





# Two Kashmiri girls awarded for using biomedical wastes to construct roads

Suhail Rather

winters owing to snow. thing always stuck in our

Bandipora, 21 August: Two civil Engineers Benit-ul-Islam and her friend Shabnum Masood hailing from north Kashmir have been awarded from Punjab university for propsoing an alternate method to construct roads out of bio-medical waste. The girls are currently working on project of National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC). They said the idea will not only make our roads economical, but it will also prove as a safest mechanism of biomedical waste disposal. According to their research, use of biomedical wastes in road construction is one of best and finest step for road construction in snow Bound area's as every years crore's of rupees are being spend in road development and is damaged during

It's responsibility of an every individual to find some alternative ways to boost our economy , “we as an individual's have found some alternative ways for road construction”. Since childhood, we had seen the roads of Kashmir. This

minds whenever we used to travel together on roads of Kashmir and one day as an civil Engineering graduates we decided to com up with the solution. After doing a lot of research & analysis, Our solution ultimately

comes up with that biomedical waste can be used in road construction of Kashmir to make our roads economical. The research comprises of 10 paper publications and it was awarded as best project in various conferences. Recently confrence sponsored by Aicte, web of science declared this innovative idea as the best idea of innovation. The two engineering girls were awarded as the youngest Researcher's of India by AICTE. Benit-Ul-Islam got an award of skillful engineer & best project management award in the conference , with a membership I'd from AICTE, because of her excellent experience on the practical field of civil Engineering. Apart from research area she has a experience of working in various projects like NHPC & NBCC.



## CS takes first hand appraisal of JJM works virtually

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: In a first Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today virtually toured the sites of a number of works being carried out under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). He took first hand appraisal of dozens of works being under progress in different districts of the UT under this national mission.

The meeting was also attended by Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; CEO JJM; Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti Kashmir/Jammu and other concerned officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary virtually toured different sites where work was in progress and enquired from the field staff like AEEs and JE's about the pace and progress of work. He also asked them about the technicalities involved in execution of their respective works.

Dr Mehta impressed upon all these officers and officials to ensure that quality machinery is installed at all these sites including in borewells, digwells, Filtration plants, Over Head Tanks (OHTs) and other infrastructure created under the mission. He observed that there should be no compromise on quality and each item used should be as per the set specifications.

The Chief Secretary stressed on enhancing the capacity of all the field staff to efficiently manage these assets. He observed that each of them should be well aware about the quality and proportion of chemicals used for filtration of drinking water besides the best techniques of managing these infrastructure for the overall benefit of the households drinking this potable water.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary also talked to several local panchayat representatives and asked them about the quality and pace of work carried out in their areas. He enjoined upon them to be vigilant for these assets are being created for the long-term welfare of their respective areas. He advised them to supervise these works and ensure that each of it is completed on time and qualitatively.

The Chief Secretary was informed that out of 6563 tenders, 4626 has been opened and 1302 works already allotted. It was further revealed that around 1077 works had been retendered for receiving the poor response.

It was also informed that with the subsequent accord of Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction the rest of tendered out works would also be allotted soon and works would be taken in hand.

The meeting was also informed that some 6220 Pani Samities and 5980 village action plans had been prepared for all the 6887 villages. It was mentioned that 4412 Field testing kits had been distributed in the villages and more than 11000 women trained to use them for testing purpose of the drinking water.

It was made out that out of 1835190 rural households 1062840 had been provided with drinking water. Already there is 100% coverage of rural institutions like schools, Anganwadi centres and health centres and steps are apace to cover each Gram Panchayat building and rural household in the future ahead, the meeting was apprised. The meeting was also informed that some 6220 Pani Samities and 5980 village action plans had been prepared for all the 6887 villages. It was mentioned that 4412 Field testing kits had been distributed in the villages and more than 11000 women trained to use them for testing purpose of the drinking water.

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## Secretary Agriculture and Horticulture Govt of Sikkim visits IIKSTC Pampore

PAMPORE, AUGUST 23: Secretary Agriculture and Horticulture Department, Government of Sikkim and Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today visited India International Saffron Trade Centre Dussoo Pampore (IIKSTC) at Dussoo here. During the visit, the Secretary visited different sections of IIKSTC and interacted with the staff and technical experts of the centre. Later on Secretary Agriculture Sikkim held a meeting with Director Agriculture Kashmir and some senior officers of the Department. Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary said that with the cooperation from Agriculture Department Kashmir, we have come a long way viz-a-viz saffron cultivation in Sikkim State.

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 Dandmoha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

Public Notice

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

Public Notice

I Syed Idrees Qadri S/ O Syed Mukhtar Ahmad R/O Ummarabad HMT srinagar want to make it known to one and all that I have Lost the documents of The Vehicle while I had sent the said Vehicle for repair near Narbal. The documents bag was lost somewhere between Umarabad to Narbal.

Now as I want to apply for the duplicate documents if the same, I seek objections if any. Which should reach the concerned authorities within seven days of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after that date.

Syed Idrees Qadri  
S/ O Syed Mukhtar Ahmad  
R/O Ummarabad HMT srinagar

# Arrangements for Urs Qamar-ud-Din Bukhari finalized at Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 23: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Farooq Ahmad Baba today convened a meeting of district officers to review and finalize arrangements for Urs Mubarak Hazrat Qamar-Ud-Din Bukhari at Reshipora Saloora Ganderbal.

During the meeting, it was informed that 4-day urs mubarak shall start from 6th September and the main congregation shall be held at Hazrat Qamar-ud-Din Bukhari Reshipora Saloora.

After threadbare discussion, the meeting finalized the arrangements for power supply, adequate safe drinking water supply, medicare facilities, fire fighting measures, transport facilities for devotees, sanitation measures in and around the shrine and other related arrangements.

The ADC asked the Fire & Emergency department for deployment of fire tenders and the Health department was asked to deploy an ambulance with adequate emergency medicine and medical staff at the

venue; Municipal Council Ganderbal was asked to ensure cleanliness at the shrine.

Similarly, the police and traffic officials were directed to ensure proper security and traffic regulations on routes leading to the shrine where large congregations are expected.

The ARTO was directed to make proper transport and parking arrangements.

The meeting was attended by ACR Ganderbal, DFO Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal, EO Municipal Council Ganderbal, Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsildar Ganderbal and other concerned.



## DC Kathua reviews progress of PWD (R&B), PMGSY projects

KATHUA, AUGUST 23: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rahul Pandey chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of projects being executed by PWD (R&B), PMGSY, JKPC and Forest departments here at DC office Complex today. The DC reviewed the progress of works taken up under different schemes and directed the concerned to expedite the completion of the schemes within set timelines. While reviewing the achievements under the PMGSY sector, the DC directed the officers to closely pursue forest clearance so that the road projects proposed for the district are completed in a time bound manner. He also called for removing bottlenecks to achieve set target works within stipulated time.

The DC impressed upon the concerned officer to execute utility shifting work and also laid thrust on ensuring early tendering and allotment of all identified works.

Regarding the pending works, the DC called upon the concerned officers to fix responsibility of the contractor to avoid unnecessary delays on their part. The DC directed XEN PWD (R&B) & DGM JKPC to speed up the Juthana Bridge and Hatli Road link as they are vital projects of public importance. The meeting was attended by CPO, DFO, Engineers of PWD Div Kathua, Basohli, CEO, XEN PMGSY Div Billawar, Kathua and other district officers.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

SPL SUB DIV. TANGDAR

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Fresh e- NIT No.82of 2022-23 of Special Sub Division Tangdar Endttd.No.3510-18 Dated: 22.08.2022

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on a %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and another state/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	E/Money In Rs	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs )	Time for completion	M/H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Impts of foot path with tiles from Maqsoodmirlshaq Sheikh Gh Mustafa Sheikh <b>Khawarpora A</b>	2.00	4000	200	15 days	ADF(PRI) RDD	DEE/DDC card holder
2	Impts of footpath with tiles form Madina masjid to HO mohdshafi and others ward no 02 <b>Nachivan</b>	2.46	4920	200	15 days	ADF(PRI) RDD	DEE/DDC card holder
3	Const of foot path with p wall rance Mohallah ward No 7 <b>Khawarpora B</b>	2.90	5800	200	15 days	ADF (PRI ) R&B	DEE
4	Repairs and renovation of CIC building Chamkote <b>B</b>	1.00	2000	200	15 days	ADF(BDC) RDD	DEE/DDC
5	fencing with P wall and levelling of grave yard near masjid sharif(maldayalpora ward No 4 kandi Payeen	3.00	6000	200	15 days	ADF ADF (PRI R&B)	DEE
6	Imptt. of footpath with tiles formthe main road to Sari Mohallah <b>Dildar B</b>	3.00	6000	200	15 days	ADF (PRI R&B )	DEE

1.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates 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 <b>Start Date</b>	22.08.2022
4	Bid Submission <b>End Date</b>	29.08.2022upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids ( <b>Online</b> )	30.08.2022at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer <b>Spl Sub Div Tangdar</b>

1.Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Spl Sub Division Tangdar (tender inviting authority) The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% additional performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after the successful completion of the defect liability period of the work. The EMD of 2 successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance Security.

2.The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

3.The earnest money shall be forfeited, If-  
a.Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
b.Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.  
c.Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.  
4.Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.  
4.1.Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the “Downloads” option as well as from “Bidders Manual Kit” on website [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in)to acquaint bid submission process.  
4.2.To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.  
4.3.The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.  
4.4.Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.  
4.5.Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.  
4.6.Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.  
Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.  
5.The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.  
6.Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Spl Sub Division Tangdar and Bid Security Declaration must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), CDR/ FDR/BG (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.  
7.Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.  
8.Price escalation and Taxes:- Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.  
9.Bidders are advised to use “My Documents” area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.  
10.In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.  
11.Instructions to Bidder (ITB)  
11.1.All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-  
a.Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.  
b.Treasury Challan &/ CDR/ FDR  
c.Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.  
d.Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the preceding Month to the issued of NIT  
11.2.The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.  
11.3.Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.  
11.4.All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.  
11.5.Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest money and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises  
12.General Conditions of Contract:-  
12.1.The date of start of the work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of Contract allotment . Penalty for delay in completion:-In case of delay in completion of work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty upto maximum of 10% of the contract shall be imposed.  
12.2.Time extension:-Suitable time extension shall be granted in case of increase in scope of work and in the event of delay beyond control of contractor to be determined by the department.  
12.3.Advance Payments:-No mobilization advance/ equipment advance shall be paid unless otherwise specified in the SBD.  
12.4.Secured Advance:-No secured advance is admissible unless otherwise specified.  
12.5.Schedule of Payment:-The payment schedule shall be fixed after award of contract in favour of successful bidder, on the basis of availability of funds and value of work executed, shall be determined by the Engineer.  
12.6.Amendment of bidding document:-Before the deadline for submission of bids the employer may modify the bidding documents by issuing Addendum.  
12.7. The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.  
13.Restoration of work:- On completion of contract the contractor shall be responsible to remove all un-used material and restore all work in its original position at his own cost.  
14.Traffic regulations:-The contractor is bound to adhere to traffic regulations as is applicable from time to time and ensure arrangements of smooth regulation of traffic during execution of work.  
15.Arbitration:- The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the arbitration procedure stated in the J&K conciliation and Arbitration Act No:-xxv of 1997 issued vide SRO No:-403 vide Notification of J&K Govt., “Law Department” 11th December-1997.

DIPK-8430/22

Executive Engineer  
Spl Sub Division Tangdar

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B

# ELECTRIC DIVISION SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 89/e-tendering of 2022-23/R&BDATED:-23.08.2022

For and on behalf of the LT Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (**In Single cover system**) are invited on **item rate basis** from approved and eligible Electrical Contractors registered with J&K State Govt.CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.N o.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Rupees/lacs)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	<b>Supply ,Installation ,Testing and commissioning of 3 x 300 KVA ONLINE UPS with allied battery banks for 500 Bedded Paediatric Hospital Bemina</b>	149.80 lacs	299600.00	2600.00	30 days	29.08.2022	<b>“A” class Electrical /Authorized dealer</b>

1.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-08-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23/08/2022 10.00 P.M
3.	Bid submission <b>Start Date</b>	23/08/2022 from 10.00 P.M
4.	Bid Submission <b>End Date</b>	29/08/2022 upto 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids ( <b>Online</b> )	29/08/2022 at 6.00P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Sgr

01. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division , Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division , Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

02. The bids must be accompanied with Earnest Money @ 2% of advertised cost in receipt of CDR/FDR and the EMD of 2% of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance security

03. The Bidder /OEM shall have established service center at Srinagar (valid Registration of service centre shall Beuploaded)

04. 80% of totalbill will be processed for payments after successful Commissioning of UPS system and remaining 20% shall be released after successful completion of CMC (Comprehensive maintenance contract) of UPS

03. The successful /1st Lowest bidder has to submit Performance security @3% of allotted cost

AAA = Accorded  
Position of Funds = committed  
M.H. of account = Languishing

DIPK-8474/22

Executive Engineer,  
(R&B) ElectricDivision  
SRINAGAR



# J&K, New Zealand governments to jointly develop sheep husbandry sector in UT

## Atal Dulloo meets delegates from NZ, calls for giving thrust to mutton production

JAMMU, AUGUST 23: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo chaired a meeting with expert delegation from New Zealand in connection with survey of ruminant sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

It is pertinent to mention that a Memorandum of Cooperation has already been signed between Governments of Jammu & Kashmir and New Zealand for overhauling sheep husbandry sector in the region through transfer of technology, research and development, value addition and marketing areas.

The delegates from New Zealand included Consul General & Trade Commissioner, Ralph Hays; Director, Agribusiness Group New Zealand, Dr Stuart Ford; Science Impact Leader, AgResearch Ltd, Dr Warren King; and Senior BDM, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise,



New Delhi, Sudha Palit.

In a powerpoint presentation, Technical Officer, Dr Rizwan Qureshi summarised the objectives of the collaboration. It was informed that due to past efforts, J&K has emerged as a major

wool producing region of India.

The agreement between the governments, at present, involves development of model sheep farms, collaboration in the area of fodder production, addition of value to wool and

mutton products and strengthening of disease diagnostics laboratories/ vaccine production units. It also aims at other areas like education of local veterinarians, artificial insemination and improvement of production

and productivity of small ruminants through genetics.Focus is also to be laid on bridging the deficit in domestic mutton production and consumption. At present, J&K procures a major part of its consumption quota from other states.Speaking at the occasion, the Additional Chief Secretary called for giving major thrust to mutton production in J&K. We need to work with a vision for maintaining domestic advantage in wool production with the addition of features like processing, branding and marketing also, he said. He said, 'over the years, we aim to produce a quality breed of sheep while becoming a net exporter of rams (male sheep) to other states'. He also assured of the government's inclination towards investing in development and improvement of farms as well.The ACS welcomed assistance in the latest technology of

artificial insemination and embryo transfer technology (ETT). Similarly, the ACS laid stress on increasing fodder production, incorporating improved disease control measures and for the capacity building of veterinarians. He also called for intervention of the experts in exploring untapped sectors like meat and carcass processing.

The visiting delegates also shared their aspirations and promised full cooperation for development of Sheep Husbandry sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

The officers present at the meeting included Secretary in Agriculture Production Department; Special Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Director, Sheep Husbandry Kashmir; Director, Sheep Husbandry, Jammu; Director Finance/Planning, Agriculture Production Department and other concerned officers.

# Commissioner Secretary Revenue visits Tral, reviews revenue matters

PULWAMA, AUGUST 23: In order to have a detailed review of Revenue matters pertaining to Pulwama District, Commissioner Secretary Revenue, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, today chaired a meeting of senior Revenue Officials of the district at town hall Tral here.

On the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary took a detailed assessment of recent initiatives of Government like Land Records Information System (Apni Zameen Apni Nigrani), Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) besides Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRM).

The Commissioner Secretary also took stock of progress on various vital issues regarding encroachment drives, demarcation of Government

land, status of mutations, inspection of revenue records, status of Grievance

the Pulwama Administration for taking various public centric measures



redressal mechanism, Migrant Properties, holding of camps and attestation of mutations, progress of digitization of Jamabandis/ Girdawari, Missing Land Record, Status of Patwar Khana, status of RDA Enquiries, Vacancy position and conduct of DPCs.

Speaking during the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary appreciated

besides retrieving hundreds of Kanals of State land by launching massive anti-encroachment drives. He laid stress on effective implementation of IEC activities under various schemes in the district and efficient record keeping management of all revenue records.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq

Choudhary on the occasion briefed the Commissioner Secretary about functioning and achievements of the Revenue Department of the District. He informed that around 40% of the record ( Jamabandis) has been digitized and the process is being accelerated by deploying more manpower and logistics at scanning centers. He added that 169229 khasras has been digitized out of 459255 khasras besides out of 88539 and 228518 khewats, 40935 and 82461 have been already digitized respectively.

SSP, Awantipora Mohammad Yousuf; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tral, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, all Tehsildars besides others revenue functionaries were present in the meeting.

# Mega Campus Placement drive held at GPC Larkipora, Anantnag

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 23: A mega placement drive was today held at Govt Polytechnic College Larkipora, Anantnag here.Principal Secretary, Department of Skill Development, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon presided over the ceremony in virtual mode while Dr Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Director SDD Sudershan Kumar were present on the occasion. More than 1500 students from four districts of South Kashmir had registered for the placement

drive and more than 20 companies also participated in the said drive to recruit the manpower.

The Principal Secretary in his inaugural speech emphasised on nurturing entrepreneurial skills in the students and impressed upon representatives of various organizations to instill confidence in the freshers by giving them a chance to prove their talents by working in their organizations.

Dr Basharat, while addressing the gathering,

said that this is a good beginning. He said that talented students brimming with enthusiasm will have ample opportunities to demonstrate their skills in the field in various companies.

He said District Administration will provide complete support in all endeavours to engage youth in productive activities. He said that beyond jobs, he is confident that with the skills that have been imparted to the students in ITIs and Polytechnics, they

will create self employment opportunities and provide employment to other job seekers.The DC encouraged the students to believe in their skills and assured them that the District Administration will facilitate them in every possible way in fulfilling their dreams and being active contributors to the society.Director Skill Development said that such placement drives will be organized in various other districts so that maximum students can be placed.

# 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 empanelled 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 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 Kaapora and UPHC Shastri Nagar shall receive an additional annual grant of Rs.3.00 lakhs each as part of NQAS certification.

PULWAMA, AUGUST 23: Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairperson J&K Khadi Village and Industries Board (KVIB) today held an interaction with unit holders at Industrial Estate (I.E) Lassipora Pulwama.

Dr Hina gave the brief about various initiatives being taken up by the government with regard to promoting 'Ease of Doing Business'. She assured unit holders/entrepreneurs that the government is committed to extend every type



of hand-holding support for development of the Industrial Sector in UT J&K.

Underlining the need for inculcation of market-oriented skills among youth, she reiterated that the Board is working in this direction and craft and skill trainings are being undertaken in various districts of UT of J&K. She further added that all possible hand-holding support shall be extended to aspirants so that they are able to set up their own micro enterprises.

Earlier, the Vice Chairperson visited various units established at Khadermooch, Kakapora and Tahab areas of District Pulwama under employment generation.

# Progressing J&K Govt. intervention amplifies Lavender cultivation across J&K Farmers income increased by 4-5 times after Lavender cultivation

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: With the constant interventions of J&K Government, Lavender cultivation has been amplified across J&K by implementation of various schemes which in turn has increased the farmers income by 4 to 5 times here.

Thousands of farmers in J&K are shifting to lavender cultivation which has proved very profitable for them. According to statistics, 5000 entrepreneurs/ farmers are cultivating lavender on more than 200 acres of land which has led to 4 to 5 times increase in their economy. Farmers traditionally in J&K grew cereals such as maize, rice and millets which didn't provide great returns but with lavender cultivation, their earnings have gone up several times.

Lavender cultivation also called as 'Purple Revolution', is an initiative of the Central government to improve the incomes of farmers in J&K. Many farmers have given up traditional farming and switched to lavender farming for profitability.

Ali Muhammad, farmer from Pulwama area of South Kashmir said, "Traditional farming was not giving us good returns. We are very happy with switching to lavender farming. Lavender farming also does not get much affected by less rainfall".

Cultivation of lavender has changed fortunes of farmers in Jammu and Kashmir under 'Aroma Mission or Purple Revolution', transforming lives of UT's farmers community. It was launched in 2016 by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) Aroma Mission.

The aim of the mission is to support domestic aromatic crop-based agro-economy by moving from imported aromatic oils to home-grown varieties.

Lavender cultivation is practiced in almost all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Under the mission, first-time farmers were given free lavender saplings while those who had cultivated lavender before were charged Rs.

5-6 per sapling.

Farmers are happy with farming of unconventional aromatic plants under Aroma Mission. The mission promotes cultivation of aromatic crops for essential oils that are in great demand by the aroma industry. In J&K, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu (IIIM Jammu) are the two bodies responsible for implementation of Aroma Mission across J&K.

The CSIR Aroma Mission is envisaged to bring transformative change in the aroma sector through desired interventions in the areas of agriculture, processing and product development for fuelling the growth of aroma industry and rural employment.

It is expected to enable Indian farmers and the aroma industry to become global leaders in the production and export of some other essential oils in the pattern of menthol mint. According to the Lavender farmers, the selling of at least one litre of its oil fetches them Rs 20,000. The farmers say that lavender grown over one hectare of land gives them a minimum of 40 litre of lavender oil.

Lavender water, which separates from lavender oil, is used to make incense sticks. Hydrosol, which is formed after distillation from the flowers, is used to make soaps and room fresheners.

IIIM-Jammu also helps farmers to sell their produce as well as many private companies also procure lavender extracts from the farmers.

Notably, Doda district is leading the way and four distillation units have been set up by CSIR-IIIM Jammu in the district. Farmers from remote areas of district Doda reach these plants for extraction of lavender oil. More than 800 progressive farmers of Doda have adopted aromatic cultivation which has now proved out to be profitable.

# DC Baramulla visits Chinabal Pattan; takes Stock of 25th Muharram Arrangements

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 23: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar today visited Chinabal Pattan and took stock of the arrangements being put in place for smooth observation of 25th Muharram processions.

During the visit, the DC stressed upon the officers to provide every facility to the people. She instructed the Municipal Officers to ensure cleanliness around the Imambaras, mosques and roads where from processions will come out during the Muharram processions.

On the occasion, Dr Sehrish also interacted with the people and heard their issues pertaining to the mourning processions. She assured them redressal of their genuine demands at the earliest.

Meanwhile, the DC also directed BMO concerned to ensure availability of ambulances and medical care facilities to the mourners, besides directing the R&B department to complete the patches, if any, on roads on priority where Muharram processions will pass.

The DC also passed on spot directions to



the transport department/ traffic Police to prepare a road map for a proper route plan during the procession on 25th of Muharram.

Directions were also issued for installation of high mast street lights on the prominent religious places.

The DC was accompanied by Sub Divisional Magistrate Pattan, Syed Faheem and concerned officers from line departments.

# DC Baramulla pays surprise visit to CHC Pattan; interacts with Patients/ attendants

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 23: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar accompanied by SDM Pattan today paid a surprise visit to Community Health Centre (CHC) Pattan in order to take stock of healthcare facilities being provided to the patients.

Apart from inspecting various wards and sections of the CHC including emergency, operation theatre, X-ray, gynae, post operation ward and labs, the DC enquired about the availability of medicines, diagnostics and other facilities in the hospital.

Interacting with the patients and their attendants, the DC enquired about their wellbeing and the facilities being provided to them and also listened to their issues and demands.

# DC Bandipora reviews preparations for Wullar Festival, Gurez Festival

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 23: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Tuesday held a meeting with the officers of Tourism, Forest, Army and other concerned departments to review the preparations for the Wullar Festival scheduled to be held on August 29. The meeting was held to discuss various plans to be adopted for successful conduct of the Wullar Festival. The DC directed the officers to take up additional measures to avoid inconvenience to people participating in the festival.

It was given out that Departmental stalls will be installed at festival location, besides the involvement of Senior



citizens, PRIs and students shall also be ensured. The meeting discussed various modalities to conduct Shikara Rally, Boat Race, Painting Competition,

Quiz Competition, bird watching and other activities. The meeting also discussed various measures to be taken for conducting the Gurez festival. It was informed that various adventure-related activities will be held during the Gurez Festival for tourism promotion in the area. The meeting was attended by ADC Bandipora Waseem Raja, District Programme Officer ICDS Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Joint Director Planning Imtiyaz Ahmad, DFO Bandipora and other concerned officers from Army and Civil Administration. The meeting was also virtually attended by Officers of Tourism, and Tehsildar Gurez.



## DDC Kulgam reviews implementation status of JJM in district



FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, AUGUST 23: In order to give impetus to work projects of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and ensure timely completion of schemes, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers and contractors and reviewed progress made in the implementation of the JJM in the district.

JJM is envisioned to pro-

vide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections.

During the meeting, S.E Hydraulics briefed the chair that there are 140 schemes comprising 218 works under JJM in the district. Out of these 218 works, 194 stands tendered and administrative approval was accorded to 105 works while 75 have been allotted and a total of 04 works have been completed under JJM so far.

# Advisor Bhatnagar chairs 43rd AGM, 62nd BoDs meeting of JKHPMC

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today chaired the 43rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) and 62nd Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd. (JKHPMC) at Civil Secretariat here.

The AGM was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, Secretary in APD, Mohammad Akbar Wani, Managing Director, JKHPMC, Shafat Sultan, Shareholders of the Corporation and senior officers of APD. During the AGM in-depth deliberations were held on the pending audit of the Corporation besides various issues per-

taining to the development projects taken in hand by the Corporation.

Speaking during the AGM, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that the Corporation has unique characteristics of providing services to the fruit growers both in pre and post-harvest segments of the horticulture sector. He highlighted that the government during the last three years has extended generous support to the Corporation which was otherwise reeling under acute financial crisis and as a consequence, the Corporation has embarked on a revival trajectory.

The Advisor urged the Corporation management to hold regular interactions with its Shareholders as well as the fruit growers so that focused



technological interventions are adopted for sustainable solutions in the horticulture sector.

The AGM on the occasion adopted the audited accounts of the Corporation for the Financial Years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Speaking during the AGM, Atal Dulloo stressed upon the management of the Corporation to com-

plete the Audit for the remaining period of five years in a time bound manner.

The Shareholders speaking on the occasion appreciated the union agriculture ministry for establishing Apple Cluster in Shopian and expressed satisfaction that the implementation of the ministry's cluster development programme in the district

in the coming four years could transform the apple landscape of the district.

Meanwhile, Advisor Bhatnagar also chaired the 62nd Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting of JKHPMC at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, Administrative Secretary Planning & Development Department, Rajiv Langer, Secretary in APD, Mohammad Akbar Wani, Managing Director, JKHPMC, Shafat Sultan, Director Codes, Finance Department, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing, senior officers of APD and JKHPMC.

During the meeting, the BoDs held detailed deliberations on various development projects of the Corporation both under execution as well as the ones being implemented during the current financial year under capex.

Speaking during the BoDs meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the JKHPMC management that there should be no delay in the commissioning of projects being established by the Corporation under ODOP scheme of the ministry of food processing industries, GoI, so that the connected stakeholders benefit from the facility. He also advised MD, JKHPMC to ensure completion of 2000 MT cold store, 120 MT onions & potatoes pack house, agri-mall in Narwal food.

## Chief Commissioner CGST Chandigarh Zone chairs 2nd meeting of GRC

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: Chief Commissioner, CGST Chandigarh Zone, Aruna N Gupta and Commissioner State Taxes J&K, Dr Rashmi Singh today co-chaired the 2nd meeting of the Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh constituted for the purpose of tackling the taxpayer grievances on GST related issues at Excise & Taxation Complex, Solina here.

Various stakeholders and representatives of trade and industry participated in the meeting.

The Grievance Redressal Committees (GRC) have been constituted at Zonal/State level with both CGST and SGST officers and representatives of trade and industry and other GST stakeholders in order to address grievances of specific/ general nature of taxpayers at the Zonal/ State level.

The grievances and suggestions given by the stakeholders were discussed by the Committee. The issues requiring immediate redressal were resolved by the Committee and those pertaining

to policy matters were taken note of. The committee also stressed



upon the stakeholders to come up with specific instances so that the issues can be taken up for quick redressal. Chief Commissioner, CGST Chandigarh Zone, Aruna N Gupta and Commissioner State Taxes J&K, Dr Rashmi Singh today co-chaired the 2nd meeting of the Grievance Redressal Commit-

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## Srinagar Smart City Advisory Forum holds meeting

Detailed discussion held regarding various projects taken up by SSCL

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: A Meeting of Srinagar Smart City Advisory Forum (SSCAF) was held on Tuesday in the Meeting Hall of TRC, here.

The meeting was attended by Member of Parliament (LS), Mayor of the Srinagar city, Commissioner SMC/CEO SSCL, Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department, VC SDA, ACEO SSCL, SSP Traffic, Chief Engineer SSCL, GM P&UD SSCL, Officers of various other departments; along with traders' fraternity, technical experts, and members of civil society.

At the outset, CEO Srinagar Smart City, Athar Aamir Khan made a detailed presentation on the various projects under Smart City Mis-

sion including River Front Development, Water Transport, Road redevelopment, ICCO, ITMS, Urban mobility, city beautification, central business district up-gradation, Heritage conservation and Downtown Renewal, Cycle Tracks, Walkways, Integrated Solid Waste Management, Brari Nambal development, Dal Lake front development, etc.

Detailed discussion was also held regarding the various projects taken up by SSCL. Thereafter, valuable suggestions, views and inputs were shared by all the participants which were duly noted by the Srinagar Smart City team.

Meanwhile, the participants extended their unending support to

SSCL for successful and timely completion of the projects.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all participants and an acknowledgment for the active support of all the line departments, various organizations, traders' fraternity and members of civil society and handwork of the Srinagar Smart City Limited team. Meanwhile, the participants extended their unending support to SSCL for successful and timely completion of the projects.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all participants and an acknowledgment for the active support of all the line departments, various organizations, traders' fraternity and members.

## DC Bandipora reviews implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in district

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 23: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad today chaired a review meeting on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) at mini secretariat, here.

During the meeting the DC took detailed review of tendering, allotment of work and other issues. He directed all the concerned to expedite the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with execution of High altitude works on priority.

The meeting was informed that Letter of intent is issued for 122 works which is 53 percent of JJM and 06 works are already completed under JJM and work has been started on 116 JJM Works.

The DC directed the concerned to maintain a timeline to start all components. He also directed to also prioritise schools (if any uncovered) for coverage under JJM.

Dr. Owais directed the concerned officers to monitor the works regularly and ensure quality in works. He stressed on early removal of bottlenecks for timely completion of all works.

He emphasized upon community participation by involving PRIs in the execution and post execution management of schemes for better results.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Bandipora Afsar Ali Khan, Joint Director Planning Intiyaz Ahmad, Ex. Er. Jal Shakti and other concerned officers.

## DC Bandipora chairs meeting to discuss reconciliation of Rakhs & Farms land

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 23: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed today chaired a meeting at mini secretariat here to discuss reconciliation of Rakhs and Farms Land.

The DC directed for proper demarcation of land and directed the concerned departments to resolve inter-departmental issues without any delay.

He said a joint demarcation will be held by the department of Rakhs and Farms, Revenue and WUCMA.

He urged the public to cooperate with executing agencies for the proper implementation of developmental projects. The meeting was attended by Director Rakhs and Farms, ACR Bandipora Parvaiz Rahim; Joint Director Planning, Intiyaz Ahmad; Tehsildar Hajin, Ex. Er. R&B, DySP DAR, Officers of WUCMA and other concerned.

## DC Bandipora dedicates Ambulance to Health Sub Centre Aragam/ Chattibandy

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 23: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed in presence of SSP Bandipora Mohd Zahid and DDC Hajin-B Dr Mustafa Khan and CMO Bandipora dedicated Ambulance to the Health Department.

It was informed that the Ambulance has been procured out of DDC grants and will be utilized at Health Sub Centre Aragam/ Chattibandy.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Owais said that it is a welcome and appreciable step and the ambulance will help in catering the Aragam and adjacent areas.

He said the administration is committed to the welfare of the public with priority on education and health sector. He said the administration is committed to the welfare of the public with priority on education and health sector.

## Board of Directors, J&K Bank call on Lt Governor

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: Board of Directors, Jammu & Kashmir Bank today met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhawan here.

The directors- Sh R K Chhibber, Dr Rajeev Lochan Bishnoi, Sh Anil Goel, Sh Umesh Pandey apprised the Lt Governor about the functioning and progress achieved by the J&K Bank in the recent quarter.

It was informed that J&K bank achieved a profit of Rs 165.97 crores in the quarter ending June as against Rs 104.32 crores for the same quarter previous year.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the directors appreciated the progress achieved by J&K Bank. He impressed upon them to ensure that maximum population of the UT is covered under the ambit of banking services and financial literacy.

The Lt Governor further asked them to continue their sustained endeavours of being the

major contributor in providing financial assistance to the people of Jammu Kashmir, especially the enterprising youth.



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## NABARD celebrates Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Anantnag

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 23: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) today organised a one-day programme here to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' on completion of 75 years of Independence.

On the occasion, contribution of NABARD was highlighted vis-à-vis boosting rural economy by providing undivided attention and pointed focus to credit related issues linked with rural development.

The programme was attended by farmers and representatives of FPOs. Officers from Agriculture Department, Banks and representatives from NGOs participated in the programme.

Speaking at the event, the DDM NABARD Roulf Zargar highlighted various initiatives of NABARD to promote sustainable and equitable agriculture and rural development through participative financial and non-financial interventions, innovations, technology and institutional development for securing prosperity.

He mentioned about the efforts of NABARD to energize rural credit, empowering women by starting SHG-BLP since 1992, skill development and livelihood programmes for SHGs and rural youth, development of rural infrastructure through



RIDF projects, timely and hassle free institutional credit to farmers through KCC at concessional interest, implementation of watershed/springshed projects, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) of Mushqbudji, vegetable, honey and trout fish in the district.

Zargar also gave details about skill development initiatives of NABARD in the district and bank aided projects on technology transfer and various initiatives/programmes implemented by NABARD in UT of Jammu and Kashmir and in district Anantnag in-particular.

## SVEEP activities continue at Ganderbal Daylong sports activities held in GCPE Gadoora

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 23: As part of an outreach programme for young population and educated youth about the upcoming Special Summary Revision, the District Election Office Ganderbal in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports and Govt. College of Physical Education (GCPE) Gadoora today organised a daylong sports activities within the campus of College of physical education.

The event was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADD) Ganderbal, Khurshid Ahmad Shah and was attended by Dy. DEO Ganderbal, District YS&S Officer, Principal GCPE, staff and students of various educational institutions of the district.

The participants were briefed about the upcoming Special Summary Revision and the procedure to enroll themselves in the electoral roll through online and offline modes. It was emphasised that youth disconnect and apathy towards electoral process needs to be checked by active participation of youth in democratic processes both at registration stage and polling stage.

Various participants emphasised upon the need for an educated and informed electorate in a democratic setup in which youth can play a big part.

Various forms like Form 6, 6B, 7 and 8 prescribed by ECI for registration of names in e-roll were also distributed among the participants.

Sports activities like Volleyball, Tug of War, Kho-Kho etc were also conducted in which students of physical college and other educational institutions took part.

It is worth mentioning here that the District Election Office Ganderbal is conducting comprehensive SVEEP activities in the district to educate populations about Special Summary Revision and the need for people to enroll as electors.

Special educational interventions are being made targeting youth, women, persons with disabilities and weaker sections of society like SCs and STs. Various Government departments, NGOs and civil society organisations are also being roped in to conduct SVEEP activities in the district. Sports activities like Volleyball, Tug of War, Kho-Kho etc were also conducted in which students of physical college and other educational institutions took part.

It is worth mentioning here that the District Election Office Ganderbal is conducting comprehensive SVEEP activities in the district to educate populations about Special Summary Revision and the need for people to enroll as electors.







VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

HEADLINES TODAY

EDITORIAL

Observations based on facts

As has been correctly highlighted by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, there is a need for coordinated action and collective partnership as well as making changes in behavior and life-style to tackle the impact of climate change and reducing the carbon footprint for protecting the environment and conserving Biodiversity. This year's theme of World Environment Day 'Only One Earth' is a reminder to the entire world that Environmental Protection or Sustainable Lifestyle is not the job of a select few, but a collective responsibility of each one of us, Lt Governor importantly underlined. Ecological sensibilities, conservation of natural inheritance, sustainable lifestyle and holistic approach for an environment-friendly development path can strengthen the capacity to deal with the environmental crises and reverse the environmental degradation. The future generations must contribute to maintain the delicate balance of nature. Ecological harmony, pragmatic steps like synergy between economic growth and environmental protection for projects can effectively address climate change. There is no denying the fact that climate change is making itself felt in various manners. This means it is no longer a theory that can be disputed but it is a reality that has to be dealt with. It is being manifested not just by warmer temperatures but also by changing rainfall patterns. This scenario calls for a need to look at the current situation in J&K more closely and scientifically. Given the rainfall deficit, there is a need to advise farmers and orchardists as regards the steps needed by them in advance. Human growth has also resulted in the loss of essential ecosystems, such as deforestation to make space for cultivation and habitation. Rare plant and animal communities are being wiped out by logging, overfishing and the illicit wildlife trade. Agricultural nutrients, soil erosion sediments and waste plastic debris, on the other hand, all contribute to pollution. In daily life choices, one needs to pick the most sustainable options. There is a need to follow the principle of reuse, reduce and recycle.

RNI REGISTRATION NO  
JKENG/2011/39231

TITLE CODE  
JKENG00842

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PRINTER, PUBLISHER AND OWNER  
SYED JAHANGIR BUKHARI

PUBLISHED FROM  
LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS BUILDING RADIO COLONY  
GUND HASSIBHAT LAWAIPORA SRINAGAR-190017.

PRINTED AT  
LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS, (OFFSET PRINTING PRESS),  
RADIO COLONY GUND HASSIBHAT LAWAIPORA  
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KALYANI SHANKAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strengthened himself in the last eight years, to such an extent in his party and outside that the gap in popularity between him and other probable prime ministerial aspirants comes no way closer to him.

He is all set for a third term in 2024. About 53 percent of respondents in the Mood of the Nation poll conducted by India Today and C voter last week favoured Modi as the next prime minister.

The Opposition has failed miserably in challenging Modi in 2014 and 2019. The recent president and vice president election has shown the Opposition's disarray while the BJP has geared up its poll machinery. The focus has shifted from "Modi vs Who" to "only Modi for 2024." So, Modi had the field to himself.

Interestingly, after Modi entered the national scene eight years ago, the campaign-style became that of an American Presidential poll. That is why there is so much talk about the 2024 poll when it is two years away.

Political forces could realign before the next Lok Sabha polls. Reaching a consensus on the prime ministerial candidate has been difficult, with the regional satraps

ARUN SRIVASTAVA

The farmers are again on the battle path against the Narendra Modi Government as the centre did not fulfil its commitment given to the farmers leaders last year before withdrawal of the year long agitation.

The farmers' demonstrations in and around Delhi on Monday unravelled the fact that it has the wisdom and strength to protect and revive the weakening democratic institution of the country and foil the attempt of Modi and RSS to mortgage the country and its people to their friends in industry.

In a daring revelation Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik on Sunday, 21 August, said that the schemes for farmers have not seen the light of day due to business magnate Gautam Adani. Speaking at a programme at a cow shelter in Kira village in Haryana's Nuh, he said "The MSP is not being implemented because the Prime Minister has a friend whose name is Adani, who at the moment has become Asia's richest person in five years." He nevertheless was empathic; "If MSP is not implemented and legal guarantee on MSP is not given, there will be another fight and this time it will be a fierce fight. You cannot defeat the farmer of this country. You cannot scare him... since you cannot send ED or Income-Tax officers, how will you scare the farmer? Farmers cannot be defeated and will continue to protest till their demands are met."

Nearly a year back Malik had raised a controversy by saying, "When I met Prime Minister Modi on the farmers' issue, I fought with him within 5 minutes. He was very arrogant. When I said that 500 farmers have died, he asked 'Did they die for me? I said that yes, you are the king because of them. He told

SUSHIL KUTTY

Delhi's New York Times-accredited Education Minister Manish Sisodia is the latest cult figure to invade our minds. And whoever knew Manish Sisodia is a "kshatriya" kept the secret to himself, which was fine because now that we all know, we can look down at the Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, who, if the almanacs are not wrong, is lower down in the caste-tree; most definitely a "Vaishya".

How that's going to help the Aam Aadmi Party win Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh isn't clear, but AAP supreme and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wants his deputy Chief minister to get the Bharat Ratna. The point to make is, caste will not exit the Indian psyche. And if we thought, Jawaharlal Nehru University would help in the annihilation of caste, we must have been "to the Brahmin born!"

For, these days of continued reservations, if any caste feels rightly or wrongly oppressed, it is the Brahmin. The other day, JNU Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit said that "anthro-

BUOYANT BJP LEADERSHIP UNDER NARENDRA MODI PREPARING FOR 2024 POLLS



pulling in different directions. Modi was a political leader who gave hope in 2014; he projected himself as a nationalist leader in 2019 and would be launched in 2024 as the most acceptable leader of India, with global recognition.

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared at the recent BJP National Executive meeting that Modi would be the NDA's Prime Ministerial candidate. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, who has won a second term, has asked his state to bag at least 75 of the 80 seats in the state for 2024 polls.

However, two recent developments have injected fresh vigour into Indian politics. The first was the Shiv Sena split in Maharashtra

and the rebel Shinde faction heading the government with the BJP support last month.

Secondly, after weeks of simmering tension between the JD(U) and BJP over a host of issues, including caste census, population control, and the 'Agnipath' defence recruitment scheme, JDU- the last important rally of the BJP left the NDA earlier this month.

Maharashtra and Bihar send a little more than a sixth of the total 543 in Lok Sabha (88) and are critical for both the BJP and the Opposition.

There are at least four Prime Ministerial aspirants apart from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Trinamool Congress's Mamata Banerjee has been nursing prime ministe-

rial ambitions since she decimated the Left and the Congress in the elections. TMC leaders argue that Mamata is most suited for the post. She has won all the assembly elections in West Bengal since 2011 with a massive majority.

Telangana's chief minister, K. Chandrashekar Rao, has of late been critical of Prime Minister Modi. He has been preparing to come on the national stage since 2018. Like TMC, TRS has also won massive mandates in assembly elections since 2014.

Delhi chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, is the third. He has been Delhi's chief minister since 2015.

AAP is the only regional party with governments in two states-Delhi and Punjab. Also, the party has won with super mandates. After winning Punjab in 2022, party spokesperson Raghav Chadha said Kejriwal could be the country's next prime minister.

Of late, a fourth name is on the list after Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar quit the NDA early this month and became the chief minister for the eighth time with the support of the Rashtriya Janata Dal.

Bihar has been the centre of national political movements in colonial and postcolonial India and has 40 seats.

JD(U) became the fourth major NDA ally after the Sena, and the

Akali Dal snapped ties with the BJP after 2019. Another partner, Telugu Desam, quit in 2018.

After his oath-taking, the ambitious Nitish took a jibe at Modi. He said, "Those who came to power in 2014, (read Modi) will they be victorious in 2024? I want all (Opposition) to be united for 2024."

The chances for Nitish were much brighter in 2015 when the Opposition defeated BJP in Bihar, and Nitish became the chief minister. He left the Grand Alliance and joined hands with the BJP later. He is perceived as an opportunist, but still, he is senior enough from the Hindi belt one cannot dismiss him lightly. The upbeat BJP high command has constituted a team to capitalize on Modi's popularity during the election rallies. He addressed more than 100 rallies and travelled about one lakh kilometers across the country during the 2019 election campaign.

It too early to predict how the situation will pan out in the next two years. In politics, one week is said to be long.

However, the Opposition will need a leader with a pan-national appeal to challenge Modi. The sooner it gets united, the better, as democracy demands an intense centre and a strong opposition.

IPA SERVICE

FARMERS' RELAUNCHING THEIR STRUGGLE TO GET THEIR MSP DEMAND CONCEDED

me to meet Amit Shah."

When other senior political leaders are scared of opening their mouth and speaking the truth on the face of Modi, Meghalaya Governor deserves accolade and appreciation for his bold stand and revelations. His expose ought not to be taken in a casual manner. The govt machination to crash the farmers' Satyagrah has no doubt severely hurt the agitation, but it is yet to finish the agitation. Modi is aware of the reality that in case the agitation is able to extract the minimum demands of the farmers, then it would initiate the process of renaissance

The Punjab assembly election had divided the farmers body Sanjukta Kisan Morcha, but it is a good sign that they have once again hit the streets of Delhi for realising their demands which PM is reluctant to concede. It is indeed encouraging to notice that thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh reached Delhi yesterday showing contempt to heavy security arrangements to participate in a 'mahapanchayat' called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) at Jantar Mantar.

"The mahapanchayat is a one day-long peaceful event where we will reiterate our demands such as a legal guarantee on MSP and cancellation of Electricity Amendment Bill 2022 among others," said Abhimanyu Singh Kohar, organiser of SKM (non-political) sponsored 'mahapanchayat'. He said earlier during the farmers' movement, the central government had promised to consider all our demands, but they did "nothing. So here we are again to discuss and raise our demands and chalk out future strategy of the movement".

The farmers had suspended their movement in December last



year after the Centre assured them to consider their other demands concerning legal guarantee on MSP, withdrawal of cases against them among others. For farmers leaders have been framed and arrested for attacking and lynching three associates of Ajay Mishra Teni's son Ashis

The Morcha, the umbrella organisation of farmer unions, which had held successful year-long agitation against three now-revoked farm laws, also organised three-day dharna in Lakhimpur Kheri town on Thursday seeking the four farmers' release and the arrest of Teni, Union minister of state for home. Farmer leaders made it abundantly clear that they would further intensify their agitation and the dharna was a rehearsal for a bigger agitation near Delhi, on the same demands, against the "anti-farmer" BJP governments at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) spokesperson Rakesh Tikait reiterated "Our brothers have been languishing in jail because they fought with some BJP workers in self-defence. The BJP governments are

vindictive because the three-party members who died in Tikunia on October 3 were supporters of Teni. They (the arrested farmers) would have got bail by now if the government and the police were fair. We will soon announce plans for an intensified protest against the government." The protesters from Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu participating at the Dharna also demanded a law on minimum support price (MSP) for their crops and withdrawal of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

SKM leader Rakesh Tikait vowed that the SKM would continue its fight for justice to the farmers across the nation. He alleged that Modi is bent on handing over power supply to the private sector through the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022. BKU and SKM would oppose this move as this would adversely affect the farming sector. It is significant that SKM has incorporated campaign against the Centre's Agnipath armed forces recruitment scheme. This has caught the imagination of the rural youth in a large scale against the manipulative policies

of the Modi government. Though youths had participated in the earlier phase of the agitation, this time their participation has been quite significant and large.

Notwithstanding the Modi government announcing the composition of the MSP committee only three days back, Modi has not inducted any representative of the farmer organisation in it. It primarily constitutes of the persons who practically do not possess the technical and practical knowhow of farming. Most of them are bureaucrats or organisations patronised by the RSS. The 28-member panel is headed by former agriculture secretary Sanjay Agrawal

Intriguingly the terms of reference make no mention of the farmers' demand for an MSP guarantee law. The sources maintain that the Samyukta Kisan Morcha has been asked to send three members to the committee. With yet another SKM coming on the scenario, the Modi government is contemplating to have only one representation from the original SKM. Obviously the SKM will have no say.

Interestingly announcement has come just after the split within the SKM last week. However, representatives on both groups are unhappy with the announcement of the committee as it falls way short of their demand for a MSP guarantee law. SKM (Original) leaders say that they were apprehending this move. This was primarily the reason that they did not send names for inclusion in the committee. Some farmers leaders questioned the rationale of the formation of the committee as Modi as Gujarat chief minister had submitted a recommendation in writing to the UPA government in 2012, seeking an MSP guarantee law. The duplicity of the BJP regime continues unabated.

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Kejriwal and Sisodia challenging Narendra Modi in Gujarat polls

SUSHIL KUTTY

Delhi's New York Times-accredited Education Minister Manish Sisodia is the latest cult figure to invade our minds. And whoever knew Manish Sisodia is a "kshatriya" kept the secret to himself, which was fine because now that we all know, we can look down at the Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, who, if the almanacs are not wrong, is lower down in the caste-tree; most definitely a "Vaishya".

How that's going to help the Aam Aadmi Party win Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh isn't clear, but AAP supreme and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wants his deputy Chief minister to get the Bharat Ratna. The point to make is, caste will not exit the Indian psyche. And if we thought, Jawaharlal Nehru University would help in the annihilation of caste, we must have been "to the Brahmin born!"

For, these days of continued reservations, if any caste feels rightly or wrongly oppressed, it is the Brahmin. The other day, JNU Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit said that "anthro-

pologically, scientifically...please look at the origins of our gods. No god is a Brahmin. The highest is a Kshatriya. Lord Shiva must be a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe. Because he sits in a cemetery with a snake...they have given him very little clothes to wear. I don't think Brahmins can sit in the cemetery. So, if you see, clearly, the gods anthropologically do not come from the upper caste."

The fact is, social media is full of Brahmin sob stories, which aren't very different from Dalit and other oppressed sob stories. Brahmins lament their descent into poverty and joblessness. Feeling sorry for the impoverished Brahmin comes easy. The Brahmins' hurt pride after centuries of inherited superiority is a thing to watch. There are awfully rich and entitled Brahmins, but the odd beaten Brahmin we come across brings tears to the eyes of some people.

We are told that the Bharatiya Janata Party is the party of the Brahmins, and then somebody comes along and corrects that with "the BJP is the party of the Baniya"! Of all the cruelest jokes played on the Brahmin, this one takes the



plum. The UP-assembly elections earlier this year saw everybody, from Mayawati to Akhilesh Yadav, saying that the Brahmin vote will decide who will rule UP. But when the results rolled out, the kingmaker was the Muslim "Iaabarthi", a brand-new sub-caste bought over to the BJP's side with free rations and the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana.

Let's congratulate ourselves for the many ways and means we find to win elections. The next round of elections will be in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, with the Aam Aadmi Party promising to give tough battle to the BJP in Modi's home state, Gujarat. And while freebies will engage the

voters, Gujarati "asmita" wouldn't lag. That said, if anybody thinks caste will not have its say that person must be an outcaste! The Gujarati may look like they're a consolidated company, but they're as caste ridden as the Swiss cheese is riddled with holes! Ask Hardik Patel.

The other day Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, the New York Times favourite child, declared that he was a "Kshatriya", and with Sisodia's current popularity rivaling that of Kshatriya king Maharana Pratap, Arvind Kejriwal and the AAP consider Gujarat already theirs for keeps; another sweep for the broom-vroom party.

Every election has its USP. Gujarat's USP will be SOP, and Modi's standard operating procedure in Gujarat is to hark to Gujarati Pride. With Modi's 'Gujarat Model' running the risk of being beaten hollow by the 'Freebie Model' of Delhi and Punjab, the BJP will have to look to every trick in the trade. The last time during an assembly election the BJP felt cornered, and Modi was called "neech", Modi invoked "Gujarati Pride". The BJP that time

slipped through the cracks for a slender victory.

This time round, the foe is younger, and hardier, and not loathe to play fast and dirty. Kejriwal's freebie model is a powerful crowd-puller, and the man behind the muffer, a self-proclaimed "anarchist". Add "Kshatriya" to the "anarchist" and all you need is a bagful of freebies with the clean-cut features of a Raghav Chadda on the bag to sell Delhi and Punjab to Gujarat! The Aam Aadmi Party even if it becomes the main opposition party in the Gujarat assembly would be a victor.

The BJP-AAP fight for Gujarat is being fought in Delhi. And for some reason, Kejriwal has given charge of the army to Manish Sisodia. Don't be surprised if Sisodia isn't named AAP's chief ministerial face for Gujarat a la Bhagwant Mann for Punjab. Therefore, the Modi Government's total onslaught on Sisodia, the complete focus on obliterating Sisodia's standing, his character assassination given to the central agencies, the Kshatriya who could be the giant assassin in Gujarat 2022.

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# CHINA ON A FAST TRACK TO INCREASE ITS STRATEGIC HOLD IN INDIAN OCEAN ZONE

ANJAN ROY

China is tightening its grip and strategic strangle hold around India faster than perceived earlier. But, at the same time, Chinese move can bring about radical changes in security alignments in the Indian sub-continent. In its hurry to gain dominance over the entire area around India, China is demanding more and more access and presence in countries surrounding India. China has asked Pakistan to concede land for setting up military outposts throughout Pakistan to guard its assets created under the Belt and Road Initiative, according to a recent report. This has put the Pakistani government and military authorities in a dilemma. The Chinese ambassador to Pakistan has already met the new prime minister and the defence heads to lay out the pans for defence outposts in the country. China has also asked for creation

of similar facilities in Afghanistan from the Taliban authorities, which apparently, they have refused outright. Conceding the Chinese requests for any number of military outposts in the name of guarding its economic interests in Pakistan would virtually mean bartering away its sovereignty and freedom of action. This will be a prelude to Pakistan going back into a neo-colonial status under China. China is further demanding facilities for setting up a military airbase in lands adjoining the Gwadar port and work relating to the airbase is nearing completion. The facility in southern Pakistan could become a huge headache for the Indian defence as well. As has been witnessed in Sri Lanka recently, China does not bother too much about the niceties of requests and permission from the host countries. It simply takes over and implement its requests unilaterally at its own choice. The Chinese have for example kept on cruising towards

Sri Lanka's Hambantota port, despite the latter's request for deferring the visit, and arrived in port on its own timing and terms. Real and forced concessions from Pakistan to China for these facilities would inevitably result in souring of their hitherto honey-sweet relationship. Already, attacks on Chinese expats in Pakistan, resulting in several deaths, have created a serious rift. These incidents have been grabbed by China to push ahead with establishment of military outposts around BRI projects in Pakistan. That might mean, China having military resources from the north of the country to its southern shores in the Arabian Sea. At any point, such extensive military presence in a country, which is financially bankrupt and caught in a debt trap to China, could imply a total take over in a flash. Chia can demand immediate payment of its financial dues and failure can mean capture. As things stand now with Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves at

the bottom of the barrel, China can cause a financial crash in Pakistan anytime it so wishes. The inconvenient fact is that Pakistan is in no position to honour its due debt repayments. China could then give effect to a seizure of all its assets from the control of the Pakistanis. Meanwhile, the Afghans are proving to be a tough nut to crack for the Chinese. The relations between the Chinese and the Afghan authorities have started becoming more suspicious already and Afghans are defiant towards the Chinese military. The Afghan Taliban has refused to hand over any of the Islamic Uyghur militants to the Chinese authorities and the Uighur militant bases are fully operational from Afghanistan. On the other hand, the Taliban is said to be favourable to the idea of sending their military personnel to India for field level training and exercises. There is no permanent friendship or enmity in diplomatic relations and the Taliban are open to the idea of cosyng up towards India

for developing strategic capabilities to ensure their operational freedom. Undeterred by any of these hiccups to its designs, China is of course using a long-term plan of developing critical bases all around to augment its military outreach in areas far away from home. China has sent its so-called research and scientific studies vessels Yuang Yuan in the Sri Lankan port of Hambantota. Some satellite pictures confirm that China's overseas naval station in Djibouti at the Horn of Africa is fully operational. The Djibouti base gives China unique presence in the whole of Indian Ocean. The Gwadar port in southern Pakistan is almost complete and it can offer base to Chinese navy and other military assets, including airbases as reported. That would be critical for China in its bid to dominate the Indian Ocean and even the Arabian sea, in addition to controlling the entry into the Red Sea which gives access to the European waters.

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## THOSE WHO COMMITTED CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY HAVE NO CASE FOR REMISSION

INDIRA JAISING

Rape is considered an impact crime. An impact crime is one which is committed not just against the person for who she is but also because of her community identity; in this case a community of women, a community of minorities. The crime impacts the community as a whole. Impact crimes have always stood on a different footing compared to crimes motivated by disputes such as property disputes, commercial disputes or even straightforward murder. In assessing the gravity of the crime, these factors are taken into consideration while sentencing, and surely must be taken into consideration at the stage of remission. On what yardstick is the remission granted to the persons who gang raped Bilkis Bano and killed her relatives, including her three-year-old daughter, to be judged? What is the context in which the crime occurred? Without an answer to this question, it will be difficult to arrive at any conclusion whether the grant of remission was justified or not.

On May 13 this year, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court delivered a judgment that ignored the binding precedent by a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court in Union of India versus V. Sriharan @ Murugan & Ors. (2015), according to which the test to find the appropriate government permitted to grant remission under Sections 432 and 433 of the Criminal Procedure Code is to locate the state in which the accused was convicted and sentenced, and the government of that state would be the appropriate government. The division bench relied upon an irrelevant order of the Bombay High Court from 2013 dealing with the transfer of one of the convicts in the Bilkis Bano case from a jail in Maharashtra to a jail in Gujarat. Hence, the May 13 judgment holding that the Gujarat government was the appropriate government to consider the remission, is liable to be declared per incuriam.

It is sad that today, the apologists of the remission are relying on the judgment of the Supreme Court passed on May 13 this year rather than the statutory law. The Supreme Court merely sent the matter to the government to decide on the application of remission. "To decide" implies a decision in accordance with the law. Before one gets lost in the legalese and the notorious loopholes which threaten to swallow the very law they proclaim, let us remember that this is above all a moral issue. An immoral decision cannot get the support of the law.

What is even more surprising is the fact that the petitioner in the Supreme Court matter had earlier approached the High Court of Gujarat, and the high court had correctly held that the appropriate government to grant remission was the Maharashtra government. When his petition was filed in the Supreme Court, the Gujarat High Court order, passed in 2019, remained unchallenged, yet it has been set aside by the Supreme Court through its judgment dated May 13.

Once again, to say the least, this is in complete violation of the principle laid down by a nine-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court in Naresh Shridhar Mirajkar & Ors. versus State Of Maharashtra & Anr. (1966), to the effect that a judicial order cannot be challenged under Article 32 of the Constitution.

However, I wish to come back to my original question: what yardstick is the remission to be judged on? There is hardly any doubt about the fact that the gravity of the offence is a factor to be taken into consideration. But when one talks about the gravity of the offence, one is immediately reminded of the context in which the offence occurred, namely the context of crimes against humanity that occurred in 2002 in Gujarat.

An entire community was targeted with communal violence. No less than nine clusters of murders in nine different districts of Gujarat were investigated by a special investigative team set up by the Supreme Court, and many have been convicted of having committed mass murders. The rape of Bilkis Bano and the murders of her family members formed part of this coordinated response in the post-Godhra carnage in Gujarat. Hence, Bilkis Bano's gang rape cannot be seen as an isolated crime by a group of individual criminals, but one committed as part of a coordinated strategy of an attack with intent to eliminate a minority community.

It is worth mentioning that sexual violence, when it occurs in this context, has been categorised as a crime against humanity by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Although India is not a party to the Rome statute, the statute draws on customary international law and humanitarian law to formulate crime and punishment. The remission, therefore, must be considered as the remission of mass murderers, who set out to eradicate a minority community. The gang rape of Bilkis Bano and the murder of her family members must be looked at from this perspective as to whether there is a case for remission, and the answer must be a loud and resounding No.

Some have argued that all persons have a right to remission. This is, strictly speaking, not true. Under any dispensation of law, remission is not an indefeasible right, but a matter for the State or the executive to decide from case to case. When the jail committee recommends the remission of the accused person in this case, who is stated to have undergone a sentence of 15 years and four months, what it is in effect doing is condoning a crime against humanity. Whispers have been heard that after all they were Brahmins and well-behaved prisoners, and hence remission is required to be given since they were doing their duty by their religion. Such blatant defiance of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the right to non-discrimination, based on religion, caste, and sex has not been seen in our country before and must be condemned.

On the question of length of incarceration, once again, the Rome statute provides guidance. It states in its Article 77 that a person convicted of crimes against humanity can be made to undergo a sentence of up to 30 years. Even considering that remission is possible, the question is why was it felt necessary to release them in 15 years and four months, rather than allowing them to complete at least 30 years.

After all, the crimes for which they were convicted were punishable with death, but they were given life imprisonment. The Supreme Court has held that life imprisonment means imprisonment for the remainder of one's natural life. If an exception to this rule is made out, we must surely know the reasons for the same, especially when it is in relation to crimes against humanity, by the very State in which the crimes have occurred.

Not only does the release send out a signal – a dog whistle – that it is okay to kill and rape people of the minority community, it also has a devastating impact on Bilkis Bano herself, who has expressed the fear that her life and her family members' lives are in danger.

The sooner the remission is challenged, the better for our commitment to the morality of democracy, which is the constitutional morality courts too are expected to follow.

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COURTESY: THE LEAFLET

## Higher education is very important in society



VIJAY GARG

The development of any country is closely related to the development of its people. A country has progressed and progressed on the path of development only when it has adequate means of research and research at the level of higher education. Administrative thinker Peter Drucker had said decades ago that in times to come, the knowledge society will become more competitive than any other society in the world. The level of prosperity of a country will be judged by the level of education there. changing globalIn perspective, now the world will also decide on this assessment that what is the level of research and research of the leading country. It is worth mentioning that the medium of education, research and extension work is the medium of fulfillment of these three objectives, whereas the knowledge of mankind, culture and society is governed by research. According to UNESCO, the creative work

done in a planned manner to increase the store of knowledge is called research and development. If seen, higher education is very important in a knowledge driven economy and learning society.. As far as vocational education and vocational training is concerned, its demand has increased over the last few decades. The New Education Policy 2020 is also imbued with similar sentiments. One of the questions that emerges regarding higher education is whether the various institutions of higher education and knowledge are changing according to the situation in the midst of rapidly changing developments in the world scenario? And secondly, is the country able to reap the great benefits of education being a technology? Similar questions have been emerging on the mind about research and research. So there are some questions that relevant in the context of India. For example, what is the status of India's research and development in today's scientifically competitive world? Why is India lagging behind countries like China and Japan in terms of research work? What is the obstacle in India's progress in research and development which is stopping the wheel of research? It is noteworthy that initially the transfer of knowledge creation in vari-

ous universities was on the basis of global learning and global sharing. Due to marketism, education increased quantitatively and privately It also developed in institutions, but in terms of quality, it became weak. It was from here that the wheel of progress of higher education and the research involved in it began to slow down. There is no doubt that the challenges before India in the field of research and development have increased. Research shows that about five decades ago, more than fifty percent of scientific research was conducted in universities. Not only this, universities were also seen as bastions of higher education and research centers. But at present, the situation is now only till the distribution of titles. appears limited. A major reason behind this is also the lack of availability of funds for research. Along with this, there is also less involvement of youth in research and more involvement in other fields. In the case of women, it would not be irrational to say that access to higher education is the biggest achievement for them. Barring achievements in a few selected areas, India's position on the global stage in research and research does not appear to be strong. At present, the number of people pursuing higher education in

the country is more than 40 million in all formats.. The number of all types of universities is also more than a thousand. There are more than forty thousand colleges. Apart from this, many government and private research institutions can also be seen. The sooner it is understood that research suggests such a scientific way of development in a proper, sure and estimating and predictable way, by which it is possible to strengthen not only the inclusive structure of the country, but also the face of self-reliant India. can be achieved. The development of any country is closely related to the development of its people. any country It has progressed on the path of development and can grow only when it has adequate means of research and research at the level of higher education. In research and innovation, India spends only 0.7 percent of its total GDP, while the US has a comparative advantage with 2.8 percent and China with 2.1 percent. Not only this, countries like Israel and South Korea spend more than four percent of the total GDP on research related activities. If we look at the inclusive spending of America and China from the point of view of research, then fought the trade war and diplomatic Apart from this, there is also heavy competition in

both the countries regarding research and higher education. China has overtaken the US in publishing research and in higher education. If we look at the report of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Japan, it is clear that China has the largest share in the number of research papers published all over the world. It is followed by America and Germany. Significantly, between 2018 and 2022, China published 27.2 percent of research papers, while the same figure in the US is 24.9 percent.The report also reflects that while China is doing the most research in engineering, mathematics, materials science, the US is doing the most research in basic life sciences and physical sciences. Due to lagging behind China, the US has decided to spend two hundred US dollars in the next ten years to strengthen its research work. Now let's talk about India. India's global position in research is not good. This is the reason due to which the benefit of research is not available to the public. Unless research costs increase Till then the ground reality will remain something else. Considering the global situation of knowledge and research, India also needs to increase efforts for research. However, talk of setting up a National Research Founda-

tion has already been made. With its establishment, all the ministries need to cooperate more with IITs in the field of science and research. To put it bluntly, higher education and research are such shining words, if they are rubbed in better ways, then India's shine will never fade in the world. higher education and research They are the backbone of the progress of the nation. Research plays an important role in higher education. In other words, both are complementary to each other. If the combination of higher education and research takes a comparative edge with the slogan Jai Anusandhan, then along with inclusive development, good governance will also get a boost. However, India ranks seventy-seven in the Global Innovation Index, followed by Switzerland at first, the US at sixth and China at seventeenth. Low-density countries such as the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK and Singapore are second in terms of innovation, respectively., third, fourth and fifth place. That is why educationist Professor Yashpal had said that educational institutions which do not pay attention to research and its quality, they can neither do good to education nor to society.

Vijay Garg is a Retired Principal Malout Punjab

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

Both SSP Suram Singh CO JKAP 6th BN and Adjutant SPM Farooq Khan are great lovers of nature's!

'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!'

Once you understand and appreciate nature's beauty and complexity, you can protect it and get the most from it.'!

Probably by nature, Suram Singh believes in one fact and that is, a tree sings to us with her beauty and her love. It is our responsibility to listen to her music!

'This is what the SPP& SP duo 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 standards 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 heftily here!



# Commissioner Secretary Forest visits SMVDSB, Katra; reviews management of forest area under the Shrine

KATRA, August 23: A meeting was held today at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra to review the management of forest area under the Shrine chaired by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Dr. T. S. Ashok, Director, Soil and Water Conservation; Navneet Singh, Addl. Chief Executive Officer, Regional Director, Social Forestry, Joint. Director, Soil Conservation; Ajay Salaan, Asst. Chief Executive Officer; Vinay Khajuria, ACF SMVDSB and other officers from the State Forest Department attended the meeting.

CEO, SMVDSB informed that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has been devoting high attention to conserve the environment and ecology and carry out the greening of Trikuta Hills and the spaces along the tracks leading to the Shrine. In addition, a large-scale afforestation being undertaken by the Shrine Board under its Greening Action Plan, the Board's forest wing is also enforcing various

measures to effectively prevent forest fires, as per scientifically approved practices which include creation of fire lines, removal of lantana weed from the affected areas and ensuring strict vigil on the ground during the potential fire season by deploying a sufficient number of fire watchers in the sensitive sectors.

Besides, a multi pronged approach has been adopted by Forest Wing of Shrine Board for proper water management and promotion of water conservation through various activities and campaigns which includes construction of water harvesting ponds, DRSM (Dry Rubble Stone Masonry) and construction of vegetative check dam on Trikuta Hills slopes which is helping in recharging ground water and also serving as a feeding point for wildlife. Every year, the Shrine Forest wing has a target of more than 1.25 lakh quality seedlings to be planted. The hi-tech Nursery established by the Shrine Board at Kunia, Panthal produces 2.00 lakh quality plants of varied species to meet the

requirement of Annual Greening Plan. During the past 10 years 13.46



lakh plants have been planted by the Board as part of Greening of Trikuta Hills. CEO, SMVDSB also informed that as per the previous meeting held

with Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HoFF), under fire manage-

a pine needle briquettes machine will be procured shortly for the collection of pine needles for its appropriate disposal.

Commissioner Secretary emphasised Shrine Board to further increase the plant production at its nurseries which will also meet out the future requirement of State Forest Department. Besides, directed Department of soil and water conservation to prepare a holistic plan to conserve and improve the catchment area of Jajjar kotli khad.

It was advised that the said plan shall be formulated as per watershed basis with major emphasis on the interventions to be planned in the left ridge of the catchment area which has been degraded, fragmented, gullied due to high rate of soil erosion in the major drainage lines of the catchment which is seen on ground.

Approximately 150 to 200 hac of catchment area needs to be treated through major soil and water conservation measures like gully plugging, drsm wall, crib structures

, check dams at vulnerable areas along and across the minor and major gullies of the drainages.

It was advised that the said area shall be surveyed, then mapped as per watershed code and after proper ground survey the holistic plan shall be formulated.

Directions are imparted to other wings like dfo reasi, social forestry department to provide cooperation to the soil and water conservation deptt in preparation of the said plan.

The Commissioner Secretary desired that social forestry through DFO social forestry udhampur / reasi shall prepare land banks along the fringe areas of forest.

The said land banks be further divided into state land, community land, kacharai and pvt land through technological means and ground truthing so that a clear picture regarding the availability of land for social forestry activities like woodlot formation, block plantation units and agro forestry units can be planned in future.

## Fix target of employment generation for around 5 lakh youth: CS to Banks

Asks departments to carryout a mega employment drive in the month ahead

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today set for banks a target for generation of around 5 lakh employments for the youth of J&K.

He stressed on the banks to be socially more amenable by turning their focus to priority sector lending. He asked them not to focus on subsidy only but instead be the platforms to generate the gainful and sustainable employments.

Dr Mehta was speaking in a meeting to review the progress of Self Employment Schemes here in the UT.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Principal Secretary, SDD; Commissioner Secretary, L&E; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Secretary, Tribal Affairs; Secretary, Planning; Secretary, Tourism and YS&S; Secretary, IT; Secretary, Culture; Secretary, Agriculture; Director, Employment; representatives of different banks and many other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary impressed on all the banks to work towards saturation of Self Employment Schemes. He said that our motive should be to reach each out to every unemployed youth of the UT

and offer them opportunities.



nities for sustainable employment under various schemes.

Dr Mehta maintained that a lot of progress has been made in the past in each aspect of employment generation and making the whole process of lending financial assistance speedy and transparent. He advised them to work towards making the benefit reach every eligible person down there.

The Chief Secretary enquired about the proportion of artisans, weavers and other educated persons covered under different schemes meant for them. He stressed on extending loans as per actual guidelines without creating difficulties for the applicants. He also impressed on creating viable and sustainable units that are profitable for its hold-

Dr Mehta also asked the concerned departments to carryout a mega employment drive preferably in next month in each block so that awareness is created among all the prospective beneficiaries in rural and far flung areas. He advised them to culminate it at panchayat level simultaneously with 'Back to Village' program so that the coverage of beneficiaries percolates down to each panchayat.

He also reviewed the progress made under respective employment schemes extended by different departments and targets set for them earlier. He implored upon them to regularly review their progress and take instant measures for achieving their targets well on time.

The Chief Secretary was informed that under

PMEGP the Department of Industries & Commerce has cleared some 1379 cases sanctioning an amount of Rs 5669.00 lakhs with potential employment generation for 5291 persons. Similarly KVIB had cleared 4462 cases sanctioning Rs 9512.30 lakhs generating employment for more than 35000 persons.

Moreover it was revealed that JKRLM has sanctioned 5400 cases amounting Rs 10400.00 lakhs to 10800 beneficiaries. Under PMEGP (16931 cases), NRLM 2879 cases, NULM (871 cases), JKREGP (447 cases), PMWMY (482 cases), CCS for Artisans and Weavers (1312 cases) has been disbursed by the banks with a total amount of Rs 52580.92 lakhs, as was given out in the meeting.

The meeting was further appraised that the Departments of Labour & Employment, H&UD, Handicrafts & Handloom, Women Development Corporation has sponsored thousands of cases. In the same way many more cases were sponsored under Himayat and by JK SC, ST & OBC Corporation benefiting thousands of poor and marginalized people throughout the length and breadth of J&K.

## DC Srinagar chairs DLTFC meeting Approves cases under KVIB/REGP for Employment generation

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: A meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) which met here today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad gave approval to clear 30 cases under Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation programme (JKREGP) thereby providing loan amounting to several crores for eligible beneficiaries of the District to set up income generation Units.

The JKREGP scheme is being implemented by Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (J&K KVIB) to harness and divert the potential and enthusiasm of youth for establishment of productive enterprise in micro industrial sector and to create employment opportunities.

ties.

At the outset, the District Officer, KVIB Srinagar submitted 45 proposals for consideration of financial assistance from different banks to unemployed youth of the Srinagar District for setting up of income generating units including manufacturing & establishment of small units of Dairy, Sheep, Poultry, beekeeping, Shuttering, Sozni, grocery stores, Readymade garments, cutting and tailoring, etc.

The committee screened and scrutinised all the cases and approved 30 cases for credit linkage through financial institutions after thorough analysis of physical and financial viability of proposed projects and the entrepreneurial skills of the applicants. The units are expected to gen-

erate employment opportunities for over 150 youth in the District.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on the line Departments to bring more and more unemployed youth of Srinagar District under the ambit of government schemes launched to generate maximum employment avenues.

The DC also urged the unemployed youth to come forward and avail the benefits of flagship schemes and programmes to earn livelihood with dignity and honour.

The meeting was attended by Lead Bank Manager, Cluster Head JK Bank, Senior Principal TTI Srinagar, Principal, Government Polytechnic College, District Officer KVIB, besides other concerned officers.

## Distt. Admin. Srinagar provides immediate assistance to fire victims of Nund Reshi Colony Bemina

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, a team of District Administration, Srinagar today visited Nundreshi Colony sector A in Bemina area of the District to provide immediate

assistance to the fire victims whose residential houses were damaged in a massive fire incident on Monday.

The team assessed the damages caused due to the fire incident and expressed sympathy with the affected families on loss of property.

On the occasion an immediate assistance in the form of 30 blankets, 18 mattresses, 18 bed sheets and 6 kitchen sets, in addition Rs 30000 were also provided to all 06 affected families each Rs 5000 out of Red Cross of District Administration Srinagar.

## UNESCO Creative City: Director H&H reviews activities for promotion of crafts

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: The Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir today held a meeting focussed to review the progress of different activities undertaken for the promotion of the crafts post inclusion of Srinagar city in the UNESCO Creative Cities Networks in the field of Craft and Folk Art.

Stake holders, officers and all those involved in the provision of services to the art and craft sector participated in the meeting.

The Director Handicrafts & Handloom took review of the activities from the concerned officers and gave on the spot directions to gear up the departmental men and machinery to outshine as a model city in the field of art and craft.

It was informed that the department in the year 2020-21, disbursed an amount of Rs. 99.5 Lakh to the 199 Industrial Cooperative Societies and subsequently in the year 2021-22 an amount of Rs. 284.0 L was disbursed to 568 Industrial Cooperatives alone in District Srinagar. Under the Karkhandar Scheme meant for the

development of the Craft Sector an amount to the tune of 16.20 Lakh was in-

an amount of Rs. 650.74 Lakh was sanctioned in Srinagar during the year



curred on 5 Languishing crafts and 4 under other crafts in the Srinagar district to provide fresh impetus to the craft industry, especially to the languishing crafts.

Besides these the meeting was briefed that 46 elementary and 17 advance training centres are presently functional from the district. The department has recently introduced the export subsidy of 10% for the exporters registered with the department. Under the Artisan/Weaver Credit Card Scheme 723 cases were sponsored and

2021-22. Focussed on properly curated programmes to showcase the art and crafts of Srinagar, it was decided to achieve the approved decisions in a time bound manner.

Under the programme besides the skill upgradation and financial assistance to the artisans, the heritage house at Zainakadal/ Aalikadal vicinity of the City Centre is being converged into a craft centre for its adaptive reuse.

Two clusters viz a viz Crewel/Chain Stitch Craft Cluster at Noorbagh and

Paper Machie Craft Cluster at Zadibal have been set up covering 22 SHGs of 250 artisans.

It was decided in the meeting that a craft curated exhibition is likely to come up at Srinagar in the first week of October wherein the contemporary crafts of Srinagar shall be put on display. The scheduled exhibition shall be showcasing the rich, antique, contemporary and rare artefacts besides the craft stories shall be main focus of the programme.

Moreover, the department shall also host a photography exhibition depicting the craft scroll to live pivotal moments and provide a platform to understand the progression of the practice to connect with the craft community.

The Convener INTACH J&K Chapter who is a member of the programme also put forth his suggestions to take on board all the stakeholders to work in a tandem to acquire this unique opportunity in a manner that the benefits be reaped for the inhabitants of Kashmir valley in the long run.

## Justice Magrey inaugurates Mega free Health Camp at Tangnar in Doodhpathri

Donates Critical Care Ambulance to PHC Kachwari

BUDGAM, AUGUST 23: Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Judge High

Paul, SDM Khanshab, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Dr Lahoot Incharge CMO



Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman JK LSA today inaugurated a Mega Free Medical Camp at TRC Tangnar in Doodhpathri

He also donated an advanced life support ambulance which was donated by Elfa International, an NGO in collaboration with NTT Organization.

The camp was organized by District Legal Services Authority Budgam in collaboration with Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, where hundreds of patients availed free screening, medicines and schemes under Health.

Chairman DLSA, Mohammad Ashraf Malik, M. K Sharma Member Secretary JK LSA, Deputy Commissioner Budgam Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, SSP Tahir Salim, Anoop Sharma CPC e-courts, Malik Shabir Ahmad, DLSA Secretary, Fozia

Budgam, BMOs and officers were also present on the occasion.

During his presidential address, Justice Magrey lauded the role of organizers for holding the free medical camp and NGOs for donating the critical care ambulance with the aim to take health care services to the people living in remote areas at their doorsteps. He said that all officers including doctors should be proud to serve poor and marginalized people in remote areas.

Justice Magrey said that one should serve the society in all capacities and try to become voice of voiceless.

He said district legal services authorities has been creating mass awareness on drug de-addiction, providing free legal aid to the people through legal aid clinics and aware people of their rights in nook and corner of every district.

Justice Magrey also flagged-off a

Critical Care Ambulance with advanced life support system, donated by ELFA International and NTT Data for NTPHC Kachwari Khanshab.

On the occasion, Justice Magrey also distributed cheques and certificates among the eligible beneficiaries under Health scheme.

He also inspected various health stalls set up by the Health Department and interacted with patients.

During his welcome address, Chairman DLSA Mohammad Ashraf Malik appreciated civil Administration and health department for its all time support for organizing such events.

Speaking on the occasion, Member Secretary JK LSA, M.K Sharma expressed his gratitude to the organizers for holding this free medical camp to reach out to the people in far flung areas.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Budgam Shabir Ahmad Malik presented vote of thanks on the occasion.

The programme was moderated by Secretary DLSA Fozia Paul, where renowned local artists like nukkad naatak and ladishah performed to create awareness about health and legal services.

BMO Budgam, A.G Raina, CEO ELFA International, Mehran Khan and CSA, CSR Dr. Sadaf Shah also spoke on the occasion. Chief Judicial Magistrate Budgam Shabir Ahmad Malik presented vote of thanks on the occasion.

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BMO Budgam, A.G Raina, CEO ELFA International, Mehran Khan and CSA, CSR Dr. Sadaf Shah also spoke on the occasion.

## Six weeks Entrepreneurship Skill Development programme starts at Bagtore, Gurez

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 23: In order to develop the border village Kan-zalwan Nayil Bagtore block under Vibrant Village Program of GoI, Six weeks Entrepreneurship Skill development programme on fashion designing/ cutting and stitching commenced here, today.

The programme has been organised by MSME Development and Facilitation office Srinagar under Ministry of MSME with the support of local administration and JK NRLM.

During the Inauguration, Asst Director Ministry of MSME Saheel Alaqband said that this is the first of its kind programme started in the border village with the focus to ensure entrepreneurship development

in micro sector.

As road connectivity remains cut-off from Kashmir valley for majority portion of the year, such entrepreneurship skill development programme will prove helpful in ensuring livelihood for the women while being at home even during winters, he added.

He said, other concerned departments have been directed by their heads to make comprehensive action plans under Vibrant Village Program to develop the border village.

Alaqqband said, despite hurdles like transportation, electricity etc., the program has been conducted within the village only so that participants are trained properly and also in fu-

ture other concerned departments may also provide skill development within the village itself.

The inaugural programme was joined by sarpanch and panch of the area. As per them, such programs were initiated in Dawar and it was not possible for the people of this region to join due to many limitations. Such programmes should be frequently conducted here so that development is ensured, demanded they.

25 women participants have joined the six week long Entrepreneurship skill development program. The inaugural programme was joined by sarpanch and panch of the area. As per them, such programs were initiated in Dawar.



# Div Com Jammu reviews implementation of Industries & Commerce Department schemes

## Calls for resolving land issues, expeditious development of Industrial Estates

JAMMU, AUGUST 23: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar today reviewed the implementation of schemes and programmes of Industries and Commerce Department here at a meeting with concerned officers.

Director Industries and Commerce Department, Anoo Malhotra; Managing Director SIDCO, Samita Sethi; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta; besides General Managers of District Industries Centres were present in the meeting.

The Director Industries gave a powerpoint presentation and apprised the Div Com that the department acts as the nodal agency for development of industrial sector and to implement Central and



UT industrial policies through District Industrial Centres (DICs) and facilitates entrepreneurs in setting-up and running their industrial units. “The main focus is on the promotion and Development of Industries to encourage new investments in Jammu Division and sustain existing ones” she

said.

It was informed that there are 24 industrial estates in Jammu division, 19 managed by SICOP and 5 by SIDCO. While giving details of registered industrial units, it was informed that 13550 including 2397 organised sector and 11153 un-organized sector units have been registered with

the department with a potential to generate employment for 87678 persons.

It was further informed that 182 units including 164 in organised sector and 18 in unorganized sector were registered during the current financial year 2022-23 ending 07/ 2022, generating 2006 jobs.

The meeting was informed that development of 7 new industrial estates has been proposed in the districts of Division.

The Div Com also took stock of the land acquisition issues for new Industrial Estates. He asked the Industries department to take up the matter with the concerned Deputy Commissioners for timely acquisition and demarcation of land for newly developed industries es-

tates.

The Div Com passed directions for resolving land issues and expediting development of Industrial estates in the region. He emphasized on streamlining the Single Window Clearance and ensuring smooth and hassle free services under all the schemes, besides ensuring facilities like road connectivity, water, power supply etc and to facilitate investors.

About the land allotment and investment status, the meeting was informed that 521 entrepreneurs, including 406 of SIDCO and 115 of SICOP, proposing 44150 jobs, have been allotted 4647 Kanal.

It was further informed that main schemes implemented by the Department focus on promotion.

# Prosthetic aid assessment camp conducted at Kissan Kendra Jammu

## Director Agriculture hails organisers for noble initiative

JAMMU, AUGUST 23: A Prosthetic aid assessment camp was today organized by Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan Basohli here at Kisan Kendra, Jammu.

In the camp measurements of limbs of people affected by polio and those who lost their legs due to diabetes, accidents etc were taken.

Director Agriculture Jammu, K.K Sharma was the special guest on the occasion. He said that many times the physical obstacles result in the mental hurdles and life virtually stops. “The aids like artificial limbs will encourage physically challenged people to lead a normal life” he said. “ Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan Basohli has taken a great initiative to empower the differently-abled” he said.

Shakti Pathak, Director of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan Basohli, said that the camp targets to install artificial legs and arms to 150 to 200 PwDs and so far 90 beneficiaries have been registered. He said they have planned to host another camp for the differently-abled persons of Kathua and Basohli on August 25, 2022. The timing of measurement will be from 9 am to 5 pm.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, member of the



institute, told that artificial limbs of the Divyangs registered today will be prepared and distributed among the beneficiaries at Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan Basohli and Kisan Kendra, Gole Pul-i Talab Tillo, Jammu on 17th September at 10 am. Shakti Pathak, Director of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan Basohli, said that the camp targets to install artificial legs and arms to 150 to 200 PwDs and so far 90 beneficiaries have been registered. He said they have planned to host another camp for the differently-abled persons of Kathua and Basohli on August 25, 2022. The timing of measurement.

# Horticulture Department organises farmers' awareness camp at Kanthi

RAMBAN, AUGUST 23: Horticulture Department on Monday organised an awareness camp here at Panchayat Kanthi of block Ramban to discuss and implement different schemes of the Horticulture sector in the district under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Chief Horticulture Officer, Anil Kumar Gorka, along with technocrats of the Horticulture Department conducted the awareness and demonstration sessions in the presence of Sarpanch, Kanthi, Kirti Lata, PRIs and about 60 farmers of the area.

At the outset, the CHO discussed the schemes of the department like UT Capex Budget, PFME, NHB, NABARD and processing units under Capex etc. the emphasis was laid on the development of private sector nurseries and availing benefits of the schemes besides creating entrepreneurship

opportunities for youth by producing quality planting material which can further be utilized by the beneficiaries while implementing Area Expansion Components.

The Chief Horticulture Officer also laid thrust on the cultivation of Strawberry in order to avail subsidies and earn a high income from this cash crop. The Awareness Camp was aimed to acquaint the farmers with the latest technologies being used in orchards.

Meanwhile, the District Level Subject Matter Specialist (Pomology) Ramban Pardeep Gupta elaborated the schemes in detail and requested to harvest good profits by implementing the CSS through various kinds of project proposals that are to be approved by the GOI departments.

Later, the Farm Manager, ACHD Ramban, Virinder Kumar discussed the Bud-

ding/Grafting techniques and production of quality planting material by the beneficiaries themselves. He also invited the farmers at Farm to watch the techniques adopted in the Farm on the basis of “Seeing is believing”.r, Anil Kumar Gorka, along with technocrats of the Horticulture Department conducted the awareness and demonstration sessions in the presence of Sarpanch, Kanthi, Kirti Lata, PRIs and about 60 farmers of the area.

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# Anganwadi workers, helpers held Zonal Meeting of Zone K.B.Pora



Farooq Rather

Kulgam, 23-Aug: Anganwadi workers, Helpers today held meeting of Zone K.B.Pora. The meeting was attended by Mir Haneefa State President, State Cashier Zamrooda, Project President Zahida Zargar, and other Anganwadi leaders. On the occasion Uzma Arshid was elected as Zonal President, Ruby Jan as Vice Presiden and Ruby Jan as Secretary. While addressing the workers,helpers Mir Haneefa State President said the wages of workers, helpers are pending since last so many months. She said that the cen-

tral share of their wages for several months is yet to be released. The administrative apathy towards genuine issues of workers,helpers is against justice as they are being denied social security benefits including promotion, gratuity, pension, provident fund and medical facilities etc. She urged the administration to fix the seniority of workers, helpers and conduct DPC as was done earlier for promotion strictly as per seniority, regular payment of rent and monthly charges for mobiles may be provided and outstanding payments released at the earliest.

# DDC Rajouri reviews functioning of Handloom, Handicrafts & Floriculture departments

RAJOURI AUGUST 23: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today reviewed the functioning of the Handloom, Handicrafts and Floriculture departments here at a meeting of the concerned officers.While reviewing the functioning of the Handloom and Handicrafts sector, the DDC took stock of the progress regarding the loan cases sanctioned and sponsored so far.

The skills training imparted to weavers and registration of weavers in the district was also reviewed.The DDC stressed on the need to generate mass awareness about the schemes launched by the Handicrafts and Handloom sector. “There is an impending need to educate the Weavers and Artisans about the skill up-gradation and soft lending schemes to enable them to improve the quality of their products and



compete in the market” the DC said. The DDC also called for GI tagging of the Rajouri district's Chikri wood craft.Taking stock of the functioning of the Floriculture sector, he asked to sensitise farmers and youth about the huge scope of flower cultivation on a commercial scale.The youth need to be encouraged to take advantage of the viable and flourishing Floriculture sector, he asserted.The meeting also held threadbare discussion on the maintenance

of gardens and parks, proposals for development of new parks in the town and other related matters.

It was informed that there are two parks in the district including Children Park and Brigadier Usman Park at Bella colony. The DDC also asked to set up open Gym facilities for the youth at Children Park and directed the concerned officer from the Floriculture Department to formulate a DPR for the establishment of a Tulip Garden.

# Food Safety DFCO Doda Holds Mela Of Online Registration And Licences in Block Ghat

Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhadarwah, Aug 23: For the implementation of FSSAI, rules and regulations 2006, a mela for on the spot generation of Registrations and licenses was held in Block Ghat today.The mela witnessed the presence of the Departments like Education, Social welfare, ICDS & locals as per the guidelines of the Higher Authorities of the Department. During the mela, announcement was made on mic in the markets for Food Business Operators to get their establishments registered under FSSAI through on the spot online portal. During this mela, 22 registrations were generated on the spot & upon conversion of one licence was handed over to the Food Business Operators at the venue. All Food Business Operators, Consumers, Customers & general public was imparted with Awareness of RUFO,Food Fortification & Eat Right initiatives.Food Safety Officer I/C Block Ghat advised the shopkeepers to get their Registrations & licenses displayed on the prominent places of the Establishments covered under the FSS Act. Besides this, the lectures regarding improvement in the pattern of sale including packing, Labelling, maintenance of Hygienic practices.

# DDC Udhampur inaugurates 3-day Historic Sankri Devta Mela

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 23: District Development Commissioner Udhampur, Kritika Jyotsna today inaugurated 3-day historic Sankri Devta Mela amidst beating of drums and festivity in Village Meer Tehsil Panchari of district Udhampur.

DDC Member, Jasvir Singh; BDC Panchari, Jeevan Sharma; ASP Udhampur, Anwar UI Haq; Executive Engineer, JPDCL, Javed Hussain; Mela Office Tehsildar Panchari, Vipin Kumar and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC Udhampur congratulated the mela committee for making elaborate arrangements for the grand Mela.

Holding of Sankri Mela after two years due to COVID-19 pandemic will go a long way to attract the tourists to the region and help to boost local economy, she said.

She appreciated the local students, who participated in various games and cultural programmes and wished them a successful career in life. The DDC said that the Government of India has launched scores of schemes

for the welfare of the general public and appealed to the

regarding different schemes. The DDC called upon the

district administration for extending full support for



gathering to come forward and avail the same.

After inaugurating the mela, the DDC took a round of stalls installed by the Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Health, Tourism, RDD for generating mass awareness

officers to put in sincere and dedicated efforts to make the general public aware about the different Central and UT Government sponsored schemes, tailored especially for upliftment of rural people.

The DDC member Panchari-Moungri thanked the

organizing the mela. He said that pilgrims, tourists and people of all beliefs come from different places of the district and outside the UT to be a part of the mela.

Earlier, the DDC Udhampur also paid obeisance at the Sankri Devta Temple and prayed for the peace and

prosperity of the people of the district.

District administration has made elaborate arrangements for smooth conduct of the Mela like uninterrupted power, safe drinking water, sanitation, medicare, Police Control Room, Assistance Booth and security.

Sankri mela Committee thanked the district administration for the support and help to organize such a mega event.

A number of temporary sweet shops, toy shops and small eateries established by the locals as well as outside vendors were the main attraction for the general public.

On the occasion, the Youth Services and Sports Department Udhampur organized rural sports and cultural activities with the involvement of school students of the area. After inaugurating the mela, the DDC took a round of stalls installed by the Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Health, Tourism, RDD for generating mass awareness regarding different schemes.

The DDC called upon the officers to put in sincere and dedicated efforts to make the general public aware about the different Central and UT Government sponsored schemes, tailored especially for upliftment of rural people.

The DDC member Panchari-Moungri thanked the district administration for extending full support for organizing the mela. He said that pilgrims, tourists and people of all beliefs come from different places of the district and outside the UT to be a part of the mela.

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Sankri mela Committee thanked the district administration for the support and help to organize such a mega event.

# CSIR-IIIM In Collaboration With 'JK Aroma' Organises Workshop On "Floriculture Mission" For Farmers At Bhadarwah

Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhadarwah, Aug 23: In order to double the income and bring about value addition of the products of farmers, CSIR-IIIM, Ministry of Science and Technology organised today an interactive workshop on challenges, interventions and opportunities for farmers under “Floriculture mission”. The program/workshop was held in Lal Ded Auditorium of Bhadarwah campus in which entrepreneurs and farmers took part.

“It is the first program after 2020 which is being organised here at Bhadarwah under Floriculture Mission. The main purpose of this program is to divert the farmers from conventional farming thereby switching over to cultivation of flowering plants of diverse specifications,” said Touqeer Bagwan MD JK Aroma adding, “ it is the dream of Prime Minister to increase the income of the farmers

three times to five times and success in this sector can be achieved only by resorting to

through this ambitious self employment venture said that there is an ample scope



value addition system and all farmers and stakeholders are through this platform requested to come forward and avail themselves of this profit giving facility.

On this occasion, Senior Scientist CSIR-IIIM Dr Shahid Rasool while delivering a lecture on the importance of utilising the field of Floriculture for generating income

for young entrepreneurs to find job and tide over to new exploration leaving the traditional farming which does not give the desired dividends to them as is expected, he added.

“the scope of tapping the high value crop selection can give high returns from small land holding. Farmers must come forward and take the

benefit of the scheme under “Floriculture Mission.” Dr Rasool further said. He also observed that raising of hybrid seedlings, establishment of demo units, module of crop selection, propagation and linkage of flowers produce to the floral industry is the key for sustainable entrepreneurship development.

The event also witnessed farmers from different interest groups volunteering for making their land available for floriculture purposes as sponsored by Central Govt Schemes for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prominent dignitaries who were present in the workshop included DDC chairman Dhananther Singh Kotwal, Vice Chairman DDC Sangeeta Rani Bhagat, Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Pal Mahajan, SSP Doda Ab Qayoom, ADC Dil Mir Choudhary, ASP Bhadarwah Aftab Alam Mir and other stakeholders

# DM Writes To SSP Poonch For 'Proper' Investigation Into Woman's Alleged Murder Last Week

M S Nazki

Poonch, Aug 23 District Magistrate Poonch has written a communication to SSP Poonch, directing proper investigation into the alleged murder of a woman in Surankote area of this mountainous district last week.The communication followed a representation by one Asif Khan, son of the woman, who has alleged “hush up” and sought postmortem and initiation of legal action against the accused persons.

“One Mr. Asif Khan son of Mohammad Sharief Khan of Village Buffleaz, Tehsil Surankote, District Poonch appeared before the undersigned with representation alleging that his mother namely Masooma Begum has been brutally murdered by some persons (names mentioned in the representation) on 18-08-2022,” reads the communication sent to the SSP by the District Magistrate Poonch. “When her dead body was found in the evening she was buried without any effective legal action to hush up the



things.The representation contains a detailed explanation of events. He has requested for conducting post mortem of the deceased and initiating legal action,” the communication, a copy of which lies with HT reads further, adding, “The matter is of serious nature and needs to be investigated properly.”Subsequently the District Magistrate said: “As such you are requested to examine the issue and take appropriate necessary.

# Youth Action Committee Delegation Meets Deputy Commissioner Doda, Submits Memorandum

Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhadarwah, Aug 23:A delegation of “ Youth Action Committee Bhadarwah” under the leadership of its chairman Naseer Mehboob met Deputy Commissioner Doda here today.The delegation presented a memorandum to the DC Doda which contained the demands such as repatriation of ENT specialist to SDH Bhadarwah and posting of a Surgeon specialist.The delegation while expressing extreme surprise put forth that SDH Bhadarwah is deficient of doctors and other paramedical staff which is immensely affecting the healthcare of the general public and for this reason the patients under emergency conditions are left to the mercy of God.Deputy Commissioner Doda however, issued directions on the spot for acceding the demands and asked the health authorities to step up the medicare facilities in SDH Bhadarwah for the convenience of the general public.

Volunteers of NGO and locals accompanied the delegation.



## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## TWO PAK

of the area on this morning. The latest infiltration bid in Naushera sector comes close on the heels of the arrest of a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) guide, who also worked for an intelligence unit of the Pakistani army, in an injured condition on Sunday. Tabarak Hussain (32), a resident of Sabzkot village of Kotli in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), was arrested for the second time in the past six years while trying to infiltrate into this side from across the border.

## LG

same powerpacked performance in future as well. The Lt Governor also hoped that sportsmen from Jammu and Kashmir would continue to bring laurels to India through their magical performance in upcoming sports events. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Tourism Sarmad Hafeez said over 1200 sportspersons from 35 states of the country have arrived here to participate in the tournament. He said that he feels happy to see sports personalities from across India having arrived here to further hone skills of local sportsmen from Jammu and Kashmir whose ‘phenomenal’ performance enthralled audience on both national and international front. “I am overwhelmed to see maga participation as sportspersons from across the country have arrived here to further hone the skills of our talented youth, over 1200 sportsmen from 35 states have participated in the tournament. I hope these sports veterans would become a source for inspiration for our youth,” Hafeez told reports. The Tourism Secretary also praised the Table Tennis Association and Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council for organizing this tournament in which sportspersons from across India have participated. “LG administration focuses on more and more sports activities to be held here and provide a chance to our talented youth to excel in different sports activities. Sports veterans having arrived here to participate have played many big tournaments and have brightened up the name of the country on both national and international front,” he added.

## YATRA

the development of various areas of Ganderbal would be addressed promptly. “Greater devolution of funds, functions and functionaries has empowered PRIs and brought transparency through decentralized planning and effective monitoring”, he added. On the occasion, former MLA Ishfaq Jabbar expressed gratitude towards LG led UT administration for addressing several public central issues which were hanging fire for many years. He also put forth demands regarding job opportunities for locals in Zojila Tunnel Project and at the newly established Central University Kashmir in Ganderbal, appointing specialist doctors and strengthening of staff at district hospital Ganderbal, veterinary dispensaries in rural areas, four laning of Ganderbal roads, development of Manasbal lake with avenues of water sports and paragliding, besides other issues of public welfare. Several other speakers also put forth issues and demands of their respective areas including removal of encroachments, installation of street lights, establishing a Degree College and SBI Branch at Lar etc. The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to all the issues and demands put forth by various speakers on the occasion. The Lt Governor observed that the UT administration is steadfast in ensuring holistic, equitable and balanced development of each and every region of Jammu and Kashmir and assured them that their genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned sections of the administration for redressal. The Lt Governor called for maximum awareness among masses regarding various training and financial assistance programs and initiatives started under Mission Youth which offers livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunities. He also appealed to the members of delegation to join the fight against drug abuse in the society. Nuzhat Ishfaq, DDC Chairperson, Ganderbal; Hilal Ahmad Tantray, Chairman Municipal Council, Ganderbal; Badri-nath Bhat, President Sanatan Dharm Sabha Ganderbal, besides several other PRI representatives and members of civil society were present on the occasion.

## COVID

positive cases, 2213 are Active Positive (388 in Jammu Division and 1825 in Kashmir Division), 469452 have recovered and 4779 have died; 2347 in Jammu division and 2432 in Kashmir division. The Bulletin also informs that 28,951 doses of COVID Vaccine have been administered in the last 24 hours across Jammu and Kashmir bringing the cumulative number of doses administered to 2,41,37,695 till date. Besides, 9,031COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours. Till date 6699126 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 157 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 2213 in isolation and 364in home surveillance. Besides, 6691613 persons have completed their surveillance period. Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases for today, the Bulletin informs that in Kashmir division, Srinagar reported 79 cases, Baramulla reported 22 cases, Budgam 38 cases, Pulwama reported 09 cases, Kupwara reported 12 cases, Anantnag reported 15 cases, Bandipora reported 11 cases, Ganderbal reported 01case, Kulgam reported 29 case while as Shopian reported 02 fresh cases for today. Similarly in Jammu division, Jammu reported 37 cases, Udhampur 01, Rajouri00, Doda 02, Kathua 02, Samba 00, Kishtwar 06, Poonch 01, Ramban 08 and Reasi reported no fresh case for today.

## CS

saturation of Self Employment Schemes. He said that our motive should be to reach each out to every unemployed youth of the UT and offer them opportunities for sustainable employment under various schemes. Dr Mehta maintained that a lot of progress has been made in the past in each aspect of employment generation and making the whole process of lending financial assistance speedy and transparent. He advised them to work towards making the benefit reach every eligible person down there. The Chief Secretary enquired about the proportion of artisans, weavers and other educated persons covered under different schemes meant for them. He stressed on extending loans as per actual guidelines without creating difficulties for the applicants. He also impressed on creating viable and sustainable units that are profitable for its holders. Dr Mehta also asked the concerned departments to carry out a mega employment drive preferably in next month in each block so that awareness is created among all the prospective beneficiaries in rural and far flung areas. He advised them to culminate it at panchayat level simultaneously with ‘Back to Village’ program so that the coverage of beneficiaries percolates down to each panchayat. He also reviewed the progress made under respective employment schemes extended by different departments and targets set for them earlier. He implored upon them to reg-

ularly review their progress and take instant measures for achieving their targets well on time. The Chief Secretary was informed that under PMEGP the Department of Industries & Commerce has cleared some 1379 cases sanctioning an amount of Rs 5669.00 lakhs with potential employment generation for 5291 persons. Similarly KVIB had cleared 4462 cases sanctioning Rs 9512.30 lakhs generating employment for more than 35000 persons. Moreover it was revealed that JKRLM has sanctioned 5400 cases amounting Rs 10400.00 lakhs to 10800 beneficiaries. Under PMEGP (16931 cases), NRLM 2879 cases, NULM (871 cases), JKREGP (447 cases), PMWMY (482 cases), CCS for Artisans and Weavers (1312 cases) has been disbursed by the banks with a total amount of Rs 52580.92 lakhs, as was given out in the meeting. The meeting was further appraised that the Departments of Labour & Employment, H&UD, Handicrafts & Handloom, Women Development Corporation has sponsored thousands of cases. In the same way many more cases were sponsored under Himayat and by JK SC, ST & OBC Corporation benefitting thousands of poor and marginalized people throughout the length and breadth of J&K.

## IAF

of a missile in Pakistan. “On 9 March 2022, in the course of a routine maintenance, a technical malfunction led to the accidental firing of a missile,” the Indian Defense Ministry had said after the incident. It had further said that the government took a serious view of the incident and ordered a high-level Court of Enquiry. “While the incident is deeply regrettable, it is also a matter of relief that there has been no loss of life due to the accident,” the Defense Ministry added. However, Pakistan demanded a joint probe into the incident of India’s accidental missile fire to establish the facts in the matter. “Indian decision to hold an internal court of inquiry is not sufficient since the missile ended up in Pakistani territory. Pakistan demands a joint probe to accurately establish the facts surrounding the incident,” Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs had said in a statement. Pakistan posed several questions regarding the incident. “Such a serious matter cannot be addressed with the simplistic explanation proffered by the Indian authorities,” Pakistan further said.

## COP

his house before the situation was brought under control by police. The officials said the woman was eight months pregnant and her baby also died in her womb.

## BAIL

being regularly treated and receiving prescribed medicines and that his condition was stable and satisfactory. As on date, it cannot be said that the COVID-19 situation was still prevalent. The life returning to normalcy would even apply to prisoners who are in custody, the bench said. While dismissing Watali’s appeal against the trial court order, the bench directed that he be put under house arrest in his Gurugram residence till further orders and that he will be allowed to be taken to hospitals or diagnostic centers for conducting any tests, if recommended. The high court further said that in case he is admitted to a hospital, the venue of house arrest will be shifted from his residence to the hospital and during that period, he will be allowed to meet only his immediate family members and lawyer. Subsequent to the conditions mentioned in the order dated January 31, 2022, and the fact that the appellant was in custody in his own home, the appeal challenging the order dated 15 May 2021 declining bail to the appellant is rendered infructuous and is dismissed accordingly,” the bench said. The NIA arrested Watali in August 2017 for his alleged links to a Jammu and Kashmir militant financing case involving Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Muhammad Saed. The agency had carried out raids on his premises and that of other suspects. Watali, Hafiz Saed, Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahudeen and nine others have been accused by the NIA of “conspiring to wage war against the government” and fomenting trouble in the Kashmir valley. The NIA has said in its charge sheet that the probe was based on scientific and oral evidence, which had “conclusively established that for carrying out all these terrorist and subversive activities, the gang of the accused persons is receiving funds from Pakistani agencies through hawala conduits such as accused Zahoora Ahmad Shah Watali and others and also raising funds by generating illegal profits from LoC barter trade by doing under-invoicing and cash-dealings”. In its charge sheet, the NIA has alleged that Watali received money from accused Syed, ISI of Pakistan, the Pakistan High Commission here, and from a source in Dubai.

## TRANSFAR

Saudat Jan, I/c Private Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department, is transferred and shall await orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department. Naresh Kumar, I/c Private Secretary (HoD Cadre), is transferred from J&K Services Selection Board and posted in the Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratory, J&K. Sunil Kumar, Junior Stenographer awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Jal Shakti Department to work with Administrative Secretary. Further, Dalip Dhar, Senior Assistant, presently deployed in the Jal Shakti Department (Irrigation & Flood Control), is repatriated to his parent Organization viz: State Procurement and Supplies Agency (SPSA), Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, with immediate effect. All the above officials shall be deemed to have been relieved, reads the order.

## NC

ted and communalism should be foiled. Expressing great concern over the state of the justice system in the country, the spokesperson said that the 11 people who have committed the crime of Bilqis Bano and killed her seven family members could not have been acquitted. “The way they were given hero’s welcome on their release speaks to the extremity of the sectarian trend in the country”, Dar added. NC spokesperson urged the central BJP government to desist from such tactics and avoid its anti-Muslim policy to maintain the integrity and independence of the country.

## SWACHH BHARAT

Dr Mehta was informed by the CS, RDD that out of Rs 4915.86 lakhs released under this Swachhta mission an expenditure of about Rs 2366.21 has been made during the ensuing financial year in the UT. It was further revealed that a target of some 1600 Community Sanitary Complexes, 3017 Solid Waste and Liquid Waste Management units each, 19 Plastic Waste Management, 30 Gobardhan Units and 6 Faecal Sludge Management units have to be constructed across the districts of J&K. Similarly 3470 Community Compost Pits, 999 segregation bins, 8704 Community Soak pits, 5975 drainage facilities

are being made available under the mission besides 19 vehicles for movement of waste for its proper disposal, as was learnt during the meeting. It was also given out that as per base line survey, 2012 around 664580 households are there out of whom 662695 have been geotagged with 100% geotagging in most of the districts. It was said that J&K has been capped to cover 87810 households out of which 75716 has already been registered by the department. The meeting also discussed the annual targets for each district besides the possible dates of completion of each component. The meeting was apprised that with the culmination of this mission each of the village is going to secure the ODF plus status as all the facilities are going to be provided to the rural households under this national mission.

## Court issues bailable warrant against Rubiya Sayeed in abduction case

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, Aug 23: A special court here on Tuesday issued a bailable warrant against Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, after she did not appear for cross-examination in a case related to her abduction by the JKLF in 1989. Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik, one of the accused in the case, appeared before the court from Delhi’s Tihar Jail via video conference. He once again insisted on his physical appearance while turning down the court’s offer of legal aid or amicus, standing counsel for the CBI Monika Kohli said. On July 15, Rubaiya had identified Malik and three others as the ones who took her captive. Rubaiya was abducted near Lal Ded Hospital on December 8, 1989 when her father was the Union home minister and freed from captivity five days later on December 13 after the then V P Singh government, supported by the BJP at the Centre, released five militants in exchange. Rubaiya, who stays in Tamil Nadu, is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI, which took over investigation into the case in early 1990. “Rubaiya had to appear before the court for cross-examination (on Tuesday) but she remained absent. The court has issued a bailable warrant against her to appear before the court on the next date of hearing on September 21,” the CBI counsel said. Kohli said Malik once again pressed for physical appearance so that he could cross-question the witnesses in the case even as the court offered him legal aid or amicus which he declined to accept. Malik, 56, is at present lodged in the high-security Tihar Jail after he was sentenced by a special NIA court in Delhi in May. He was arrested in early 2019 in connection with the 2017 militant-funding case registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). On the last hearing of the case, Rubaiya appeared in the court for the first time and identified Malik, who was present through video conference. “This is the person and his name is Yasin Malik. He was the man who threatened me that he will drag me out of the minibus if I refused to follow their diktat,” Rubaiya had told the judge.

## JJM: Work starts on RSFP & SR at Aloosa, Bandipora

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 23: Taking forward Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in District Bandipora, work for one more Rapid Sand Filtration Plant (RSFP) and Storage Reservoir (SR) for WSS Binlipora under Jal Jeevan mission started today in presence of DDC Aloosa and PRIs. The officials informed that the work started on 0.50 lac gallon capacity RCC SR with Sluice chamber for water supply scheme Binlipora A. It was informed that the estimated cost for the project is 468.26lac and it will benefit 10845 Souls. Pertinent to mention that the District Action Plan under JJM for an amount of 447 cr stands already approved for Bandipora District.

## DC Bandipora inaugurates Cradle Baby Reception Centre

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 23: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahamed on Tuesday inaugurated Cradle Baby Reception Centre (CBRC) and Child Care Institute for girls at Harmukh Colony Sonerwani, here. The inaugural function was attended by DPO ICDS Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; DSWO/DCPO Bandipora, Officials of Child Protection Unit Bandipora and CBRC. The CBRC is established under mission Vatsalya and is first of its kind to be set up across North Kashmir. The centre will cater to a number of districts including Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara. Speaking on the occasion, the DC congratulated the concerned for commendable services in establishing the centre in Bandipora District. He said the cradle centre is meant for babies who are devoid of parental care like orphans, abandoned etc. He said the centre will provide all services to the children including food, accommodation and medical facilities besides other essentials.

### Jammu Kashmir Contractors Coordination Committee Delegation Led By Chairman Ghuam Jeelani Purza Meets With Chief Secretary



Srinagar: Today a meeting was held with Honourable Chief Secretary J&K, Arun Kumar headed by Chairman Jammu Kashmir Contractors Coordination Committee (JKCCC) Ghulam Jeelani Purza along with other senior members regarding various issues of Contractor’s Fraternity. As a circular was issued by the Geology and Mining Department in which they states regarding RCC Certificate This was discussed with the Chief Secretary and the issue has been Sorted And he assured that all the Bills of the contractors who have been lying in the treasuries for the past several days will be cleared within 7 days . Rest of the issues that were discussed with Chief Secretary Arun Kumar were sorted Whose order will be issued in the coming days. we are very grateful to the Honourable Chief Secretary for sorting all these issues of Contractors Fraternity. It is in this Regard all the Contractors Of Jammu & Kashmir are informed to Continue their development Works As usual Because in view of these Assurances strike called by the JKCCC for tomorrow 24/08/2022 has been reconciled/Deferred .

## Hakeem Yaseen seeks revocation of ban on offerings to shrine Mujavirs

Srinagar/ August 23:-Chairman JK People’s Democratic Front (JKPDF) and former Minister Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen has called for revocation of ban , imposed by Muslim Waqf Board , on offerings made by devotees to small time Mujavirs and peer Baba’s at various muslim shrines across Jammu and Kashmir. He said tradition of Nazar- w- Niyaz and offerings to local Mutwalis and Mujavirs at shrines was centuries old glorious chapter of the Reshi cult and Sufism adding that the equilibrium of traditional Reshi ecosystem should not be disturbed un- necessarily.

In a statement issued on Tuesdays Hakeem Yaseen said that the tradition of offerings made by devotees to Mujavirs at shrines was a voluntary act associated to thier faith and satisfaction adding that Wakf Board should immediately revoke it’s controversial decision to ban the practice . He said the Mujavirs at various shrines are acting as guides for devotees besides maintaining decorum and cleanliness there. “ Instead of axing the Mujavirs and Mutwalis on offerings made by devotees, Waqf Board should work on increasing revenue by properly harnessing all other sources of income, and curtailing it’s wasteful expenditures, “ Hakeem Yaseen said adding that one of the most significant drains on the revenue of the Wakf Board is the vast recruitment made by the board at various times on the instruction of men in power . He said another significant source is rent from the immobile property for the Wakf which has been fixed many years before and never revised . He said Waqf Board should raise funds to create infrastructure on the Wakf’s vacant lands. PDF Chairman said that nowhere any Mujavirs has ever stopped any devotee , visiting any shrines , from offering Nazar- w- Niaz in the saving boxes of Waqf Board . He said offerings by devotees to Mujavirs at shrines was purely voluntary adding that there was no element of coersion in this tradition .” On the contrary, there was a menace of begging by both local and non local begerss , roaming everywhere in and around various shrines, that needs to be checked and even ostracised. He said by making meager offerings to Mujavirs ,we mean to show our respect to the Auliya Karim adding that presence of Pir Sahbinan at shrines should not be disturbed in any case. “ We should be cautious ! Are we not creating one more religious controversy om Muslim Ummah un necessarily , which has marred the whole country on various counts be it Hijab Ban , meat ban ,Azan ban and so on ,” Hakeem Yaseen added.

## J&K Parties neither know to confront nor to reconcile with Modi Government... AIP

Srinagar// Reacting to the response by various political parties from J&K over apprehensions of enrolling non locals into the voter list, AIP has called the reaction as unfortunate, directionless and confused. In a statement Party Spokesperson Firdous Baba has said that whatsoever the leaders who attended or abstained from the All Party Meeting organized by Farooq Abdullah said over the subject was an attempt to confuse people further. The harsh reality was that the leaders of the political parties of J&K neither know how to confront nor know how to reconcile with Government of India with honour and dignity. He said that leaders were already leaders were to lead not create chaos. Firdous Baba asked that how can there be anything more than the fact that now regional parties were seeming their hopes on the national parties including Congress come to their rescue, who have already miserably failed when Article 370 was abrogated. Spokesperson reminded these parties especially Congress, Shiv Senha, Akali Dal and other never said anything with the reality nor did anything which could have forced or persuaded Modi Government to stop its muscular policy. Kajriwal went to the extend to favour dividing J&K into two UTs. He said that it looks , in absence of Hurriyat and other vibrant forces these parties just busy in trying to show lollypops only to remain relevant. Spokesperson asked Farooq Abdullah that now when he was confessing That LG Manoj Sinha did not responded to call an all party meeting, he owes an answer to people of j& k that why was he and others in hurry to attend all party meeting just after receiving a phone call from LG’s and PMO to discuss the agenda that suits BJP. Spokesman further asked Farooq Abdullah to explain Ghulam Nabi Azad’s silence over the subject whom he has authorised him to speak on eve of all party meet with prime minister last year. Firdous Baba urged that those believed to be close to BJP, not to play the dobous role and suggested that they should meet BJP leaders in centre without hiding things. If they can persuade modi govt to stop experimenting new things in jammu and kashmir.

## Business owner Liyakat Ali joins JD(U) headquarter Srinagar



Srinagar: Prominent businessman and philanthropist Liyakat Ali on Tuesday joined at the office of Janta Dal United (JDU) here, the party said in a statement. It said that the businessman joined the party. In coming days, his supporters will also join. Inducting him into the party, Party President GM Shaheen also spoke about Liyakat ali calling him a “young budding politician”, and said that JDU welcomes him in the party. “Liyakat Ali mentors an association of the J&K community, which has a significant presence in UT also. His presence in JDU would strengthen it in UT,” Shaheen said. Vivek Bali State General Secretary said that “Resident of Budgam, Liyakat Ali deals with web design, IT industry, and other allied activities business and has made his own mark in the field of business community. Besides carving a niche in the field of business. He is known for his immense contribution in the field of technology,” the statement mentioned. On the occasion, Liyakat Ali said that he was impressed by the “socio-economic and political ideology” of the JDU. “Besides the developmental agenda, I have witnessed that the JDU leadership values and respects the sentiments of the common people. The brief spell of governance with the development and political accommodation being its hallmark, JDU did a commendable job in its brief stint of last few years,” Wani said. Khurshid Naqati State Organiser said that JDU’s progressive agenda and developmental approach motivated him to join the party. “I am confident that more prominent and respectable people of the state including women and the youth would come forward and join the JDU in the coming days to contribute towards the peace, prosperity and development of the state,” Naqati observed. Khurshid Naqati State Organiser said that JDU’s progressive agenda and developmental approach motivated him to join the party. “I am confident that more prominent and respectable people of the state including women and the youth would come forward and join the JDU in the coming days to contribute towards the peace, prosperity and development of the state,” Naqati observed.



# PM Modi To Address Smart India Hackathon Grand Finale On August 25

More than 15,000 students and mentors are travelling to the 75 nodal centres to take part in the Smart India Hackathon 2022 grand finale.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the students participating in the grand finale of this year's Smart India Hackathon (SIH) on August 25 via video-conferencing.

SIH, which started in 2017, is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve the pressing problems of society, organisations, and government. It aims to inculcate the culture of product innovation, problem-solving and out-of-the-box thinking among students.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been interacting with the student participants of the Smart India Hackathon every year since its inception and he is expected to interact with the students even this year at 8 pm on August 25," Union Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar said at a press conference.

More than 15,000 students and mentors are travelling to the 75 nodal centres to take part in the SIH 2022 grand finale. Students from over 2,900 schools and 2,200 higher education institutions will tackle 476 problem statements from across 53 Union ministries in the finale,

including optical character recognition (OCR) of temple inscriptions and translations in Devanagari



scripts, IoT-enabled risk monitoring system in cold supply chain for perishable food items, high-resolution 3D model of terrain, and infrastructure and roads conditions in disaster struck areas.

Every year SIH has two editions - SIH Software and SIH Hardware. This year Smart India Hackathon-Junior has also been introduced for school students to build a culture of innovation and problem-solving attitude at the school level."The scope of the Smart India Hackathon has been widening with every passing year, since its launch in 2017. The increased enthusiasm among participating students and problem statement providing organisations could be seen in their growing participation over the

years. Every year, SIH is impacting lakhs of students and provides them with a national platform to

test their educational learning for solving real-world challenges," Mr Sarkar said."It also aligns their interest toward innovation and entrepreneurship. A total of 476 problem statements were received from 53 government organisations for the SIH this year. The winner teams of institute level hackathons organised under Smart India Hackathon 2022, comprising more than 15,000 students, will participate in this year's SIH grand finale at national level. These teams will travel to the assigned nodal centre and will work on these problem statements during grand finale," he added.

Smart India Hackathon hardware grand finale is scheduled from August 25 to 29 and the software grand finale is scheduled from August 25

to 26.

Each year Smart India Hackathon is conducted at various nodal centres, where selected student teams, industry representatives, design mentors and evaluators travel to the assigned physical centres.

As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and All India Council for Technical Education have identified 75 higher educational institutes and incubators as Smart India Hackathon nodal centres to host the participant of SIH and facilitate an environment to conduct the event in its well-defined and established format.

"At each nodal centre, an officer designated by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell will monitor and preside over the proceeding during the entire duration of SIH grand finale. The participation of females in the Smart India hackathon is also very impressive. The male to female ratio of participants that are travelling to the nodal centres for the hackathon grand finale is almost 1.5:1," Sarkar said.

"SIH has seen a four-fold growth in the number of teams registering from around 7,500 in the first edition to about 29,600 in the ongoing fifth edition," he added.

The winners in the Smart India Hackathon on each problem statement will be awarded a prize amount of 1 lakh. Under the student innovation category, three prizes of 1 lakh, 75,000 and 50,000 will be awarded to the winning teams.

## Iran has dropped some demands for nuclear deal, US official says

WASHINGTON: Iran has dropped some of its main demands on resurrecting a deal to rein in Tehran's nuclear programme, including its insistence that international inspectors close some probes of its atomic programme, bringing the possibility of an agreement closer, a senior US official told Reuters on Monday.

The United States aims to respond soon to a draft agreement proposed by the European Union that would bring back the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran that former President Donald Trump abandoned and current President Joe Biden has sought to revive.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said that although Tehran has been saying Washington has made concessions, Iran has dropped some of its key demands.

"They came back last week and basically dropped the main hang-ups to a deal," the official said.

"We think they have finally crossed the Rubicon and moved toward possibly getting back into the deal on terms that President Biden can accept," the official added. "If we are closer today, it's because Iran has moved. They conceded on issues that they have been holding onto from the beginning."

Iran's foreign ministry had no immediate comment.

Iran had already largely relented on its demand that the United States lift its designation of the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organisation (FTO) entity, the official said."We said under no circumstances would we do that. They continued to push it. A month ago they started to soften that core demand and said you can keep the (FTO) designation but we would like it lifted from a

number of companies affiliated with the IRGC. We said 'no we're not going to do that,'" he added.

Iran also wanted a guarantee that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would close investigations involving unexplained traces of uranium.

"Iran wants guarantees that the IAEA would close all of them. We said we would never accept that," the official said.

The IAEA board of governors in June overwhelmingly passed a resolution criticising Iran for failing to explain the presence of uranium traces at three undeclared sites.

The official said that gaps remain between the United States and Iran and that "it could take a little longer" to come to a final agreement, if one is possible.

"We're studying Iran's response now and we'll get back to them soon," the official said.

Earlier, State Department spokesman Ned Price said there was no guarantee a deal can be struck, saying "the outcome of these ongoing discussions still remains uncertain as gaps do remain."

Washington would have to lift some sanctions under the terms of the agreement, but US officials say returning to the deal is crucial to preventing a nuclear crisis in the Middle East.

"If we get this deal, yes, we do lift some sanctions, but Iran has to dismantle its nuclear programme," the official said.

All this comes at a time when Iran is thought to have enough enriched uranium to — if further purified — build multiple weapons, and is closer than ever to being able to produce them, the official said.

## Government Keen to Attract More Private Firms into Mineral Exploration – Shri Pralhad Joshi

New Delhi, August 23, 2022Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi said that the Center is making sustained efforts to attract more private entrepreneurs into mineral exploration. Mineral exploration will be carried out without adverse environmental impact through enhanced use of drones and other latest technologies, he said.Addressing two-day International Conference on "Indian Minerals & Metals Industry - Transition Towards 2030 & Vision 2047" organized by NMDC Ltd, Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Mines and FICCI here today, Shri Joshi said that through commercial coal mine auctioning Rs.25000 crore additional revenue has been generated last year and State of Odisha stood first in revenue generation. The Minister called upon Geological Survey of India (GSI) to focus on new age minerals' exploration. Touching upon some of the recent reforms initiated in the mining sector, Shri Joshi said that coal production from captive mines is expected to touch 140 million ton this year compared to 89 million ton last fiscal. Total coal production during this financial year is likely to record 900 million ton, the minister further stated.In order to give further fillip to mineral exploration, National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) has been made an autonomous body, the minister added. Recalling his recent successful visit to Australia, Shri Pralhad Joshi said that compared to Australia our mineral exploration.

## Mamata Banerjee announces month-long Durga Puja celebration starting from Sept 1

Sourav Dutta:



West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday announced a month-long Durga Puja celebration that will take off from September 1 with a mega rally in central Kolkata.

She also increased the assistance from 50,000 to 60,000 which her government has been giving to the puja committees, waived taxes and increased the discount on electricity bills from 50% to 60%.

"On September 1, there will be a thanks-giving-rally to express our grat-

itude to the UNCESO which gave the Durga Puja a heritage tag. The puja celebrations will start with that rally and end with a carnival on October 8," she said.

While a two-member team of UNCESO has accepted the government's invitation to be present on September 1, a team of foreign delegates is expected to arrive in Kolkata on a three-day visit from September 21, to check out the preparations of the festival.

Durga Puja is the biggest festival of West Bengal. The celebrations were muted over the last two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Make the September 1 rally as colourful as possible. Use colourful banners and wear colourful clothes. Puja committee members participating in the rally will play flutes, conch shells, sing songs, dance and may even carry colourful umbrellas. Come up with innovative idea," said the chief minister while adding that smaller rallies will be simultaneously organised in all the districts across the state.

## Manish Sisodia May Be Arrested Within Days: Arvind Kejriwal In Gujarat

New Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party has claimed massive support for it in Gujarat, and declared that it will be why Manish Sisodia, accused in a corruption case by the Central Bureau of Investigation, will come under increasing pressure. "We heard that Sisodia-ji will be arrested in 10 days. Seeing your enthusiasm, it appears that he might be arrested in two or three days," said Arvind Kejriwal at a massive public meeting at Gujarat's Bhavnagar today.Manish Sisodia said the growing people's support has made him the BJP's target. As the crowd roared its approval, he added, "Your anger and



enthusiasm will be the reason why the central government will tighten its grip on my neck. But don't worry about me, I have a neck made of honesty". When it was his turn to speak, Mr Kejriwal took it up a notch, predicting a speedy arrest of his Deputy.Mr Sisodia has been named in a case filed by the Central Bu-

reau of Investigation over the Delhi government's liquor policy. Last week, raids were held at his Delhi home among other 31 other places lying across seven states.With a massive mandate in Delhi and Punjab under its belt, AAP has claimed that the CBI action is a pushback from the BJP over the international recognition it is receiving on its work in the education and healthcare sectors.This has also become the spearhead of its campaign in Gujarat, where the BJP has been ruling for more than 20 years. AAP has been pointing out the shortcomings in governance -- lack of jobs, good education and healthcare -.

## UN split over ban on Taliban officials' travel

Members of the United Nations Security Council remained divided on Monday over whether to exempt some of Afghanistan's Taliban officials from a travel ban, diplomatic sources said.Under a 2011 Security Council resolution, 135 Taliban leaders are subject to a sanctions regime that includes asset freezes and travel bans.Thirteen of them benefited from an exemption from the travel ban, renewed regularly, to allow them to meet officials from other countries abroad.

But this exemption ended last Friday, after Ireland objected to

its automatic renewal for another month.In June, the Sanctions Committee in charge of Afghanistan, comprised of the Security Council's 15 members, had already removed from the exemptions list two Taliban ministers responsible for education, in retaliation for the drastic reduction in the rights of women and girls that was imposed by the hardline regime.Several Western countries would like to further reduce the list, according to diplomatic sources.They highlight the failure to respect the commitments to uphold human

rights or fight terrorism that was made by the Taliban when they returned to power a year ago.Early this month, the United States announced the killing of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a drone strike on Kabul, calling into question the Taliban's promise not to harbour militant groups.China and Russia, however, supported a regular extension of the exemptions list."These exemptions are still just as necessary," the Chinese presidency of the Security Council said last week, deeming it "counterproductive"

# Top court upholds Malaysia ex-PM Najib's jail sentence in 1MDB scandal

Malaysia's highest court on Tuesday upheld former prime minister Najib Razak's 12-year jail sentence for corruption in the 1MDB financial scandal, a decision analysts said could slam the door to a political comeback.

Chief Justice Maimun Tuan Mat also issued a warrant of committal, which a lawyer said means Najib is going immediately to jail.

The 69-year-old former prime minister looked somber and dejected, surrounded by his wife Rosmah and two children as the verdict was read.

"We find the appeal devoid of any merits. We find the conviction and sentence to be safe," Maimun said on behalf of a five-judge panel of the Federal Court.

"It is our unanimous view that the evidence led during the trial points overwhelmingly to guilt on all seven charges," Maimun said "it would have been a travesty of justice of the highest order if any reasonable tribunal, faced with such evidence staring it in the face, were to find that the appellant is not guilty of the seven charges preferred against

him".

Sankara Nair, a lawyer who is not involved in the case, told

tribunal threw out a last-minute move by Najib's lawyers to recuse the chief justice from

for the prime minister's post from a young age.

The final ruling on the jail



AFP that "with the court issuing a warrant of committal, Najib will be sent to prison immediately".

The Federal Court decision was handed down after the

hearing the case, alleging bias on her part.

Barred from elections

Najib is the UK-educated son of one of Malaysia's founding fathers who had been groomed

sentence also came four years after his long-ruling party's shock election defeat in 2018, during which allegations that he and his friends embezzled billions of dollars from state

fund 1MDB were key campaign issues.

A lower court in July 2020 found Najib guilty of abuse of power, money laundering and criminal breach of trust over the transfer of 42 million ringgit (\$10.1 million) from SRC International, a former unit of state fund 1MDB, to his personal bank account.

An appellate court in December denied his appeal, prompting him to go to the Federal Court for a final recourse.

Some analysts said the decision will likely derail any plans by Najib for a political comeback.

"If Najib is found guilty, he will be barred from standing in the next election. Obviously, his political career is gone," James Chin, a professor of Asian studies at the University of Tasmania, told AFP before the verdict was announced.

"Under Malaysian law, Najib cannot stand for this election and the next election," he said, referring to speculation that polls may be held this year.

Elections are not due until September next year.

Najib and his ruling party were voted out in 2018 follow-

ing allegations of their involvement in a multibillion-dollar financial scandal at 1MDB.

He and his associates were accused of stealing billions of dollars from the country's investment vehicle and spending it on everything from high-end real estate to pricey art.

Despite the lower court sentence, he had not been sent to prison while the appeals process played out. An appellate court in December denied his appeal, prompting him to go to the Federal Court for a final recourse.

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## Russell, Boult among Big Bash's 'Platinum' dozen

MELBOURNE: Australia's Big Bash League has unveiled 12 marquee players for the first round of Sunday's draft, including 10 who are likely to exit the tournament before the halfway stage to play in other Twenty20 leagues that will run concurrently in January.

Big-hitting Andre Russell joined fellow West Indians Kieron Pollard and Dwayne Bravo in the list of "Platinum" players up for grabs in the first round of the overseas draft, the league organisers announced on Monday. Trent Boult, who recently surrendered his central contract with New Zealand Cricket prioritising Twenty20 leagues, is among the top players who will reportedly be paid A\$340,000 (\$234,566) each, no matter how many matches they play.

The list includes five Englishmen, among them Jason Roy and Liam Livingstone, star Afghan spinner Rashid Khan and Pakistan's Shadab Khan.

The eight-team league, which runs from Dec 13 to Feb 4, will vie for eyeballs with two new Twenty20 competitions in the United Arab Emirates and South Africa, both beginning in January.

Big Bash will also likely bid goodbye to 10 of these 12 "Platinum" players in late December as they have also signed up for one of the other two new leagues.

Struggling to retain its position in a crowded Twenty20 marketplace, Big Bash pulled off a major coup on Sunday when David Warner confirmed his first appearance in 10 seasons.

His Australia team mate Glenn Maxwell had no doubt it was a major boost for the eight-team league.

"We know any time we can get those guys back playing, that makes a better product and makes it a better spectacle for everyone," the all-rounder told reporters.

"It's someone all the crowd knows and they can get behind and Davey's a superstar of the T20 format and someone that everyone loves watching."

"Hopefully (the draft) will reinvigorate a bit of life into it," Maxwell added.

## England's first Test series in Pakistan in 17 years to begin in Rawalpindi on Dec 1

England's first Test series in Pakistan in 17 years will begin in Rawalpindi on December 1, the hosts said on Monday as they announced the match schedule.

Dates for a seven-match Twenty20 series starting next month have already been announced, but an England squad will return for the long-awaited three-match Test series.

"We are pleased that Pakistan and England Test rivalry, which has historically produced close and tight matches, will return to our backyards in December," Pakistan Cricket Board director Zakir Khan said in a statement.

The tour opens with the first Test in Rawalpindi on December 1-5, before Multan hosts the second on December 9-13.

The third and final Test will be in Karachi on December 17-21.

England last toured in 2005, before Pakistan were forced to play international matches at neutral venues following an attack on the Sri Lankan team's bus in Lahore in 2009. International cricket has gradually returned since 2015, but suffered another setback when New Zealand pulled out of a tour minutes before a one-day international was due to start in September last year, citing security alerts.

A week later England scrapped tours to Pakistan by both its men's and women's teams.

Pakistan successfully hosted Australia for the first time since 1998 earlier this year.

"Pakistan cricket fans have waited for almost 17 years to see elite England players in action," England and Wales Cricket Board interim chief executive Clare Connor said.

The three fixtures will count towards the ICC World Test Championship. Pakistan are currently fifth in the table and England seventh.

Schedule of Tests: First Test: December 1-5, Rawalpindi Second Test: December 9-13, Multan Third Test: December 17-21, Karachi England last toured in 2005, before Pakistan were forced to play international matches at neutral venues following an attack on the Sri Lankan team's bus in Lahore in 2009. International cricket has gradually returned since 2015, but suffered another setback when New Zealand pulled out of a tour minutes before a one-day international was due to start in September last year, citing security alerts.

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## J&K all Set To Celebrate NSD with Huge participation of Youth Across UT: Dir Sports

### DG SAI Chairs Virtual Meeting On National Sports Preparations

Srinagar Aug 23: Director Youth Services & Sports along with JD YSS Kashmir, Deputy Director Central and other senior officers and officials of the Department attended a virtual meeting about the preparations being made for the forthcoming National Sports Day (NSD) being celebrated on 29th August here from his office chamber on Tuesday.

The meeting was chaired by Director General Sports Authority Of India (SAI) Sandip Pradhan. While providing a detailed account about the preparations being made by the Department of YS&S J&K for the forthcoming National Sports Day, Director YSS said that the Department has already geared up its preparations for the mega



event. "The format given by SAI would be followed in letter and spirit and the Department is targeting

to involve about 23 lakh students of more than 28 thousand J&K schools," he added. While talking about the new initiatives being taken by the Department for the mass participation of students and non-students in sports activities he said that involvement of young blood at panchayat and block level is being prioritized to ensure that every single boy and girl gets a chance to play. While presenting a tribute to the legendary Dhyan Chand, The hockey wizard, Director YSS said. "It is truly an honor for the Department to kick start a mega Inter Provincial District Level Hockey tournament on the Hockey synthetic turf at Pulwama on National Sports Day.

## Indian coach Rahul Dravid tests positive for Covid, to join Asia Cup squad later



DOHA: India's head coach Rahul Dravid has tested positive for Covid-19 and will join the Asia Cup squad later in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the country's cricket board said on Tuesday. Dravid returned a positive result in a routine test carried out before the team's departure

for the UAE, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah said in a statement. "Mr Dravid is under the supervision of the BCCI medical team and has mild symptoms. "He will join the team once he returns with a negative

Covid-19 report," Shah said. India will begin their title defence with a mouth-watering August 28 clash with arch-rivals Pakistan in the six-team Twenty20 tournament.

Bilateral cricket remains suspended between the two countries, but they play each other in multi-team tournaments.

A day after Sri Lanka take on Afghanistan in the Asia Cup opener, India and Pakistan will lock horns in the tournament's most anticipated match.

Pakistan beat India by 10 wickets in Dubai last year in their previous encounter. India's head coach Rahul Dravid has tested positive for Covid-19 and will join the Asia Cup squad later in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the country's cricket board said on Tuesday. Dravid returned a positive

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## Former Australia skipper Paine back in training

SYDNEY: Former Australia captain Tim Paine, who resigned after a sexting scandal last November and took an "indefinite mental health break" from cricket, has ended his self-imposed exile and is back in training in Tasmania.

The 37-year-old wicket-keeper was omitted from Tasmania's list of contracted players in May but was given the all-clear to train with the squad ahead of the new season. "It was just great to see him come into my office and request permission to train," Cricket Tasmania chief executive Dom Baker told The Australian newspaper.

"He started here as just a 16-year-old all those years ago and has been a part of our cricket ever since. He is training as an uncontracted player to get fit for club cricket, but if he proves to be anywhere near his best expect to see him playing state cricket again.

"All of Tasmania and I think most of Australia wants to see him finish his career on his own terms."

Paine was set to lead Australia into the home Ashes series last year until the sexting allegations became public. He stepped down and was replaced by Pat Cummins. The cricketer was accused by a former Cricket Tasmania receptionist of sending sexually explicit messages to her in 2017.

Paine, who said the texting was consensual, had been cleared by an internal Cricket Australia investigation in 2018 which was not revealed to the public until late last year.

## Super Smash T20 Cup Tarzova Edition-II Wular Stars Tarzova Thrashed A-One Cricket Club Panzipora By 9 Wickets



Lone Musalib

In the ongoing Super Smash T20 Cup Tarzova Edition-II Wular Stars Tarzova defeated A-one Cricket Club Panzipora by 9-Wickets. After winning the toss A-One Cricket Club Panzipora opt bat first and were undled-out for the paltry score of 63 runs. Sajad Ahmad took 4-wickets in his four overs. Conceded only 6 runs while Jaharat took 2 wickets for Wular Stars Tarzova. In reply Wular stars Tarzova chased the target in just 7 overs for the loss of only 1 wicket. Rashid made 38 runs While Nasir Dar added 17 runs for Wular Stars Tarzova.

Sajad Ahmad was declared player of the match for his brilliant bowling performance. This tournament is sponsored by SKIE Classes Raj Bagh/Parreypora Srinagar.

## JKMBA felicitated A. R Bhat & Nazir Ahmad Wani for completing Sgr to leh mountain biking expedition 2022

Zaid Riyaz

Jammu & Kashmir Mountain Biking Association Sunday felicitated A.R Bhat & Nazir Ahmad Wani both senior members of JK Mountain Biking Association for successfully completing Mountain Terrain Biking Expedition and covered 440km Distance. Right from Srinagar to leh while passing Potu La and

Namikla with an altitude of 14000ft. On the Felicitation Ceremony Mr. Rouf Trambo President, Adventure Tour Operators of Kashmir (ATOK) and Er. Mushtaq Ahmad Wani give away the mementoes and pries to the Riders which was held at Nigeen, on the occasion brief discussion was also held for the development of mountain Terrain biking and introduce new MTB



routes and conduct few more long distance mountain biking expeditions in the valley. Secretary JK MBA, Asif Bhat, informed about previous MTB expeditions done Umer Nabi & Riyaz Wani Sgr to leh in year 2014, & Er Mushtaq Wani, Er Kaiser Abdullala, A R Bhat, Jolley Jaleed completed Sgr to Jammu in 2022, A R Bhat one of the rider shares all experience during

the 440km long mountain biking expedition while as Nazir Ahmad Wani thanks to management of JK Mountain Biking Association for their support during the expedition & felicitate both of us. Secretary JK MBA, Asif Bhat, President JK MBA, Riyaz Wani, Zahid Iqbal, Yasir Makhdoomi, Dr Shuja ul Bashir and thirty Members of JK MBA were also present on the occasion

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