHIL KUTTY

Things stirred in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Tuesday. Some movement forward happened. Uddhav Thackeray, who seldom ventured out of home, i.e., Matoshree or Official residence Varsha, when he was Chief Minister, and which was a major complaint against him, went to the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha, and there "chaired" a meeting of the MVA, which established the fact that the Shiv Sena President continued to be at the top of the MVA even if he hasn't been at the top of his game for months! Uddhav Thackeray is everybody's politician to read or handle the way they want to. Balasaheb Thackeray's heir is a pretty limited circle politician. There's a standoffish kind of manner to him. He seldom gives out signals that catch the attention of more people than he would like folks to see. You could say he keeps to himself. Never garrulous, pretty much taciturn. Clams would love to have him in their sea!

So, there wasn't hue and cry when after June this year, he and son Aditya Thackeray drove out of Varsha to a post-poor life. Henceforth, it would be Matoshree all the way to another change of fortunes. Again, not surprisingly, Uddhav Thackeray kept his chin to his chest, and refused to engage in recriminations, which would not have been standard operating behaviour for somebody whose homegrown political party had been stolen by a platoon of political brigands.

Instead, the Shiv Sena President, with dwindling numbers to command, kept to himself, and self-counsel, leaving it to the top court of the land to bring some sense of order to the lay of the land in as far as the private limited party that was the Shiv Sena was concerned. In fact, if Balasaheb was around no Shinde with Fadnavis to plot, would have had the guts and gumption for such piracy! Isn't there an anti-piracy law called the anti-defection law to fend for such eventualities?

That there is, but there are also reasonable restrictions on its operation. A total of 40 Shiv Sena legislators deserted and joined the conspiracy to upend the MVA government, and of them only a handful have been rewarded with a ministry and a portfolio; the rest of them must have been given other spoils of the bitter war to get hold of the wheels of power. Eknath Shinde, once upon a time a motorcyclist driver, shouldn't have been entertained beyond a point. Mistake!

Now, the only response left is "if only". If only there was a cool breeze blowing and there was no sweat broken? The Shiv Sena of Uddhav Thackeray's only reason to exist now is to make the Shiv Sena whole without breaking sweat. The planning must be impeccable, and nothing should be left to chance. The good thing is, the MVA is patient as a pyramid, and the mummies are lying low. The alliance partners, however, wouldn't mind the incarcerated former ministers of the MVA dispensation walking free.

It's been ages since Deshmukh and Nawab, now also Sanjay Raut, saw the good light of the day. But there's always hope. Uddhav Thackeray yesterday energised the rank and file of the MVA by stating emphatically that the MVA wasn't breaking, neither exploding nor imploding! The setback will correct and resolve itself. Aditya Thackeray had a week ago disclosed that a number of the Shinde Sena MLAs were "in touch" to do a Shinde on the Shinde Sena!

Yes, more than one can play the game. Even otherwise, the common Shiv Sainiks are chapping at the bits. News trickling out of Matoshree say that UT's presence at the MVA meeting at the assembly precinct is the talk of the Shiv Sena, as also that of the Shinde Sena. For many Shinde Sena MLAs, who have been left holding the short straws post the ministry formation, it's stifling and suffocating to remain out of their depths, they want a return to familiar shores.

The MVA meeting discussed a number of issues including fighting the next assembly and next Lok Sabha elections under the MVA banner. However, the same wouldn't be applied for the upcoming municipal elections. An MVA victory in the civic body elections will dramatically alter the fortunes of all parties involved. A Shinde-BJP win will spell disaster for the MVA. But Uddhav Thackeray's body language was reassuring and for that the spine surgeon should get the kudos.

Uddhav Thackeray's close confidante Sanjay Raut was missed at the meeting. AAP's Manish Sisodia would know what it's to be in Raut's shoes. And the Shiv Sena would know where it pinches. The BJP's modus operandi to bring down opposition party governments is a familiar song. And the Modi-Shah juggernaut is a "masti" elephant needing immediate removal from the waterhole.

"We will fight, will not back down," Uffhav Thackeray said after the meeting. One of the MVA goals is to thwart the BJP plan to win "45 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats" in 2024. Also deny BJP it's dream of at least 200 of the 288 assembly seats. While at that, an eye has to be kept on state Congress chief Nana Patole.

Of the three MVA partners, the Congress is the weak link, while the NCP is the mainstay and fully committed. In fact, if there's anything cooking in Maharashtra, it will be in the NCP supremo Sharad Pawar's kitchen! The Congress would rather wait at the dining table to make a meal of whatever that's served.

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A TRAGIC STORY OF MY OWN



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

It was 1st of August 2022 and amid light to moderate rains, I left my home for Ganderbal where I am posted for last fourteen years. When I reached bus stand Anantnag, I recalled my purse. Unfortunately I had missed it at my home. Then instead of fetching it through any person, I sought Rs 1000 from a hotel owner though not in my acquaintance who handed over the amount to me without any hesitation. It was exactly 10 am when I reached Dursuma main stop, where from I usually board the sumo for Anderwan. On that very day none of the passengers except me was waiting in the sumo and after spending almost fifteen minutes in the sumo, when none other than me boarded the vehicle, I moved on foot to reach my duties. After the day's work at my school, I moved back to my rented room of Manigam Ganderbal. I had bought milk, vegetables and bread for the dinner. Before preparing the tea and cooking the vegetables, I went to washroom for ablution.

In the bathroom, due to slippery tile floor my foot got slipped and I fell down in a wounded condition. There was a fat injury in my left foot, blood was spilling on the tile floor. Wife of the house owner hearing the sound of my fall came running towards me. She covered the wound by a piece of cloth, took me in her arms and arranged a scooty and within minutes I was taken to nearby PHC where I was given a meagre first aid and referred straightaway to SKIMS Soura. She along with her two teen age kids accompanied me to SKIMS. They got me registered in hospital, got my two X-Rays and a USG in the emergency done. Then only came my father and brother there. They stayed in the emergency ward besides me the whole night. Spent the unbearable hours, not sleeping even for an hour that night and next day morning they went back to their home. Few hours later my spouse and sister too reached SKIMS. Then the entire staff of my School also came there to know about my condition. A day before I walked on foot travelling almost six kilometres and in the evening of the same day, I wasn't able to go to the washroom without the aid of a wheel-chair and a guy riding it. This is how things and situations take ugly turns that too in the blink of an eye. I had synthesized my own plan for the week, on Saturday I had to return back but des-

tiny had something else reserved in my kitty. The milk, vegetables and bread which I had bought for dinner were left unattended then. I spent the whole week not in the school or in my rented room but in the hospital. When the medicos in the emergency ward first saw the gravity of the injury, they didn't understand about the kind of treatment it needed and after sending the images through Whatsapp to their senior medicos, it was advised that I have to stay for two nights in the emergency ward then to undergo plastic surgery. On 3rd of August I was shifted to ward 6 on sixth floor of the hospital and on following day ie on 4th of August my plastic surgery of the cut tendon was performed by a team of surgeons lead by Dr Umar Farooq of plastic surgery department. On 8th of August finally I was discharged from the medical institute with the direction to come again for the OPD check-up in room number 127.

The moment I reached back my residence, people of the vicinity thronged my home enquired about my health. It was evening time and still they were curious to know about the recovery status. The following days, my well wishers, friends and relatives came repeatedly to meet me. Those who have a minor, very weak connection and farly related to me too reached my home to take stock of my condition. These two weeks, we have

seen heavy rush of people from all areas coming to meet me. Earlier I thought nobody from my close or far-off relatives had any concern about my wellbeing but all my misunderstandings proved wrong the moment I saw a sea of them running towards me and showing their utmost concern. Now when I am restricted to one of the corners of room, my whole world is now this few feet room, where I am eating, drinking, sitting, resting and even excreting. I have learnt lot of lessons besides realizing the value of good health, freedom to move freely anywhere and the support of one's dear ones during bad times. Before this tragic incident, I was as free as a nightingale. Wherever I wished to go, I did go there like the worlds freest person. I would attend literary functions, visit the famous health resorts and historically important places whenever I desired during leisure times but now I am caged like a prisoner. I can't move an inch from my place, I need someone to fetch me my cell phone from the recharging point, functions and celebrations outside my room doesn't have any value for me now because I can't watch or attend them. For a glass of water or anything else, I have to call someone because now I am like a hapless man. I am missing my students and the workplace badly because the tragic incident happened at a time when my presence in the

school was much needed and I had to complete the syllabus of my students who have to sit in the board exam. Previously I seldom took any tablet and never felt the need to go for any medical test or diagnosis but now I am daily taking nine tablets and my food habits too have seen a Himalayan big variation. What I disliked previously have been made mandatory for me now. From dawn to dusk now my only routine is to talk to the people coming to meet me. I can't become the part of offline literary functions, can't visit any relative or other place. The catastrophic incident has bulldozed my freedom, pushed me indoors to a lone corner and prohibited me from enjoying the colourful outside life. During this short span of time I couldn't attend the funeral of my aunt, wedding ceremony of a cousin and more importantly the exam of my PG course through IGNOU. My only companion is a mattress, a blanket and the cell phone through which I am virtually connected to the outside world. Melancholic times and misfortunes never come through alarm bells instead one drowns in it's flood all of a sudden. It gives tremendous lessons and makes one an iron man to face these difficult times. May almighty Allah provide us the strength to pass through the sad moments.

- Writer is a columnist and hails from Qazigund Kashmir.

Bullets for the men in the dark, flowers for the eyes of innocents and fragrance for the entire humanity



M S NAZKI

Both SSP Suram Singh CO JKAP 6th BN and Adjutant SP M Farooq Khan are great lovers of natures!

It was something new to my ears and nose! A story writer is himself an ENT (ear, nose and throat) specialist and can call himself an otolaryngologist! Ears are required to hear, nose for smelling and throat for speaking! All three are required for processing, treating and developing a news tem into a story!

'This one which I'm writing about is from a place Behra in Mendhar where the men in Khaki were putting up a different show in another kind of operation, 'could be said Op-Developing Nature!'

'Lions are neither predators nor killers. They just go for loving the nature' like kings; because they are the kings! The swagger is mind boggling and the walk on the four legs with that hip sway is simply majestic! The same can be said about Suram Singh and Farooq Khan, both officers with brilliance in Khakis because they have the maximised brain machine of idea manufacturing! We have several anecdotes in this story!'

'Some great things are being done in the Police campus Behara in Sub Division Mendhar! Two great Nature lovers have taken charge and have decided to develop the premises of 6th Bn. Armed Battalion Jammu and Kashmir police!'

'Perhaps SSP Suram Singh is a lover of nature given things to the humanity! Because he is from a place where nature has given several things to humanity from where he belongs to!'

'I mean Ranbir Singh Pura UT Jammu and Kashmir!'

'Perhaps Suram Singh has read the same chapter on nature as I have and on that it is written, take care...do not leap and crush these pearls of dewdrop! Also written there is, 'enjoy the peace of Nature and declutter your inner world.'

'I will add a new line here, nature was one of the key forces that brought me back to God, for I wanted to know the Artist responsible for beauty such as I saw on a grand scale in photos that I have clicked of the places in Mendhar all perched up the hills!'

'They look like colorful dots during bright sun and in dark nights and moonlit nights they look like glowing glow worms!'

'Both the SPP & SP by the look of things are overs of nature and perhaps they think alike on lines of the same, 'nature is the most intimate lover of us both who denudes my emotion with its intense beauty.'

'Behra was a stony hard faced place but Suram Singh wanted to convert it into a beautiful place which could be submerged with nature around!'

'Initially the people of the locality were against the development of the place but subsequently they realized that it was happening for a place which was just another place in the lap of nature, stony, bald and barren!'

'Blessed is he who exhausts himself performing whatever his inner nature demands. Blessed is he who dares to seek, search, discover, and to create what he cannot suppress. Blessed is he who gives air to what he cannot strangle within and still live a full life any more than one



can choose to stop breathing and maintain a heartbeat. Blessed is he who raises himself to a higher pitch and institutes harmony within himself. Blessed is he who loves his family, cares for his people, and radiates a vast love for the hills, rivers, creeks, mountains, tress, sky, and all the birds, plants, grasses, marshes, and the multitudes of creatures that call nature's wonderland their paradise.' Suram Singh and his connection with nature in Behara is absolutely immersed with each other!'

and the men of 6th Armed Bn. Jammu and Kashmir Police have done:

Two great fish ponds have been made and in that swim lovely fishes, dancing around and splashing water as they jump and then again take a dip dive!'

'There are at least 12 to 13 varieties of fishes (maybe more in Jammu and Kashmir) and they include a variety of Carps, Rohu, Mirgal, bigger varieties and some local species! The combination is interesting!'

'Undoubtedly the idea is extremely innovative! Innovative because none had thought about this before!'

'Then streamed in another idea! Flowers beautify a place and their fragrance ensures that the entire humanity in the area smells something that has not been smelt before!'

Trust me this place never had such a kind of fragrance three decades back but now things are right back on track!'

It is a unit who believes in spreading fragrance that matters and 6th Battalion Jammu and Kashmir Armed police believes in this whole heartedly!'

The Armed Police Jammu and Kashmir Police has done splendidly well and they believe in the fact that bullets or flowers or fragrance, they will be the ones who will be the first ones to act first up!'

Bullets for the men in the dark, flowers for the eyes of innocents and fragrance for the entire humanity!'

If you get a chance to visit the locales of Behara because this is the place that needs the attention of the eyes because mother nature loves and lives in such beautiful venues! With men like Suram and Farooq there we can only expect one thing, 'something more for our (humans) eyes! I'm not exaggerating!'

We foster personal meaning out of life by exulting in all of nature, exhibiting a reverence for people, animals, plants, and by expressing compassion and sympathy for the entire community of life. This great unit of Jammu and Kashmir Police has really set up great standars and it's my instinct that they will become greater as successive generations of officers and men walking into this unit will work more hard so that the citadel created by those who came, saw and conquered remains a place of attraction as a wonder in Behara in Mendhar! The Goddess of nature is smiling deftly and heftly here!

(The Writer is Bureau Chief of daily Headlines Today and Special Defence Correspondent J & K (UT) Can be mail at msnazki123@gmail.com)

Thoughts

ER AIJAZ AHMAD

*He camouflaged his pen and the page was left blank.
My mother is the flower of the garden and I am her fence around it.
There are two powers on earth. One is pen and the other is paper. The third one which is stronger than two: that is women.
My pen is my sword.
Impossible says, give me some time. How make it possible. If we work in the wright approach.
You always want to me shine, you always want to me up. Oh mother, you are my everything.
Depression is a disease, that needs treatment. Many people do not grasp this, because they have lack of experience.
Each of us has at least one unique quality or skill which makes us different from rest of the world.
Shyness is just like blessing. That define our character.
Mathematics is a skill giving same number with different explanation.
Your money is your capital. Do not waste it.
When I hold pen in my hand, to write something for the true sacrifice of labour. The words became countless.*

Er Aijaz Ahmad
ratherajaz740@gmail.com
He is the quote writer, freelancer, engineer. He is the continuously contributor to headlines today.

BRIEFLY NEWS

Live-action 'King Kong' origin series in early development

The 'King Kong' franchise is moving ahead with a live-action series about the origin of the giant.

The project is in early development at Disney+, reports 'Variety'.

The series would be a serialised drama that would explore Kong's origins as well as the mysteries of his home, Skull Island.

According to 'Variety', the series would be based on the original 'King Kong' written by Merian C. Cooper as well as new novelisations by artist Joe DeVito produced in conjunction with Cooper's estate.

'Variety' further states that Stephany Folsom, who developed the Amazon series 'Paper Girls' for television, will write and executive produce the King Kong show.

James Wan, Michael Clear and Rob Hackett will also executive produce on behalf of Atomic Monster along with Dannie Festa for World Builder Entertainment. Disney Branded Television will produce the show.

The original 'King Kong' film released in 1933 and became an instant hit. The character has been used in numerous films to date, most recently in the Legendary-Warner Bros. MonsterVerse films.

Those include 'Kong: Skull Island' and 'Godzilla vs. Kong'. Netflix also has the 'Skull Island' anime series on the way. Peter Jackson also remade the original film in 2005 with Adrien Brody, Jack Black, and Naomi Watts.

'Chiyaan' Vikram regrets 'discomfort' caused to fans at 'Cobra' roadshow

Actor Vikram, who is on a whirlwind tour across Tamil Nadu in a bid to promote his upcoming action entertainer, 'Cobra', has expressed regret to his fans in Trichy for any discomfort that may have been caused to some of them during a pre-release event of the film.

Taking to Twitter, Vikram, who is lovingly called 'Chiyaan Vikram' by fans, wrote in Tamil: "My heartfelt thanks to my dear fans who showered so much of love on me during my visit to Trichy for a pre-release event of 'Cobra' that it cannot be described in words.

"At the same time, it has come to my attention that an unsavoury environment prevailed for some time. For this and for the discomfort caused, I wish to register my regret."

The actor finished his tweet, praising his fans, saying that he did not know what penance he had done to get them.

On Wednesday, the actor headed to Coimbatore along with the 'Cobra' team where he is meeting students from GRD College.

Why Kiara Advani bitchslapped Shahid Kapoor in her head

Bollywood actress Kiara Advani, who is set to appear in the upcoming episode of the Karan Johar hosted chat show, 'Koffee With Karan' along with actor Shahid Kapoor, once bitchslapped her 'Kabir Singh' co-star Shahid Kapoor in her head.

In an interesting Bingo game, Kiara revealed why she bitchslapped Shahid Kapoor in her head. "It was my third or fourth day of shooting, and I was made to wait for eight hours because there was discussion of what shoes Shahid would wear in the next scene," Kiara said.

Karan immediately validated her decision to bitchslap Shahid and said, "If I were made to wait for eight hours for a discussion on shoes, I would bitchslap too."

The new episode will see sizzling conversations around love, family, marriage and the Bollywood grandeur as Kiara and Shahid bring their honest, candid side to the couch.

'Koffee With Karan' Season 7 streams new episodes every Thursday at 12 midnight on Disney+ Hotstar.

Dhanush's top grosser: 'Thiruchitrambalam' set to close first week with Rs 65 cr

Mathran R. Jawahar's 'Thiruchitrambalam' has emerged as lead actor Dhanush's top-grossing film overseas, according to industry pundits.

Its box-office collection in the first five days after its August 18 release adds up to an impressive Rs 42.26 crore in Tamil Nadu and Rs 1.9 crore in the Telugu-speaking states. Overseas, it has made Rs 9.2 crore, with Malaysia, the Gulf nations and North America leading the pack, according to the trade new website Bollymoviereviewz.net.

The film opened to rave reviews and since then, according to Industry tracker Siddharth Srinivas, "it has been doing brisk business and is well on its way to touching the Rs 65-crore mark" when it completes its first week. Srinivas noted that the movie's overseas performance is one of the best for a Dhanush starrer.

He said the genre of the film has got the audiences interested in it. "The West has been seeing only action thrillers in recent times," he said. "This simple romantic comedy film with just one action sequence was the ideal changeover and that seems to have got the attention of the audience."

The analyst concluded with an observation that is much heard these days: "Good content invariably wins and 'Thiruchitrambalam' is another example of that."

Bharti Singh to host singing reality show 'Li'l Champs' for kids

Comedian and television personality Bharti Singh has been roped in to host the new season of singing reality show 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs'. This will be the first time she will be seen hosting a kids' reality show.

"This is the first time I am going to host a reality show featuring kids. Being a new mother myself, it really makes it even more special to see young talents from across India shine on the grand stage. I am really looking forward to the new season," Bharti said.

Sharing her experience of joining the show, the ace comedian said: "I have been part of a couple of awards shows on the channel and I have made a few appearances on some popular shows too. However, 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs' will be the first show that I will host full-time for Zee TV."

Bharti has hosted numerous shows, including 'Hunarbaaz: Desh Ki Shaan', 'The Khatra Khatra Show' and 'Dance Deewane 3', and now she is all excited about her new project.

"I am really excited and glad as 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' is the longest-running reality show franchise, making it an honour for all of us to be associated with it," she said.

The auditions have already started for the show with Shankar Mahadevan and Anu Malik in the panel of judges.

'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs' will air soon on Zee TV.



'Working with Pankaj Tripathi is like being in acting school'

Actress Khushboo Atre, who plays the wife of Pankaj Tripathi's character Madhav Mishra in the web series 'Criminal Justice: Adhura Sach', reveals what it was like to work with her co-star in the third season and her role in it.

She shares: "In the last season, they were newlyweds and now people will get to see what happens after some time of marriage. Pankaj ji is a very simple man. He is very easy and accommodating to work with. Also, the chemistry we have built together on screen comes very naturally. Hence, it looks very effortless on screen as well. He is an academy in himself."

The actress who worked in 'Raazi', 'Illegal - Justice', 'Out of Order' and others, reveals how her character Ratna will evolve in the third season. "I think honesty is the biggest value while preparing for any character. Ratna is very real and honest so I try to achieve that."

Giving insight about the show, she states, "It is going to be Madhav Mishra's toughest case ever. This season, the show gets bigger and better as the witty lawyer tackles one of the toughest cases of his career as he has a



face off with a steel-gripped Assistant Public Prosecutor Lekha, played by Shweta Basu Prasad. It was a very fruitful experience. All the co-actors are so amazing at what they do and the vibe on set was very homely."

While talking about her upcoming projects, she shares: "I shot for a feature film in UK this month, which will come next year. Then, there are few short films in the pipeline and one other project is set to go on floors. Apart from that I'm doing theatres and plays regularly."

Produced by Applause Entertainment in association with BBC Studios India, the Rohan Sippy directorial stars Pankaj Tripathi, Gaurav Gera, Swastika Mukherjee, Shweta Basu Prasad and Purab Kohli. It will be streaming on Disney+ Hotstar from August 26.

Season 2 of phishing crime drama 'Jamtara' to premiere on Sep 23

The Indian crime drama streaming series 'Jamtara', which tells the story of intricate small scale scams of India and their repercussions, is set to return with its second season.

The official synopsis of the show describes it as the powerful visual of an enormous banyan tree in the middle of nowhere with hundreds of mobile phones hanging from it as it gets deeply embroiled in cyber crime. The series tells the story of young school dropouts who cook up an elaborate phishing scam raking in fortunes, only to be intercepted by the police and local politicians.

'Ponniyin Selvan' BTS video highlights grand scale of 'Chola Chola' track

The unit of Mani Ratnam's 'Ponniyin Selvan' released a behind-the-scenes video of the second single 'Chola Chola', which celebrates the glory of the Chola empire.

The BTS shows Vikram, who plays Adithya Karikal, the elder brother of Rajaraja Chola I, in the film, dancing to the number. It also shows the scale of the song, and gives an idea of the large number of dancers who are a part of it. The BTS video also shows dance master Brindha explaining a dancing sequence to Vikram even as director Mani Ratnam looks on.

The inspiring, foot-tapping number has been rendered by Sathya Prakash, VM Mahalingam and Nakul Abhyankar and has lyrics by Ilango Krishnan. The behind-the-scenes



video, directed by Sruti Harihara Subramanian, was shot by cinematographer Anandan. Called by Mani Ratnam as his dream project, the film, the first part of which is scheduled to hit screens on September 30, features a host of top stars,

including Vikram, Aishwarya Rai, Trisha, Karthi, Jayam Ravi, Jayaram, Parthiban, Lal, Vikram Prabhu, Jayaram, Prabhu and Prakash Raj. It will be among the most expensive projects ever undertaken in the country. A.R. Rahman is scoring

the music for this epic historical and cinematography is by Ravi Varman. National Award winning art director Thotta Tharani is in charge of production design while Mani Ratnam's trusted editor Sreekar Prasad is handling its editing.

Hrithik, Saif amp up action in 'Vikram Vedha' Hindi remake teaser



Renowned Tamil director duo Pushkar-Gayatri's action-thriller 'Vikram Vedha' teaser was released online on Wednesday morning. The Hindi remake of the Tamil blockbuster features Hrithik Roshan as Vedha and Saif Ali Khan as Vikram.

The teaser gives viewers a sneak peek into the action-packed story that has a universal appeal.

The one-minute-46-second-long visual teaser from the film makes for a wholesome tease into the world of

Vikram Vedha. The teaser is packed with whistle-worthy dialogues, large scale action sequences and high on emotions drama backed with a very catchy background music. The teaser promises for 'Vikram Vedha' to be a complete entertainment package. The film is set for release in theatres on September 30.

The Tamil original starring Madhavan and Vijay Sethupathi was a massive hit in 2017. The story of 'Vikram Vedha' is full of twists and turns, as a tough

cop Vikram (Saif Ali Khan) sets out to track and chase a dreaded gangster Vedha (Hrithik Roshan). What unfolds is a cat-and-mouse chase, where Vedha, a master storyteller, helps Vikram peel back layers through a series of stories leading to thought-provoking moral ambiguities.

'Vikram Vedha', a YNOT Studios Production, is presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series and Reliance Entertainment in association with Friday Filmworks and Jio Studios.

Kamal Haasan announces resumption of 'Indian 2' shooting

The shoot of ace director Shankar's long-pending 'Indian 2', featuring Tamil superstar Kamal Haasan in the lead, is to resume from Wednesday in the city, with Udhayanidhi Stalin's Red Giant Movies joining in as one of the producers along with Lyca Productions.

Kamal Haasan announced the resumption of the project, which got shelved two and a half years ago because of an accident that left three people dead.

He wrote: "Filming for 'Indian 2' from September. Working team Shankar Shanmugham, Subaskaran, Lyca Productions and everyone else involved a successful journey. Welcome onboard thambi Udhayanidhi Stalin."

Although shooting will resume from Wednesday, Kamal will join the sets only from the first week of September.

Udhayanidhi Stalin and his Red Giant Movies, for their part, tweeted "He is back! Presenting Ulaganayagan Kamal Haasan and Shankar Shanmugham's 'Indian 2.'"

Work on the film had come to a grinding halt after a mishap while shooting the



film left three people dead and over 10 injured.

The accident left everybody involved rattled with Shankar, Lyca and Kamal Haasan announcing financial aid to the families of those killed in the mishap.

When attempts to restart shooting were made, Covid

struck and the project had to be put on the backburner. To add to this, there were disagreements between the director, actor and producers.

Now, all differences of opinion seem to have been sorted out and shooting is set to resume on Wednesday.

Aishwarya Sharma's take on 5-year leap in 'Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin'



TV actress Aishwarya Sharma, who is seen playing the role of Paakhi in the show 'Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin', says after the five year leap, her role is now more positive in the daily soap and audience can look forward to many twists and turns.

Aishwarya shares: "I'm really excited about it. First of all, I was playing the role of Paakhi in a very different way than I am now, and it's a whole new experience. Now, I have to show her in a positive and more mature manner."

Aishwarya was portrayed in the positive light in the beginning of the show. Later, she was seen trying everything to create a rift between Virat (Neil Bhatt) and Sai (Ayesha Singh). She also became a surrogate mother for them. Though the situation changed and Sai herself gave birth to a baby boy Vinayak, she was forced to leave the house and lost her baby too.

Later, Sai gave birth to a baby girl and started taking care of her as a single mother. In the five year leap, Virat and Paakhi are shown married.

Aishwarya said, "There are so many twists and turns coming up, and I'm waiting for my entry in the show. Also, I'm really excited to work with kids. Let's see what happens next. It really feels like a totally new show."

'Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin' airs on Star Plus.

DC Samba addresses public grievances at Rakh Ambtali Samba DDC Member, Panchayat representatives, locals project scores of demands, grievances

SAMBA, AUGUST 24: As a part of weekly Block Diwas programme, District Administration Samba today conducted a public outreach programme at Panchayat Ghar Rakh Ambtali to provide doorstep services to the people and address their grievances. Deputy Commissioner, Anuradha Gupta conducted the Block Diwas meeting in presence of District Development Council member Subhash Bhagat and listened and addressed the public grievances put across by the Panchayat representatives and locals led by Sarpanch Vinod Kumar. Public delegations and individuals from the adjoining Panchayats appraised the Deputy Commissioner regarding various issues demanded

coverage of areas lacking tap water connections,



improvement in power supply scenario, maintenance and construction of rural roads, coverage of left out families under social security schemes and other local issues. The Deputy Commissioner, taking cognisance of the public demands, directed the line departments to share de-

tails on scheduled powers cuts, achievements record-

each issue will be taken up and resolved within a stipulated time frame. The executing agencies were directed to immediately start work on the tendered works failing which strict action shall be taken. Sharing detailed information about path breaking initiatives of the government, the DC encouraged the participants to avail online services of different departments. She asked the concerned to make arrangement of CSC operators at tehsil offices to help the public to apply online for availing different services. She also asked the people to avail benefits of Ayushman Scheme and a highly beneficial insurance scheme like Jeevan Surksha Yojna etc. The DC also educated

the public about the prevention of Lumpy Skin Disease and distributed free medicines among the locals. The Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Samba informed that special teams have been deployed across the district for providing treatment and vaccines to dairy animals. He also informed that department of animal Husbandry Samba is providing services round the clock and in case of assistance Public can contact at District Helpline numbers 01923-241004 and 01923-246915. Similar block Diwas programmes were held at several other places which were addressed by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ravinder Kumar, and other officers.

of February 2022 and till date 5000 emergency cases were managed and around 242 thrombolytic procedures have been done in these emergency rooms. These emergencies were handled in the remote area of Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and Kathua. The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Saleem-Ur-Rehman, Director General and Director Health Services Jammu. In his inaugural address, the Director Health Services complimented the doctors, paramedic and supporting staff for their dedication and commitment in providing quality health care services to the masses. He emphasized to continue to serve with dedication. He advised the District officers to organize awareness campaigns regarding emerging new diseases of Public health concerns. The workshop was attended by Dy. Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Assistant Director Schemes Dr. Sanjay Turki, Medical Superintendent Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar Dr. Narinder Bhutyal, Epidemiologist Dr. Harjeet Rai, Consultant Pediatrician Dr. Mahesh, Consultant Physician Dr. Rakesh Verma, Microbiologist Dr. Monika Sharma, State Data Manager IDSP, Shalini Soodan, District Health Officers, Physicians, Pediatricians, Skin Specialist, Lab. Technicians.

DHSJ hosts Sensitization workshop on Monkeypox, Save Life Jammu Initiative

JAMMU, AUGUST 24: Directorate of Health Services Jammu (DHSJ) today conducted a One Day Sensitization workshop on Monkeypox and the Save Life Jammu initiative here at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar. The workshop was conducted to sensitize the doctors, paramedics and Health Administrators about the latest guidelines on preparedness and management of Monkeypox. A detailed powerpoint presentation on Epidemiology and overview of Monkeypox, Clinical features and management as well as sample collection and transportation was done by various speakers. It was informed in the workshop that 41358 cases of Monkeypox are confirmed in the world. In India only 10 cases, 5 each in Kerala and Delhi have been confirmed. The District Surveillance Units were advised to stay vigilant and in the mode of preparedness to manage the Monkeypox cases, if any. The Save Life Initiatives is a new concept of Directorate of Health Services Jammu, where in the Emergency Room of District Hospital, Community Health Centers and few Primary Health Centers are strengthened and equipped to manage all types of Medical emergencies like road traffic accidents, snake bite cases, cardiac emergencies, poisoning cases etc. This initiative was started in the month

of February 2022 and till date 5000 emergency cases were managed and around 242 thrombolytic procedures have been done in these emergency rooms. These emergencies were handled in the remote area of Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and Kathua. The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Saleem-Ur-Rehman, Director General and Director Health Services Jammu. In his inaugural address, the Director Health Services complimented the doctors, paramedic and supporting staff for their dedication and commitment in providing quality health care services to the masses. He emphasized to continue to serve with dedication. He advised the District officers to organize awareness campaigns regarding emerging new diseases of Public health concerns. The workshop was attended by Dy. Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Assistant Director Schemes Dr. Sanjay Turki, Medical Superintendent Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar Dr. Narinder Bhutyal, Epidemiologist Dr. Harjeet Rai, Consultant Pediatrician Dr. Mahesh, Consultant Physician Dr. Rakesh Verma, Microbiologist Dr. Monika Sharma, State Data Manager IDSP, Shalini Soodan, District Health Officers, Physicians, Pediatricians, Skin Specialist, Lab. Technicians.

Joint Director (JSK) inspects functioning of Jammu district Schools

JAMMU, AUGUST 24: Domana and Government



Joint Director (JSK), Subah Mehta and Chief Education Officer Jammu, Suraj Singh Rathore today conducted a surprise inspection of government schools of District Jammu to take stock of the educational standard and work culture. The team inspected Government Girls Higher Secondary School Mubarak Mandi, Government High School Domana, Government Middle School

Primary School Patoli Brahmana. The Joint Director, while interacting with the staff and students, emphasized on adopting best teaching-learning techniques. She advised the students to put in added efforts to excel in their life and emerge as winners. She motivated the teachers to create a depository of study material to be utilized by the needy students. She asked them to conduct class tests on

regular intervals to check the comprehensibility of the taught content and prepare progress reports to assess the improvement of the students. She asked the teachers to ensure the use of Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) in their teaching process. "The teachers must illustrate the content with the help of examples," the Joint Director stressed and asked the HOIs to identify slow achievers and arrange remedial classes for them. She also instructed the school authorities to make optimum utilization of library and ICT labs. Subah Mehta, while referring to National Education Policy-2022, stressed on developing basic fundamental skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing amongst students. She mentioned Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and said that the foundation.

Alok Kumar presides over Darbar at Fire & Emergency Services Headquarters Jammu

JAMMU, AUGUST 24: A darbar of all ranks of Fire & Emergency Services Jammu Province was held today here at Fire & Emergency Services Headquarters Gandhi Nagar by Alok Kumar, ADGP, Director Fire & Emergency Services J&K. The Darbar started with a warm welcome to the Director F&ES by R.K Raina, Deputy Director Fire & Emergency Services Command Jammu. Other officers present on the occasion were Accounts Officer, Medical Officer, Divisional Fire Officer city, Foreman workshop Jammu etc. Representatives of all ranks of Jammu province participated in the Darbar and put forth their grievances and genuine demands/ issues one by one. The main demand of almost all ranks/ representatives was removal of pay anomalies, provision of hardship allowance, uniform allowance and stagnation at various cadres. The Head of the Department gave a patient hearing to each and every demand and up-gradation of living conditions and improvement of machinery and equipment report. Enough time was provided to all those who had come to attend the darbar and desired to report. Addressing the Darbar, Alok Kumar ADGP, Director Fire & Emergency Services J&K, appreciated the role of officers, jawans at fire ground and assured them that genuine demands and grievances shall be addressed as per rules in vogue and other demands shall be taken up with the administrative department for active consideration. He further asked the jawans to keep their morale high.

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Weekly Block Diwas Varied services delivered to locals across Doda district

DODA, AUGUST 24: The District Administration Doda today held weekly Block Diwas proceedings across the designated places of the district to redress the public grievances and to provide them varied services on the spot. The program was held under the supervision of District Development Commissioner (DDC), Vishesh Paul Mahajan. The teams of different departments along with the frontline field functionaries, delivered varied services to the people and listened to their grievances. They also imparted general awareness about the welfare, self-employment and social schemes and urged the people to take maximum benefit of the same. The Block Diwas Program was held at four designated locations in-



cluding Panchayat Charota B in Sub Division Asar, Panchayat Gadi A in Doda, Panchayat Changa B in Sub Division Gandoh, besides in the Revenue Complex at Sub Division Thathri. The BDC Chairpersons, ACD Doda, SDMs, Tehsildars, BDOs met with PRIs and general public at these four locations, listened to their grievances, and sought feedback from the locals with regard to

the implementation of individual welfare schemes and other social security schemes. The line departments were directed to ensure cent percent saturation of all welfare schemes. In all, 61 grievances/applications were received during the program, out of which 50 feasible grievances were addressed by the officers/officials of respective departments on the spot and rest were sent to the concerned quarters for time bound and quality redressal. Besides, several services which included 10 category certificates, 15 Domicile certificates, 07 different revenue papers/extracts and 02 KCCs were issued to the eligible beneficiaries on the spot. The officer incharge of the Block Diwas programs, as per the instruction of DDC Doda.

DDC Chairperson Udhampur conducts extensive tour of twin blocks of Ghordi, Jaganoo

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 24: To take the stock of ongoing developmental works, District Development Council Chairperson, Udhampur Lal Chand on Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Block Ghordi and Jaganoo and kick started a number of developmental works there. During the tour, the DDC Chairperson laid the foundation stone of 4.5 KM Tringlian to Bindla road in block Ghordi and 3 KM Khubni to Tarmara via Ghair road in Block Jaganoo being constructed by the PWD department under NABARD scheme. Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairperson congratulated the public of twin blocks and said that the District Development Council Udhampur is working continuously for the welfare of the general public of Udhampur District. BDC Chairman, Jaganoo Sanjeet Kumar, DDC Councillor Ghordi, Rakesh Chander Sharma, DDC Councillor Jaganoo, Prikshit Singh, DDC Councillor Udhampur -1, Puran Chand, Sarpanch Panchayat Halqa Thanoa, Bishan Dass, Sarpanch Panchayat Halqa Bindla, Sukhran were accompanying.

Kailash Yatra - One Of The Most Ancient Rituals Of Jammu and Kashmir Begins

Amir Iqbal Khan
Bhadarwah, Aug 24: Bhadarwah is not only famous for its unparalleled mundane beauty, but also incorporates elements of distinction in possessing the most ancient rich legacy of socio-religious importance in organizing perennial chain of festivities that commence initially from the month of May and continues up to December every year. Infact, these festivities mark the beginning of summer season which culminate in the end of every calendar year with the onset of winter season. One of the world renowned regionally acclaimed celebrations is the Kailash Yatra usually conducted in the month of August or September that is at the end of the monsoon period. The Kailash Yatra is characterized by the taking out of Chhari Mubarak to Kailash Kund situated at an altitude of 14600 feet from the average sea level to the extreme south western part of Bhadarwah Valley. The mountain Kailash (Bhadarkailash) assumes importance in the annals of history in that, it is believed to have been a seat of Lord Shiva up to the extent Lord Vasuki Naag, who was the devotee of Lord Shiva by virtue of his unimaginable veneration was asked by the former to dwell and grace the Kailash Kund also

referred by the term Kaplash. The Lord Shiva shifted out to the snowclad Mani Mahesh mountainous heights in the state of Himachal Pradesh. In the historical perspective of Bhadarwah, as per the legend, local diety Lord Vasuki Naag who was the disciple of Lord Shiva was chased by Lord Gurura and in order to escape from him, Vasuki Naag fled to Kailash Kund and took shelter in the ice cold waters of Kailash Sarovar (Kailash Kund the glacial lake) present in the midst of the mountain ridges, which lies at a distance of about 25 kms in the south western end of Bhadarwah Valley. As per historical inscriptions, the real sister of Lord Vasuki Naag namely Bhadarkali informed the Gurura about the escape of Lord Vasuki Naag and also showed his routes leading to Kailash Kund. Surprisingly, the cousin sister of Lord Vasuki Naag namely Devi Durga came to the rescue of Lord Vasuki Naag and saved him by telling Gurura that there was three times more water in the Kailash lake what he drank when the latter had sucked two third waters and he was about to catch hold of Vasuki Naag. The Gurura gave up the idea of killing Vasuki Naag and left the place, because of which Lord Vasuki Naag was saved and from that time, he remained indebted to his cousin sister

Durga. It is further derived out of the historical testimony that the Chharri which is taken out on the remembrance of what had happened with Lord Vasuki Naag and thus, is said to be following the same routes on which Vasuki Naag had traveled to escape from Gurura upto Kailash Kund. Bhadarwah had been inhabited by the Naga Dynasty who were the progenies of Naga Cult and this part of land used to be their domain of excellence. The people belonging to Naga cult were thought to have a distinct racial hardihood as far their physical features were concerned (Some evidences scribbled in lawrance's collection of Deep Himalayan cultures). According to some historians, still few families of pure Naga Dynasties are found in the Atkhar area of Bhadarwah tehsil. However, with the passage of time, their life style too has under gone a remarkable dendrological meta-

morphosis and their congenital prognostication seems equally having gone through an incredible transformation viz-a-viz their cultural ethics have equally intermingled with the modernized life sustaining features. Adding to this is the least attention paid by the successive central and state governments up till now which caused the traditional drift in the ancient dwelling styles and patterns of this race to go into the oblivion of the turns of time and consequent events led to the disappearance of the characteristic features of Naga race. The testimony of Naga Cult is adequately borne in the Vasuki Puranas. In order to give concurrence to the age old tradition of conducting ancient Yatras, Chharri Mubarak of Holy Kailash Yatra 2022 left for its destination of Kailash Kund from the ancient Vasuki Nag Temple Gatha Bhadarwah here today.



The Yatra crossed the Bhadarwah town at 9 am where the enthusiastic devotees raised slogans of Vasuki Nag deity. Ex MLC Naresh Kumar Gupta and officers from administration along with thousands of pilgrims both local and from outside accompanied with charri mubarak proceeded to its onward journey. The yatra after having a night stay at Hayan (Nalthi) will reach the holy Kailash Kund tomorrow on 25th August 2022. After performing puja and other religious rites, the yatra will start its return journey to Bhadarwah on 26th August 2022. The administration of Bhadarwah has made elaborate arrangements of Medical teams with sufficient medicines, first aid, drinking water, electricity through generator sets, firewood and all other allied facilities including fool-proof security arrangements for smooth conduct of the yatra. On this occasion, some charitable organisations and religious groups have made arrangement for free langers at different spots enroute yatra. This time, a large number of people drawn from Bhadarwah and its adjoining areas besides tourists and devotees from across the country participated in the annual Kailash Yatra. Notably, for the last two years, only limited number of yatris were allowed to perform

the ritual due to covid 19 pandemic that too while following covid related behaviour and protocol. The first step of Yatra is at Kali Naag near Sungli, where from the Chharri along with priests also locally known as Chellas, devotees and pilgrims will continue their up hill journey towards the second step of Yatra-Hayan. "Yatras season in Bhadarwah especially in the summer times used to bring cheers on the faces of people whose businesses are connected and dependant on these Yatras every year. The rush of Yatris and other tourists has gone up this year which has once again boosted the livelihood of hundreds of people including Ponny Walas, labourers, small vendors, businessmen etc." Said Mast Nath Yogi a veteran socio-political activist. He also added that this time like past, a number of devotees were allowed to accompany the Holy Mace upto Kailash Kund just in keeping with the age old traditional practice and for mere sentiments of the public of the area. Reacting strongly on the conspiracy of the govt to shift the focus of the world from Bhadarwah to other areas of least significance for conducting historical Kailash Yatra, ex MLC and social activist Naresh Kumar Gupta alleged that present dispensation is tactfully robbing Bhadarwah of its glory.

Tata Neu and HDFC Bank partner to create co-branded credit cards

Srinagar, Aug 24, KNT: Tata Neu and HDFC Bank today announced a partnership to launch one of India's most rewarding co-branded credit cards. The card will be launched in two variants: Tata Neu Plus HDFC Bank Credit Card and Tata Neu Infinity HDFC Bank Credit Card. Tata Neu customers can apply for the credit card through the Tata Neu app and access key details of the card through the app while enjoying a simple and even more rewarding experience. Both variants of the card will be available on both RuPay and Visa networks. What sets the card apart is that it will enable customers to earn rewards on all spending, both online and in-store in the form of NeuCoins (1 NeuCoin = INR 1). Customers will earn 2% NeuCoins with Tata Neu Plus HDFC Bank Credit Card, and 5% Neu-

Coins with Tata Neu Infinity HDFC Bank Credit Card on all purchases on partner Tata brands, both online and in-store. For domestic and international purchases outside of partner Tata brands, customers will earn 1% and 1.5% NeuCoins on the respective card variants. The cards will further boost existing rewards for Tata

Neu customers on every purchase made through Tata Neu. Combined with existing Tata Neu benefits of 5% it said, "We are delighted to partner with one of India's largest financial institutions - HDFC Bank - to offer our customers a credit card that will make their shopping experience even more rewarding. Customers will have a wide range of categories to choose from including grocery, travel, electronics, fashion, health, and wellness." Parag Rao, Group Head-Payment Business, Consumer Finance Technology and Digital Banking, HDFC Bank said, "We are delighted to partner with Tata Digital on this exciting proposition that has brought together so many of their leading brands under the ambit of the Tata Neu app. Our range of cards will further enhance the shopping experience for customers, allowing them to redeem extraordinary rewards against a host of products ranging from groceries to flights."



DLSA Reasi hosts students' awareness programme on Anti Ragging Laws in Boys GHSS

REASI, AUGUST 24: As per the Action Plan/Calendar for the month of August, 2022, issued by the J&K Legal Services Authority and under able guidance and supervision of R. N. Watal, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Reasi today organized an awareness program on "Anti Ragging Laws" for the students of Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) Reasi. Panel Advocates, Ajay Salalia and Ajeet Singh were the resource persons in the program. They enlightened the students about the laws of the country with respect to ragging and how it affects the life of the victim and the victimizer. The program was attended by the Faculty members and students of Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Reasi. The objective of organizing this awareness camp was to create awareness about ragging & to ensure a student-friendly environment at all times. Besides this, the District Legal Services also organized an awareness program on NALSA (Victim of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015 and on POCSO, Act for the students of Government Higher Secondary School (Girls), Reasi. Advocates Rashi Baru and Shazia Akhter

Punjabi were the resource persons in the program. Shazia Akhter Punjabi spoke on the provisions of The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 along with its Amendments and also the concept of 'Good Touch and Bad Touch' in a simple and dignified manner and Child Helpline No: 1098 was also shared with the participants in all the program. The program was attended by the Faculty members and students of Government Higher Secondary School Girls, Reasi. The objective of organizing this awareness camp was to spread awareness about the issues related to Sexual Exploitation wherein they were asked to spread the awareness of the POCSO ACT as maximum as possible in their neighbourhoods. Punjabi were the resource persons in the program. Shazia Akhter Punjabi spoke on the provisions of The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 along with its Amendments and also the concept of 'Good Touch and Bad Touch' in a simple and dignified manner and Child Helpline No: 1098 was also shared with the participants in all the program. The program was attended by the Faculty members and students.

DLSA Kathua hosts awareness prog on Alternate Dispute Resolution methods

KATHUA, AUGUST 24: District Legal Services Authority, Kathua today organised an awareness programme to encourage Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods of Lok Adalat, Mediation, Conciliation and Plea-bargaining here at ADR Centre in the District Court Complex. The programme was organised under the supervision of Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Jaffer Hussain Beg. District Mobile Magistrate, Brij Raj Singh, Ld. and Munisif JMJC Kathua Cheena Sumbria were the resource persons for the program. The main objective of the programme was to spread awareness among Panel Lawyers regarding ADR methods of Lok Adalat, Mediation, Conciliation and Plea Bargaining, if there are chances of such settlement. The programme was attended by the Judicial Officers Kathua, Panel Lawyers Kathua, staff of District Legal Services Authority Kathua.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG

‘Officers at the helm should monitor the working of their subordinates and officials working at the ground level ensuring effective public delivery system while focusing on complete saturation of flagship schemes’ benefits, the Lt Governor further said.

During the interaction with randomly selected applicants from across the UT, it was observed that most of their grievances filed on JK-IGRAMS portal had already been resolved, for which the respective applicants expressed their gratitude towards the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor sought the details of the grievances from the concerned Deputy Commissioners, besides specific timelines for the redressal of the same. He also directed the concerned Secretaries to proactively monitor and speed up the resolution of grievances as per the laid rules and provisions.

The grievance of one Saqib Manzoor from Pulwama was addressed on the spot as the Lt Governor assured him of the installation of synthetic turf volleyball court at High School, Tahab.

On the grievance of Mohd Yaseen from Reasi regarding laying of new water pipelines in his area, the Lt Governor said the pipelines would be laid under JJM soon. Shahid Ahmed from Poonch was informed that his grievance regarding the strengthening of infrastructure of Power sector in his area shall be resolved shortly under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

Explicit directions were given to DC Srinagar and SSP Srinagar by the Lt Governor for promptly addressing the complaint of Sh Tabish Shafi pertaining to misuse of park for gambling and drug related activities.

Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department apprised the Lt Governor that the bridge at Kralpora, Kupwara would be completed in a month, in response to the grievance filed by Khursheed Malik.

On the complaint of Safia, a resident of Pahalgam, regarding foul smell due to Blocked Sewer Line, the Lt Governor directed the concerned authority to ensure proper cleaning and sanitation of the area on a regular basis till a permanent resolution of the issue.

Rehana Batul, Commissioner/Secretary, Public Grievances moderated the 15th LG’s Mulaqaat program and informed the chair about the to-date progress of redressal and status of grievances received.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, Heads of the Departments, and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

CS

Dr Mehta impressed upon the officers to put joint efforts in eradicating this menace from the society. He underscored the need of owning this mission and be determined to root it out at every cost.

The Chief Secretary further asked the departments to carry a massive campaign against the drug abuse from the next month. He directed for fully involving the PRI members in the war against drugs and make it easy for others to report the offenders involved in this illicit trade.

Dr Mehta also stressed on increasing the surveillance especially around the educational institutions. He suggested to provide a WhatsApp contact for reporting of such crimes besides use social and other media for creating awareness about the ill effects and symptoms of drug addiction.

He expressed that the menace is catastrophic and needs to be dealt very severely at each level. He observed that the UT cannot afford losing its young generation to this unfortunate plague. He asked for making a distinction between victims and drug peddlers. He remarked that the former should be assisted in all respects for his rehabilitation while the later should be shown no mercy and brought to book.

Regarding the plan for dealing with this menace the Chief Secretary suggested for using the satellite imagery for watching the cultivation and growth of poppy and cannabis. He also made out that the sale of such medicines used in addiction should be regulated and watched by the concerned department for their sale over the counter.

Dr Mehta called for suggestions from all the participants to nip this evil from the society. He stressed on increasing the rate of converting the FIRs into convictions besides involving all the stakeholders in the ‘War against Drugs’. Chief Secretary sought a briefing from all concerned departments regarding efforts being made in this regard at their respective ends. He directed for conducting monthly meetings by district NCORD committees without any fail and updating the data on national NCORD portal.

Earlier in the meeting, Spl DG Crime gave a detailed presentation of drug scenario in J&K and the challenges to counter the drug menace and efforts being made by all stakeholders to fight this problem.

It was given in the meeting that hundreds of FIRs have been registered against the dealers and cultivators of illegal substances. It was also made out that both the booking and conviction rate has increased this year and there is substantial reduction in growing of poppy and cannabis as compared to previous years in the UT.

TWO MILITANTS

own side of Line of Control,” the statement said.

Addressing media men, Brig Kapil said that one militant came close to the Indian post and tried to cut the fence and when he was challenged by alert sentries, the militant tried to flee.

“However, he was brought down by effective fire, incapacitating him,” he said.

The army officer said that two militants, who were hiding behind, fled the area by taking cover of dense jungle and broken ground and the injured Pakistani militant was captured alive and provided with immediate medical aid. “He was operated as well,” he said, adding that the captured militant has revealed his identity as Tabarak Hussain, resident of Sabzkot village, district Kotli of Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK).

The army officer said that after interrogation, the militant confessed about their plan to attack the Indian Army Post and Tabarak Hussain revealed that he was sent by a Colonel of Pakistan Intelligence Agency named Col Yunus Chaudhry who had paid him 30,000 Pakistani Rupees.

He also added that Tabarak also disclosed that he along with other militants had carried two, three close recesses of Indian forward posts with an aim to target them at an opportune time.

“The militant revealed that the go ahead to target the Indian post was given by Col Yunus Chaudhry on 21 Aug 2022,” the army officer said, adding that incidentally, the individual was earlier captured by Indian Army from the same sector in 2016 along with his brother Haroon Ali, and was repatriated on humanitarian grounds in November 2017.

In the second operation, Brig. Kapil said that on the night of 22 and 23 August 2022, a group of two to three militants tried to infiltrate in Lam sector of Nowshera.

“Our alert troops were able to observe the militants as they crossed the Line of Control and continuously monitored this movement. When they moved ahead into our mine fields a series of mines got activated and two terrorists got eliminated on the spot,” he said. “Another militant is possibly injured and is hiding in the area or has gone back taking advantage of the inclement weather and dense foliage,” the officer said.

He said on 23 August, a quadcopter was flown over the area and bodies of the two slain militants were observed and a deliberate operation was launched through the heavily mined area and the bodies of the two terrorists have been recovered along with one AK-56, three Magazines

and a large quantity of ammunition and war like stores. “As the area is heavily mined, the search operation is being carried out carefully and is still under progress. More recoveries in the area are expected,” he said. “The two infiltration bids in a short span of 48 hours is a direct attempt by the adversary across our Western borders to disrupt the peace in Rajouri region but own troops deployed on the Line of Control remain alert to defeat any nefarious designs of the adversary.”

The captured militant Tabarak Hussain also interacted with some media persons inside army hospital in Rajouri where he said that Indian Army has saved his life and he was getting a good treatment at the army hospital.

SPORE

ammunition were also recovered from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused. “Sopore Police alongwith SF’s arrested 01 Hybrid LeT militant and 01 OGW, arms and ammunition recovered. Case FIR 97/2022 U/S 7/25 I.A Act, 13,18,23 & 38 ULA (P) Act registered in PS Dangiawacha, Rafiabab and investigation is going on,” tweeted Sopore Police, adding further investigations are underway.

BABAR QADRI

him dead in September 2020. In August last year, a special team set up by the state police filed charges against five suspects. When security forces eliminated Abbas Sheekh, chief commander of The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow front of LeT, and his deputy Saqib Manzoor, in September, the Kashmir Police underlined that Saqib Manzoor was also involved in Qadri’s murder. In a 30-minute video on Facebook just hours before his death, Qadri launched a sharp attack on Mian Qayoom, accused him of suppressing dissent and turning the bar association into a tool for the Hurriyat Conference faction led by separatist SAS Geelani. He also expressed apprehension about his life

The Srinagar Police said Wednesday’s searches were carried out in view of “certain new evidence” that has turned up and that they “have the potential to unravel the conspiracy part in the killing”.

“Digital devices, bank statements, property sale agreements, ‘suspicious books’ and other relevant material were seized during the searches,” the police statement added.

NC

Our concerns with regards to requirements for outsiders to get registered continue to remain unmet. The clarity provided by government quarters has failed to address our core concerns on the issue,” he said.

Omar said people of Jammu and Kashmir are best equipped to defeat these nefarious designs by voting in huge numbers in the forthcoming elections, whenever it’s held.

“The remedy lies with our people, who if they choose to vote in huge numbers can thwart these attempts aimed at disempowering the people of J&K. Therefore people have to make it a point to come out and vote in huge numbers,” he added.

Omar further said that he will discuss the feedback from the meeting with the party president Dr Farooq Abdullah. The provincial committee members unanimously resolved that JKNC should prepare and fight all 90 assembly seats. The participants present in the meeting expressed dismay over the recent statements, audio jingles and speeches made by some of the constituents of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration targeting JKNC.

“They felt that it does not contribute to the overall unity of the amalgam. They denounced the unfair treatment meted out to JKNC in PAGD. The participants demanded immediate course correction from PAGD constituents,” the statement said.

The party Vice President in his response acknowledged the concerns raised by the participants and reiterated that the interest of the people of J&K and JKNC will be safeguarded.

In a clear indication that National Conference wouldn’t have enter into an alliance with any constituent of the People’s Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), the party said that its provincial committee members unanimously resolved that they should contest all 90 assembly seats of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory.

In a series of tweets, National Conference said that its provincial Committee members unanimously resolved that JKNC should prepare and fight all 90 seats. Without naming any constituent of the PAGD, the NC leaders expressed dismay over the recent statements, audio jingles & speeches made by some of the constituents of the PAGD targeting the party.

“The participants present in the meeting expressed dismay over the recent statements, audio jingles & speeches made by some of the constituents of the PAGD targeting JKNC. They felt that it does not contribute to the overall unity of the amalgam,” the party tweeted.

The participants of the meeting also denounced the unfair treatment meted out to the party in PAGD and demanded immediate course correction from alliance constituents.

BJP

add a new population in the existing voter list of Jammu and Kashmir as was alleged during the all party meeting. The BJP leader said the center has conferred every citizen above 18 years of age the right to vote.

He was however quick to add that only those living or working in Jammu and Kashmir on ordinary basis can vote that too after ‘deregistering’ themselves from their original place of franchise.

Sethi said since law stands changed in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, citizens of Jammu and Kashmir will be entitled for the right to franchise under Representation of Peoples Act which is applicable to the entire India.

“They (PAGD) play politics and all those parties that attended the all party meeting in Srinagar are misleading bonafide voters of Jammu and Kashmir about their voting rights, we cannot comment on ECI statement as it’s an apolitical body,” he added.

He also said that West Pakistan refugees, people from Wal-miki and Gorkha communities and those who were denied state subject rights earlier fell in the list of voters according to revised list.

COVID

bringing the cumulative number of doses administered to 24166593 till date.

The Bulletin further said that out of 26394188 test results available, 476703 samples have tested positive and 25917485 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 11,049 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours. Till date 6699207 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 160 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 2169 in isolation and 367 in home surveillance. Besides, 6691732 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases for today, the Bulletin informs that in Kashmir division, Srinagar reported 74 cases, Baramulla reported 62 cases, Budgam 49 cases, Pulwama reported 21cases, Kupwara reported 06 cases, Anantnag reported 13 cases, Baniptora reported 09 cases, Ganderbal reported no case, Kulgam reported 03 cases while as Shopian reported 01 fresh case for today.

Similarly in Jammu division, Jammu reported 09 cases, Udhampur 02, Rajouri 01, Doda 00, Kathua 00, Samba 01, Kishtwar 01, Poonch 00, Ramban 07and Reasi reported no fresh case for today.

BOOMS

such tremendous business as the hotels, houseboats, and guest houses have been occupied.

From an economic point of view, tourism is considered the boon that generates employment for thousands of people directly or indirectly. So all tourism players including hoteliers, houseboat owners, and Shikara owners have got a huge response from the tourists this year

It has resulted in tremendous business even more than their expectations. For the last few years, all these tourism players were facing huge losses because after the abrogation of articles 370 and 35A, the atmosphere of the valley was very disturbed. After that, Covid hit the whole world including Jammu and Kashmir and it also affected the tourism industry very badly.

But this year, a huge influx of tourists thronged the valley very early. Lakhs of visitors have entered in tulip gardens within a couple of weeks only. So with the help of this huge inflow, all the sectors linked to the tourism industry have earned back their livelihood.

After Amarnath Yatra, the rush of tourists did go down a little bit, and currently, the business is going average. But all tourism players are hopeful of good footfall of tourists, especially in the autumn and even in the winter.

So overall people belonging to this income-generating industry are very happy and satisfied with this year’s business.

AWARD

J&K Tourism also bagged the award for adventure tourism at Gulmarg.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Tourism Minister said it was satisfying to note that tourism in J&K has seen a turnaround in the last two years and the tourist arrivals this year have crossed a record number. He said under the new film policy, shooting of films in J&K has been revived and is being incentivized.

Complimenting the organizers for holding the award ceremony, Mr. Reddy said this would certainly encourage the best practices in the tourism sector. Those in attendance in today’s award ceremony included representatives of various State Tourism Boards/Departments, International Tourism Boards, Corporates, hospitality, aviation industries besides travel trade representatives from across the country.

The Outlook Traveller Awards are the benchmark of quality in the travel and tourism industry for the last two decades and felicitate the best of the best each year. The awards take a 360 view of the tourism sector and the way it has been growing.

The award jury was headed by Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General, Government of India, Meenakshi Sharma and its other members include Neha Arora, Founder, Planet Abled; Jaideep Bansal, CEO, Global Himalayan Expedition; Vaibhav Kala, Founder, Aquaterra Adventures; Pushpesh Pant, Indian food critic and Chinki Sinha, Editor, Outlook magazine.

Outlook Traveller Awards over the years have attracted everyone associated with the travel and tourism industry. These have included tour operators, influencers, writers, designers, artists, travel tech disruptors, socially prominent people, hoteliers, foreign and state tourism boards, ambassadors, and government officials.

BOOKS

abrogation of Article 370. His last blog on 6 August 2019 was also on J&K. Through, his writing, he contributed immensely to bring equality and social justice to people of J&K, said the Lt Governor.

His foremost priority was to enrich the nation and his voice for social justice, his priceless legacy will live. His writing and this book will be a beacon light for the new generation to follow his ideals and contribute towards nation building, the Lt Governor said.

Hon’ble Prime Minister’s resolve of removing discrimination from J&K, which was strongly advocated by Shri Arun Jaitley ji is bearing fruits now. The development is taking place in every nook and corner of the Union Territory, the Lt Governor affirmed.

Yakjak NGO organises residency writing workshop

Srinagar August 24 (KNS): Yakjah Reconciliation and Development Network recently organised the first cohort of #SheAuthorsPeace, a writing residency as part of #SheBuildsPeace campaign in Ganderbal, Kashmir. The campaign aims to promote young women and men writers to learn the art of writing to chronicle personal testimonies of healing and transformation. The campaign led by Ashima Kaul, Women Peacemaker and Founder of Yakjak is being supported by International Civil Society Action Network, a network of 60 women peacemakers across the globe. The campaign which was kicked started two years ago highlights the work of women peacemakers, their support, protection and funding to end discrimination and promote women’s rights, equity, justice, peace and security. The campaign in Jammu and Kashmir in this context aims to bring forth the stories of personal healing and transformation of young people. As such a journey began for 10 young people from Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh to explore and find out what it means to them as individuals and a collective about their personal experiences around themes of healing and justice, spirituality and religion. Experts and practitioners Ruchi Ritamvara, a certified alternate therapy practitioner, healer from Uttarakhand, Ozlem Ezer, author, academic, translator from Turkey, Josie Gardner, PhD scholar, innovator, idealist, optimist, and unorthodox thinker from Sydney, Raashi Bhatia, Integral Coach & a certified Dreamwork Professional from US and Dr. Abrarali Saiyed, Assistant Professor Entrepreneurship and Management at Özyegin University in Turkey, Advisor in LedBy Foundation, Affiliated Researcher and Founder of Association of Muslim Entrepreneurs were the resource persons. Keeping in mind the purpose of the initiative to ignite the participant’s heart and mind for self expression, the resource persons through online and in person sessions imparted skills, knowledge and insight to them for understanding the nuances of the themes and expressions for writing. Dr. Abrarali and Dr. Muzaffar Khan, Director Drug De-addiction Centre PCR Kashmir extensively interacted with the women artisans and participants.



The Khuti Puja, marks the beginning of the pandal making process ahead of Durga Puja Organised by Shree Gorkhath Sewa Samiti at their Golden Jubilee Year of the Puja in presence of Ram Piyaare Ram EX, MLA and MMC, councillor of 79 ward no, president of organization Keshab Adhikari Chhetri, General secretary Nar bikram thapa, secretary of organization Mohan kumar Singh, Patron Aroun Pandey, Khimraj baral, Prabir Thapa, Khem Guha, Hom Bahadur Rana,Shukdev Pradhan, Raju pradhan, Binod Dahal, Prem Rai, Ramita Karki Singh, Santoshi Singh, Rohit Kumar Mishra at Central Kolkata, H.T. Photo SOURAV DUTTA.

BJP Minority Morcha Celebrated Sikander Bakht’s birth anniversary

Amir Iqbal Khan



Bhadarwah, Aug 24 :Minority Morcha of BJP organised events at the district and block level across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to tell its workers about the role and stature of Bakht in the party. At the main programme at Jammu, spokesman BJP Minority Morcha Fareed Ahmed Fani along with party workers paid homage to Bakht. The BJP’s Minority Morcha organised programmes to mark Bakht’s birth anniversary on such a large scale.

“Bakht Saab stays in the hearts of the party workers and we always remember him. Yes, it is true that for the first time programmes are being held across the country to pay tribute to Sikander Bakht,” Fani said.

The new generation did not know about Bakht or other leaders’ role and contribution to the party. Bakht Saab was the founding BJP National General Secretary. He was one of the prominent party members from the Muslim community who was a senior cabinet minister in Vajpayee’s government,” Fani added.

He said a lot of misconception has been created about the number of Muslims in the BJP by the opposition parties which needs to be cleared. “Muslims were and are a key part of the BJP and leaders from the minority community played an important role in the growth and expansion of the party,” he further added.

Outreach Campaigns, Online Inspections And “Eat Right Fortification Awareness Camps” by Food Safety DFCO Doda

Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhadarwah, 24:In its ongoing drive, a team of Enforcement Officers of Food Safety DFCO Doda today conducted surprise inspections of the market at Dossa Road Doda & made usage of new version Foscor application for online inspections successfully.

During the inspections, the market of Dossa Road Doda were intensified including Zaika Restaurant and adjoining shops to ensure availability of Safe, Quality and wholesome food to the Consumers.

Apart from this, at Goha Marmat, the Enforcement Officers of the Department under ‘Eat Right India’ organised an awareness camp on Fortification in which ICDS & MDM frontliners were engaged to be made aware of the main objectives of the goal of Food Fortifications to make sure that the initiatives are implemented in letter and spirits in ICDS and MDM to fight with the ascending anaemic graph-“Aneamic Mukht Bharat “ in our children to make adherence to the guidelines which were discussed pointwise. The participants appreciated the role of the Department. During the workshop, two Enforcement samples were lifted for analysis under FSSA for cross checking of Fortification at Goha. Likewise, at Gondoh the Enforcement Officer paid surprise visit in different scattered areas at Gowari and its adjoining catchments and under the ‘Eat Right India’ organised one camp of Fortification by making coverage to the ICDS and MDM which reflected the awareness to make the implementation of initiative in letter & spirits. Meanwhile, to enforce the regulations about Fortification, the Enforcement Officer drew 02 legal samples under FSSA for analysis to ascertain the standards, quality and safeness of the products .

“The outreach campaign with result raising strategies for monitoring & reviewing the gap analysis will remain in process for effective approach & implement key elements for the welfare of the consumer Safety and public in general.” Tarag Ahmad Butt Assistant Commissioner food safety department Doda informed.

Vikar Rasool Wani, Raman Bhalla calls on AICC General Secretary Organization

Delhi August 24 (KNS): J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Vikar Rasool Wani and Working President Raman Bhalla Wednesday called on AICC General Secretary (Org) K.C.Venugopal(MP) and discussed ongoing organizational affairs and activities in J&K.

Both JKPCC President Vikar Rasool Wani and Working President Raman Bhalla had a detailed discussions with K.C. Venugopal on Party affairs and assured him that they will work harder to further invigorate the Party in J&K. It was a first meeting of Wani and Bhalla with AICC General Secretary (Org) after taking over as President and Working President of JKPCC.

Vikar Rasool Wani assured AICC General Secretary that he along with rank and file of the Party will put in his strenuous efforts to further strengthen Party at all levels. Many other organizational issues also came under discussion in the meeting.

Wani also apprised K.C.Venugopal about various issues concerning people in J&K.

Raman Bhalla assured AICC General Secretary that JKPCC shall vigorously follow AICC programmes and implement them at grass roots level in entire J&K

Bhalla also apprised AICC General about the recently held political activities in J&K while assuring to reach nook and corner along with party leaders & workers with party programmes.(KNS)

KU’s NSS organises series of events on drug de-addiction

3Srinagar, Aug 24 (KNS) : At least 300 students from 40 degree colleges of Kashmir division on Wednesday participated in a series of activities on ‘Drug De-Addiction and Rehabilitation’ at the University of Kashmir.

Three competitions—Poster-Making, Slogan-Making and Declaration—were organised by the varsity’s Office of National Service Scheme (NSS) on directions of Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan with the larger aim of generating awareness against drug abuse with active involvement of college students, and also to enable the students to exchange ideas on this important societal issue.

Controller of Examinations Dr Majid Zaman chaired the valedictory session as chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners of the competitions and certificates of participation among the NSS programme officers and volunteers. “This (drug addiction) is a critical issue concerning the people’s physical, economical and psychological well-being. Students can play a great role in addressing it,” Dr Zaman said, appreciating the Programme Coordinator NSS Dr Mussavir Ahmad for leading from the front to organise such important programmes frequently.

In his welcome address, Dr Mussavir talked in detail about the aims and objectives of holding three different competitions. He specially thanked Mr Sujit Kumar, DIG Central Kashmir Range, for his support and for deputing Dr Muzaffar Ahmad Khan, Director, Youth Development and Rehabilitation Centre, J&K Police Department, to deliver a special lecture today. He also thanked all NSS.

PM Opens 'India's Largest' Hospital In Haryana's Faridabad

Faridabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated a 2,600-bed private hospital here that is equipped with cutting-edge technology, including a centralised fully-automated laboratory.

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar were also present at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Modi said India is a country where healthcare and spirituality are closely linked. He added that COVID-19 was a perfect example of a successful spiritual-private partnership that helped create awareness and implement the world's largest vaccination drive. "A combination of technology and modernisation will lead to the country's progress in the healthcare sector," the Prime Minister said, adding that India is endeavouring to ensure that governments and others come forward to transform the health and education sectors on a mission mode.

The state-of-the-art Amrita Hospital, built on a sprawling 130-acre campus with sustainability in mind, has a dedicated seven-storey research block and has been constructed over a period of six years with the support of Mata Amritanandmayi Math. The new super-specialty hospital has opened with 500 beds and is expected to be fully operational in a phased manner over the next

five years. Once fully operational, the hospital with 81 specialities is billed to be the largest private hospital in Delhi-NCR and the coun-



try, its officials had earlier said. The hospital buildings will span 36 lakh sq. ft in built-up area, with a 14-floor tower housing key medical facilities. There is also a helipad on the rooftop.

The new mega hospital in Faridabad's Sector 88, near the Delhi-Mathura road, has a built-up area of one crore sq. ft and the campus will also have a medical college. A dedicated seven-storey research block and eight centres of excellence, including on gastro-sciences, renal sciences, bone diseases and trauma, transplants, and mother and child care, are

located on the campus. The hospital has patient-centric wards and OPDs and a hi-tech, fully-automated centralised laboratory.

such as Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), mammography, digital radiography and brachytherapy to treat all types of cancer using every available treatment modalities like surgery, chemotherapy, immunotherapy and bone marrow transplant. The hospital has been built at a cost of over 660 crore by Tata Memorial Centre, an aided institute under the Union Department of Atomic Energy.

The hospital will act as a tertiary care centre to patients not only from Punjab but also from Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan as well. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was also present when PM Modi inaugurated the cancer hospital in Mullanpur on the outskirts of Chandigarh. Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre is a 300-bed facility and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre at Mullanpur of Punjab's Mohali district. After inaugurating the state-of-the-art 2,600-bed Amrita Hospital in Haryana's Faridabad, PM Modi arrived here in the afternoon. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was also present when PM Modi inaugurated the cancer hospital in Mullanpur on the outskirts of Chandigarh. Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre is a 300-bed facility and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities

Iran asked for 'adjustments' to proposed nuclear deal

MADRID: Iran requested "some adjustments" to a draft agreement on reviving a 2015 nuclear accord with major powers proposed by the European Union, the bloc's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Tuesday.

During an interview with Spanish public television TVE, Borrell said "most" countries involved in nuclear talks with Iran agreed with the proposal, but that the United States had not yet responded.

The 2015 agreement between Iran and six world powers — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — gave the Islamic republic sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme. But in 2018, then US president Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out and slapped heavier sanctions on Iran.

Earlier this month, after more than a year of talks coordinated by Borrell and his team, the EU submitted what it called a 'final' proposed text, which has not been made public, to revive the accord.

"Iran responded by saying 'yes but', that is to say they want some adjustments," Borrell told TVE, without providing further details.

However, a US official said on Tuesday that Iran agreed to drop demands to block some UN nuclear inspections, the latest concession that could herald a revival of a 2015 nuclear deal.

The account came after US officials also said Iran was relaxing its insistence that Washington remove the powerful Revolutionary Guards from a terrorism blacklist.

Iran has accused the US of stalling a potential agreement, a charge rejected by Washington.

Earlier on Monday, US State Department spokesman Ned Price said outstanding questions remained about



Iran's requested changes to the EU proposal, adding that why "it has taken us some additional time to review those comments and to determine our response of our own". The 2015 agreement between Iran and six world powers — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — gave the Islamic republic sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme. But in 2018, then US president Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out and slapped heavier sanctions on Iran.

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Finland PM Apologises For "Inappropriate Pic" Taken At Her Home During Party



Helsinki: Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin on Tuesday apologised for a picture that emerged from a private party she had thrown at her official residence in July, following a public stir over her partying in the past week.

On Monday, a drug test taken by the prime minister, one of the youngest world leaders, came back negative. It was taken to assuage concerns after video footage was published last week showing her singing and dancing with Finnish celebrities at another party.

This week, another image began circulating in social media, showing two well-known female influencers kissing each other, covering their bare breasts with a "Finland" sign from the Prime Minister's official residence in Helsinki.

Swiss Glaciers Melting Faster, Have Shrank By Half Since 1930: Study

The glaciers in Switzerland have shed half their volume since the early 1930s, a new study has said. It said that the retreat of the ice structures is accelerating at a time when there are growing concerns about climate change. Fox News said in a report. Since the early 2000s, scientists have been closely monitoring rapid glacier melt in the Alps and elsewhere, which they believe is caused by climate change, the outlet further said.

The researchers who conducted the latest study performed a first-ever reconstruction of ice loss in Switzerland in the 20th century based on the analysis of topographical changes. They said that ice volumes in the glaciers have reduced by half in the 86-year time period they studied - from 1930 to 2016. In just six years, the glaciers have lost a further 12 per cent of their mass, the scientists further said. The study was published in a scientific journal named Cryosphere. Its co-author Daniel Farinotti was quoted as saying by Fox News, "Glacier retreat is accelerating. Closely observing this phenomenon and quantifying its histor-



ical dimensions is important because it allows us to infer the glaciers' responses to a changing climate."

Switzerland's 1,400 glaciers account for almost half of all glaciers in the European Alps. The researchers used a combination of long-term glacier monitoring. This comprised field measurements as well as aerial and summit images, including 22,000 obtained between the two world wars. The researchers were also able to fill in gaps by utilising several sources. Only a few of Switzerland's glaciers have been examined on a consistent basis over the years.

Afghan refugees, migrants protest in UAE over uncertain future

Afghan refugees and migrants living in limbo at a United Arab Emirates (UAE) facility for nearly a year since being evacuated from Afghanistan held protests this week over what they say is a slow and opaque resettlement process. Hundreds of Afghans carried banners and shouted for freedom on Monday and Tuesday, two Afghans in the facility told Reuters, estimating that thousands were awaiting resettlement to the United States or other countries. Pictures and videos shared with Reuters showed children, women and men protesting inside the facility in Abu Dhabi, known as Emirates Hu-

manitarian City, with temperatures in the Gulf Arab state reaching 38 Celsius (100 Fahrenheit). One boy held a small banner that read: "One year is enough!" Men and children chanting "we want justice" were seen in one video wearing white blindfolds inscribed with the word "freedom". The men and some children had bound their wrists, in an apparent gesture to what some Afghans said are prison-like conditions in the facility. The UAE says it is committed to ensuring Afghan evacuees can live in safety, security, and dignity. "Nearly one year, we have been here in detention and the camp is like a modern

prison. No one is allowed to go out, they don't know when (we) will be settled permanently to any country," said one Afghan who declined to be identified. A UAE official acknowledged there were frustrations and said that Abu Dhabi was working with the US Embassy to resettle the Afghans in the United States or elsewhere. Resettlement was taking longer than Abu Dhabi wanted, the official said. A State Department spokesperson said Washington was working to identify Afghans who may qualify for resettlement in the United States and "will be relentless in this effort" while "ensuring standard screening.

Nitish Kumar Wins Majority Test In Bihar Assembly, BJP Walks Out

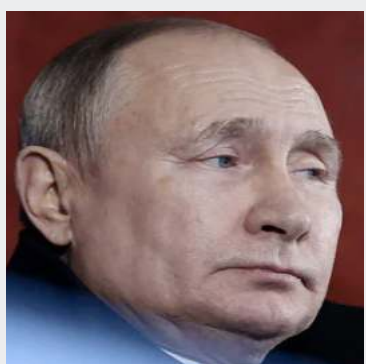
Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's new Grand Alliance government won the trust vote in the assembly today. The BJP walked out in protest during his address ahead of the voting.

In the voting that followed after the BJP walkout, Mr Kumar got all 160 votes. With 164 MLAs supporting Nitish Kumar's government in the 243-member Bihar assembly, the test of majority was mostly a formality. In his speech during the debate on the motion of confidence, Tejashwi Yadav - chief of Rashtriya Janata Dal and Mr Kumar's new

deputy, said the new partnership will be "historic". "This is a never-ending innings, it will be historic. Our partnership will be long. No one is going to be run out," Tejashwi Yadav said. During the debate, the BJP's Tarakishore Prasad ripped into Nitish Kumar, his former boss, saying he has lost "political credibility". The former Deputy Chief Minister mocked Kumar's "personal ambition to become the prime minister despite not having the ability to become the chief minister on his own steam". The assembly session started with Speaker

Vijay Kumar Sinha, a BJP member, stepping down in response to a no-confidence motion against him by the Grand Alliance. The floor test was chaired by Deputy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari, who is from Mr Kumar's Janata Dal (United). Hours before the trust vote, the homes of several RJD leaders - Sunil Singh, Subodh Rai, Dr Faiyaz Ahmad and Ashfaq Karim - were raided by the CBI in connection with a "land-for-jobs" scam dating back to party chief Lalu Yadav's tenure as Union Railway minister in the UPA-I government.

War Shows Russia "Not A Peer Military To US" Or Even Smaller NATO Forces



Six months into President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, the war has upended fundamental assumptions about Russia's military and economy.

When the US warned of impending war earlier this year, officials and analysts in Washington and Europe alike assumed Russia's much larger and better equipped military would quickly dominate Ukraine's forces. They also believed Putin would find himself constrained by a weak domestic economy.

US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley even warned Congress that Kyiv could fall within 72 hours of an invasion being launched.

President Joe Biden said he would turn the ruble to "rubble." In the Kremlin, meanwhile, Putin and his closest advisers saw Ukraine as a nation divided with incompetent leaders that would lack the will to fight.

Yet those expectations have proved drastically wrong.

What this eventually will mean as Ukraine marks a half year of war and continued independence is as uncertain as the conflict's outcome. What's clear is that rather than reassert Moscow as a global military power as Putin hoped, his decision to invade Ukraine has launched a profound rethink of Russia's conventional capabilities. It also prompted further expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with hitherto neutral Finland and Sweden resolving to join the military alliance.

Russia "is not a peer military to the US" or even smaller NATO forces, said Phillips O'Brien, professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. The war showed it "is not able to run complex operations in the way the British or French or Israel-

lis can do, so in those terms it isn't even a second tier military power."

Ukraine has suffered extensive damage to infrastructure, towns and cities and heavy military casualties, while the conflict has forced millions to flee the country. Its economy is struggling.

Still, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has emerged as a defiant wartime leader able to rally his nation to inflict huge losses on Russia's military, which was forced to retreat from around the capital, Kyiv, and regroup in the east.

Ukraine remains supported by supplies of advanced US and European weapons, even as it is yet to show it can mount a successful large-scale counteroffensive and its allies find themselves under growing economic pressure.

Asked by the Swiss newspaper Blick this month whether she feared Russia might target NATO member Estonia next, Prime Minister Kaja Kallas said she saw no threat at her borders, despite Putin name-checking the Estonian city of Narva in a June speech where he discussed the need to

recover lost Russian lands.

"The right question would be: Is it NATO's turn next?," Kallas told Blick. "Is Russia ready for this?"

Forecasts of Russia's economic collapse have proved just as wide of the mark, with gross domestic product falling at a grim, but less than catastrophic rate of 4% in the second quarter, as rising energy prices underpin budget revenue. As recently as May, Russia's own finance ministry forecast a 12% contraction this year for an economy weighed by a blizzard of international sanctions.

While the US and its close allies have imposed sanctions, many countries — from China, to India and the Middle East — have not, continuing to trade with Moscow. Russia has cut back on supplies of natural gas to Europe, wielding an unexpectedly potent economic weapon of its own. Though preparations have been made to mitigate the impact of further Russian supply cuts, officials from Finland to Germany in recent days warned citizens to prepare for hardship.

Ukraine Was "Reborn" After Russian Invasion: Volodymyr Zelensky

Kyiv: President Volodymyr Zelensky told Ukrainians in an emotional speech marking 31 years of independence on Wednesday that their country had been "reborn" when Russia invaded and that it would never give up its fight for freedom from Moscow's domination. In a recorded speech aired on the six-month anniversary of Russia's Feb. 24 invasion, Zelensky said Ukraine no longer saw the war ending when the fighting stopped but when Kyiv finally emerged victorious. "A new nation appeared in the world on Feb. 24 at 4 o'clock in the morning. It was not born, but reborn. A nation that did not cry, scream or take flight. One that did not flee. Did not give up. And did not forget," he said. The 44-year-old wartime leader delivered the speech in combat fatigues in front of central Kyiv's towering monument to independence from the Russian-dominated Soviet Union that broke up in 1991.



Zelensky underscored Ukraine's hardening war stance that opposes any kind of compromise that would allow Moscow to lock in territorial gains, including swathes of southern and eastern Ukraine captured over the past six months.

"We will not sit down at the negotiating table out of fear, with a gun pointed at our heads. For us, the most terrible iron is not missiles, aircraft and tanks, but shackles. Not trenches, but fetters," he said. He vowed that Ukraine would recapture lost territory in the industrial Donbas.

VVS Laxman Named Interim Head Coach Of Team India For Asia Cup 2022

A day after Indian cricket team head coach Rahul Dravid tested positive for COVID-19, National Cricket Academy (NCA) head VVS Laxman was named the interim head coach of the side for the 2022 Asia Cup. The availability of Dravid for the Asia Cup was in doubt after he tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday. It is important to note that Dravid had not travelled with the team to Zimbabwe for the three-match ODI series, that concluded on Monday. Laxman was the coach of the team in Zimbabwe.

"Mr VVS Laxman, Head Cricket, NCA will be the interim Head Coach for Team India (Senior Men) for the upcoming ACC Asia Cup 2022, to be played in the UAE," the BCCI said in a statement.

"Mr Laxman, who travelled with the Indian team that played the ODI series in Zimbabwe will oversee the team's preparation in the absence of Mr Rahul Dravid, who tested positive for COVID-19 before the team's departure to the UAE."

The BCCI further added that there is a possibility of Dravid joining the team later on, if he tests negative for COVID-19. "Mr Dravid will join the team once he tests negative and is cleared by the BCCI Medical Team. Mr Laxman has linked up with the squad in Dubai along with vice-captain Mr KL Rahul, Mr Deepak Hooda and Mr Avesh Khan, who travelled from Harare," the BCCI statement added.

Team India will be playing their first match of the tournament on August 28 against arch-rivals Pakistan. Rohit Sharma will lead the team for the Asia Cup, while former captain Virat Kohli is back in the squad after a break. Premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the tournament due to an injury.

Three specialist spinners are part of the squad which includes, Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi. Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja are the two all-rounders.

Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav are the two batting options. In Bumrah's absence the pace attack will be led by the experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar with youngsters Avesh Khan and Arshdeep Singh rounding up the squad. Death overs specialist Harshal Patel is also out due to injury. Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel and Deepak Chahar have been named as standbys.

Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com India's squad for Asia Cup: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan

KL Rahul Will Be Ready To Go Against Pakistan In Asia Cup: Scott Styris

Former New Zealand cricketer Scott Styris on Wednesday said that Indian batter KL Rahul will be ready to go against Pakistan when Men in Blue meet their arch-rivals in the blockbuster Asia Cup clash on August 28. Rahul had to bear an unceremonious time on the sidelines after his tragic injury post-IPL 2022 before he made a comeback to cricket in the recently concluded ODI series in Zimbabwe. India will be starting its Asia Cup campaign with a high-octane clash against Pakistan on August 28.

His return to the team will provide a major boost to the side for as the team India eye their eight-time Asia Cup victory. Asia Cup 2022 will be played in UAE, starting from August 27 through September 11.

"First of all, with regards to KL Rahul, I wouldn't be worried either. I'd be worried if he'd be facing 5-10 balls each innings but the last one in particular - 46 deliveries I think it was. If that's the case, it means that time in the middle is coming and that means that he will become more and more fluent, game time in the middle? Far more valuable than the nets. So, I expect he'll be ready to go against Pakistan," said Styris on Sports 18 show 'Sports Over The Top'.

Styris reckoned that he is not worried about the returning batter's form and added that the Indian opener will get more momentum and will get back to his old self in time. "Now, for that one? I'm with you though, I think he's going to go okay. The reason is for that is no Shaheen Afridi, we know that he's out injured, the way he attacks the stumps that is the way you get KL Rahul out. LBW and bowled. The fact that the main man who exposes that weakness is not there. I think KL Rahul has got an opportunity to be the star still, that we know he is because as Saba rightly pointed out,

My Youth My Pride: Sports activities abuzz across the UT

Maharashtra men beat Delhi to lift 65+ title in 28th Masters Table Tennis Championship

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: A day after the inauguration of 28th Masters Table Tennis Championship, sports activities under the banner of 'My Youth My Pride' programme being organized by J&K sports Council continue to pull crowds across the nook and corner of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir at different venues where competitions for various sports disciplines are being held.

In what is turning out to be one of the mega sports events being held in the history of J&K, 28th Masters Table Tennis Championship which began in Sheri-Kashmir Indoor Stadium yesterday where more than 1200 participants including players above 80 years of age which includes some prominent faces of the game of yore from the country are giving run for money to their rivals.

Around 120 matches consisting of both individual and team events were played during the day today. The event is being organized by J&K Sports Council in association with J&K Table Tennis Association.

Secretary, J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul visited the venue to take stock of the arrangements put in place for the guest teams. While interacting with participants, Secretary Sports Council said that it is heartening to see the former champions in the middle trying to get best out of each other by making swift moves across the table and each participant is giving its best shot which shall not only inspire the younger lot, in fact shall add to their motivation and energy level.

She said that Sports Council has adopted the policy of "inclusive sports" which aims to reach to all the ath-

letes irrespective of their age, sex or whichever place they come from. "I am sure, the special initiative of My Youth and My Pride shall



fetch encouraging results in the times to come" she added.

While reacting to the comments of the Secretary Sports Council, all participants were in awe of the venue and appreciated the facilities' put in place and praised the hospitality of J&K Sports Council.

Earlier in the day, Maharashtra defeated Delhi 3-0 in the final of the men's 65+ age category to lift the trophy. Complimenting men was the state's women's team of 60+ and 65+ that claimed the gold medal beating another squad from the state 3-0.

In the men's contest, Delhi did not have an answer to the clinical performance of Maharashtra's A team consisting of Prakash Kelkar, Percy Mehta and Jayanti Kulkarni. Kelkar began the proceedings with a perfect 3-0 (11-3, 11-9, 11-8) triumph over Narendra Singh Rawat of Delhi. Though Rawat was all at sea in

the first game, he steadied himself to fight well in the next two games, especially in the second when Kelkar won it with mini-



mal points. In the second, too, Rawat closed in on his rival but Kelkar proved too good for the Delhi paddler. Percy Mehta downed Ashutosh Kumar 11-7, 11-7, 11-5 with the latter losing steam after running Mehta close in the first two games. With a comfortable lead, the third game was a formality for the Maharashtra player.

In the third rubber of the tie, Jayant Kulkarni beat his Delhi opponent, Sunil Kumar Chawla, winning it 11-2, 11-7, 11-4, putting the trophy beyond Delhi's grip but the team still ended up on the podium, grabbing the silver medal.

Picking from where they left off yesterday evening, the C squad of Maharashtra's 60+ and 65+ Women's team picked up the gold medal after outplaying their A team, also the top seed. In what turned out to be a final between the three women versus two women combination, the latter

proved a tough nut to crack as they made it a one-sided affair.

Their A team pitted Ujjwala Marathe against Ranjana Patki in the opening rubber. After Marathe won the second game, it must have given a glimmer of hope to the bench. But Ranjana Patki did not give any further chance to wrap it up 11-3, 4-11, 11-5, 11-5. Swati Agarkar played brilliantly to challenge the bragging rights of Mangal Saraf, but the former's resistance did not help her restore parity, including in the third game tie-break. In the end, Saraf won 11-8, 11-8, 12-10 to give a 2-0 cushion to their side. Deepa Jain and Nutan failed to combine well against the experienced pair of Saraf and Patki and lost 3-11, 3-11, 9-11.

In other districts including Kupwara, Reasi, Baramulla, Pulwama and Bandipora various sports activities in the disciplines of Judo, Gymnastics, hockey, Yoga, Football, Badminton, Wushu, Boxing, and Rugby hundreds of players exhibited their skills in the individual and team events.

A night Football match turned out to be the mega crowd puller as 5000 spectators witnessed the fine display of the game in Khushal Stadium Sopore in North Kashmir. G. N Itoo Director Tourism Kashmir was also among the audience and enjoyed the game till the last kick.

The activities of the programme are being supervised by Managers, Coaches and Mentors of J&K sports Council. The events are part of the special sports initiative MY Youth My Pride being organized by the J&K Sports Council in collaboration with different registered associations of respective games. Divulging on the details of the programme.

Ben Stokes feared he might not play again after taking break from cricket



MANCHESTER: England Test captain Ben Stokes on Tuesday said he had feared he might not play again after taking an extended break from cricket last year to focus on his wellbeing.

Stokes decided to prioritise his mental health after suffering from a series of panic attacks following the death of his father due to brain cancer almost two years ago. Speaking about his state of mind prior to taking the break, Stokes told the BBC, "It wasn't over two weeks or a couple of months. It built up over a long, long time, maybe even like three or four years. It was like I had a glass bottle I kept on throwing my emotions into. Eventually, it got too full and just exploded."

Stokes addresses his mental health at length in an Amazon documentary, which will be released on Friday and features interviews with past and present England players, including team-mate Stuart Broad.

In a trailer for the documentary, Broad says he could have seen Stokes never playing again, and when asked if that possibility had crossed his mind, Stokes said: "At the time, yeah. That's where I was at."

"I had never spoken to Stuart about that through my time away," Stokes added. "I spoke to him a lot through that period but just general chit-chat, nothing too serious. I had never said the words to him, that I can't play again, but the fact that he got that feeling was an eye-opener to me that... things were quite bad."

The 31-year-old revealed he takes anxiety medication every day to help his battle with mental health issues.

"I never thought I would be on medication to help me for that kind of stuff. I am not embarrassed or ashamed to say it because I needed the help at the time," Stokes said. "But it's not done just because I'm back playing. I still speak to the doc, not as regularly, and I'm still taking medication every day. It's an ongoing process."

Since being appointed England's red-ball captain earlier this year, Stokes and new Test coach Brendon McCullum have overseen their team's impressive revival.

But Stokes still finds it hard to cope with international cricket's relentless schedule. In July, the World Cup winner announced he would retire from One-day Internationals due to the "unsustainable" demands of playing all three formats. On Monday, he told The Telegraph he felt deep resentment towards cricket because he had been unable to visit his dying father as much as he wanted. "So I had a real thing with cricket at the time I took a break. I was really angry at the sport because it was dictating when I could see my dad," Stokes said.

Keen to further open the debate about mental health, Stokes allowed himself to be filmed for the documentary even when he was at his lowest ebb.

Pakistan believe they can compete with India 'day in, day out': Wasim Akram



DUBAI: With Pakistan set to embark on their Asia Cup campaign on Sunday against India, legendary fast bowler Wasim Akram says Babar Azam's men believe they can compete with their arch-rivals "day in, day out" after their victory over Virat Kohli's side at last year's Twenty20 World Cup.

That victory in the United Arab Emirates came in Pakistan's opening match of the tournament and ended their long-running jinx of never having won a World Cup tie against their fierce rivals. And Wasim believes Pakistan would head into the Group 'A' match in Dubai riding high on back of that win.

"The Pakistan team is on the rise for the past couple of years. They've been consistent, and I think the win against India, although that was a year ago during the World Cup, gave them a bit of confidence that they can compete with India day in, day out," Wasim said during a virtual media session alongside for-

mer India head coach Ravi Shastri organised by the six-team tournament's official broadcaster on Tuesday. Pakistan will start training for the match from Wednesday at the ICC Academy with the majority of the squad arriving from the Netherlands on Tuesday morning after winning

their ODI series against the Dutch 3-0.

Four players, including the hard-hitting Asif Ali, have also reached Dubai from Lahore while pacer Mohammad Hasnain, drafted in as a replacement for injured pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi, is due to arrive from England on Wednesday.

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