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NEWS IN BRIEF

Lt Governor Condoles Death of Principal Secretary's Mother

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has expressed his heart-felt condolences on the demise of Smt. Mukhrani Devi, mother of Sh. Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor.

In a message, the Lt Governor said: I am grieved to learn about the demise of Smt. Mukhrani Devi Ji. May the Almighty give courage and strength to the family members to bear this irreparable loss. Prayers for the departed soul.

MeT predicts likely light to moderate rain likely in J&K

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: Light to moderate rain is expected in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours, the Meteorological (MeT) department said on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the people of the union territory experienced an inclement weather.

"Light to moderate rain is likely in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours", a MeT department official said.

Meanwhile, Srinagar registered 17.7 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 15.1 and Gulmarg 10 degrees as the minimum temperature this morning. Drass in Ladakh region recorded 12.3 degrees, Leh 12.9 and Kargil 15.4, while Jammu had 25 degrees, Katra 22.4, Batote 16.8, Banihal 17.6 and Bhaderwah 17.9 degrees.

Carpenter falls off under-construction house in Anantnag, dies

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: A carpenter lost his life after he fell down from an under construction house in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday, officials said. Officials said the carpenter identified as Tajamul Ahmad Bhat son of Mohammad Ashraf of Dahruna Anantnag died after falling from under construction house. They said the incident took place at Buchoo Kokernag.

As soon as the incident took place, Tajamul, officials said was shifted to District Hospital Anantnag. However succumbed to his injuries, they said.

Confirming the incident, a police official said that a case has been registered and investigation taken up..

Lumpy skin disease: Govt constitutes task forces

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: In the wake of outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has constituted two dedicated task forces, one each for two divisions of the UT.

These task forces to be headed by scientists from SKUAST K/J along with other members from Animal Husbandry departments to monitor the spread of the disease in real time and suggest strategies for its control.

In addition, a notification was issued under Section 6 of Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009 declaring 9 districts of J&K as controlled areas for the purpose of the Act. Subsequently, in pursuance of the notification an order was issued imposing complete ban on import of bovine animals from outside the UT as well as inter district movement of these animals within the UT of J&K. Vaccination Drive against the LSD has started in a campaign mode in both the Divisions and susceptible population is being vaccinated in the form of ring vaccination around the respective epicentres on war footing to control the spread of disease, besides all bio security measures which include use of fly repellents, fogging, isolation and treatment of affected animals are being adopted. District level RRT's visit all the epicentres of infection for controlling its spread.

The Agriculture Production Department (APD) is abreast of the situation in the UT and Additional Chief Secretary APD, Atal Dulloo is personally monitoring the evolving situation on daily basis. Farmers are being advised to establish close liaison with Animal Husbandry Authorities and cooperate fully in control and immunization programs. APD Department has started dedicated helpline 1962 to assist farmers in case of any eventuality related to the disease. The sample for confirmation

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviews situation in J&K



HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, Aug 25: Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday reviewed the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, including the security arrangements along the border with Pakistan, officials said.

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla and senior officials of the Centre and the Union Territory administration attended the meeting chaired by Shah. The meeting discussed the security situation in Jam-

mu and Kashmir, an official said. The security review comes following attacks on security personnel, infiltration bids and killings in the Union Territory. Three infiltrators were killed by security personnel along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kamalkote sector of Uri on Thursday. There have been at least three infiltration bids by militants from across the border in the last four days in Jammu and Kashmir. A group of terrorists tried to infiltrate into the Indian Territory in the Pallanwala sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday night. Alert troops fired at them, forcing them to retreat.

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Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in Uri, three suspected Pak militants killed

Zargar Gulzar

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: Three armed infiltrators suspected to be Pakistani were killed as the Army foiled an infiltration bid close to the Line of Control in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday, officials said. The infiltration bid the first in Baramulla district this year: was foiled in forward areas of Kamalkote area of Uri sector.

A Srinagar-based defense spokesman Col Emron Musavi said Indian Army's successful operation has not only led to elimination of three Pakistani terrorists, but also has resulted in thwarting Pakistan's nefarious design and intent to disrupt peace, prosperity and normalcy in J&K. Giving details, he said the counter infiltration operation was launched on Wednesday based on specific intelligence from Army intelligence agencies. "On August 24 afternoon, multiple ambushes

were laid to trap the infiltrators. Intensive electronic surveillance of the suspected area led to detection of the attempt at 7 am today. Terrorists were hoping to use the cover of thick undergrowth, foliage and continuous rain and low clouds to infiltrate," the spokesman said. He said the contact with the infiltrators was established at about 8.45 am. "The contact was established in the forward area of Indian side of the LoC, leading to heavy exchange of fire in which the terrorists were killed," the spokesman said. "Detailed search of the area concluded at 2 pm." "The search of the area yielded bodies of three terrorists, two AK rifles, one Chinese M-16 rifle along with other war like stores," Col Musavi said. The identities and the group affiliation of the slain could not be established. However, Army claims the three slain were Pakistanis. The spokesman said use of electronic surveillance

and intelligence-based operations continue to be mainstay of Indian Army operations against Pakistan sponsored terror in J&K. There has been a spurt in infiltration bids in the last few days. The army has foiled at least three infiltration

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Two OGWs held in Bandipora

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: Security forces on Thursday arrested two alleged overground workers of militants from north Kashmir's Bandipora district, police said. "Bandipora police and army arrested 2 militant associates namely Mohd Yousuf Wani...R/O Pethkoot Bandipora and Manzoor Ah Shah...R/O Bagh Bandipora. 3 pistols, 3 pistol magazines

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Funding case: Accused deported from UAE nabbed by Jammu SIA at IGI Airport

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, Aug 25: In a first kind of case, the Jammu State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Thursday arrested one accused from Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi in terror function case after he was deported from UAE. An official said that SIA/CID CI Jammu has arrested an accused, Farooq Ahmed Naikoo alias Farooq Tendulkar alias Umar, resident of Mohalla Khawaja Sahib Barmulla, J&K from IGI Airport, New Delhi who is involved in case under FIR No. 73/2022 of Police Station Gandhi Nagar Jammu (now under investigation with State Investigation Agency, Jammu). "In the instant case, former minister, Jatinder Singh alias

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

DC Budgam suspends 22 employees for unauthorized absence

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, Aug 25: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid today suspended 22 employees for remaining unauthorizedly absent from their duties.

In order to check attendance of employees, the DC conducted surprise inspections of various government offices including Tehsil Office Budgam. During the inspection at Tehsil Office, 20 employees were found unauthorizedly absent from duties. Similarly, while checking the attendance at Government Primary School Paller, two teachers were found unauthorizedly absent from their duties. The absent employees were placed under suspension immediately.

The DC stressed on 100 percent attendance at all offices and directed all employees to attend their duties regularly in letter and spirit. He warned that strict action shall be taken as per the law against employees

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

SPO who kills pregnant wife in Kathua arrested

HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, Aug 25: A special police officer (SPO) who is accused of fatally beating his pregnant wife on Tuesday in Billawar, Kathua district, was taken into custody on Wednesday, officials said.

After reportedly killing his pregnant wife Asha Sharma, 27, on Tuesday, SPO Mohan Lal, a resident of Dharalta in Billawar and a district police officer stationed in Kathua, was trying to evade arrest, HT reported.

"The SPO has been arrested," Kathua SSP RC Kotwal was reported saying. "At first glance, it seemed as though they had been at odds for the previous two to three years. They had been married for the previous seven or eight years, and their older daughter is now six years old."

Whether the attack was a sudden provocation or if there were additional reasons, the motive is still unclear, said police. After inquiries, it will become evident. Further investigation is underway, said the police.

One sort of homicide that frequently results from domestic violence is the murder of pregnant mothers.

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Female thief pretending to be customer caught on cam stealing jewellery

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: A woman, apparently a non-local, was caught on camera stealing gold ornaments at a jewellery shop in Srinagar city of while pretending to be a customer.

The incident happened earlier this month in Bemina area. The CCTV footage of the entire incident was uploaded on social media and has gone viral since then. In the video, the woman accompanied by another woman and a child, can be seen asking the jeweler about the ornaments. While seeing the ornaments, the woman tricks the shopkeeper and manages to leave one of the earrings in a finger snap leading everyone bewildered.

It was only after watching the CCTV that the shopkeeper came to know that the woman had stolen the earrings.

"We were not able to understand how they managed to steal. They have such

COVID-19: J&K reports two more deaths, 229 new cases

SYED TAJAMUL BUKHARI

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: Jammu and Kashmir reported 229 positive cases of COVID-19 including 41 from Jammu and 188 from Kashmir divisions, taking the total number of positive cases to 476932. Two deaths due to the deadly virus were also reported from the Jammu division.

Moreover, 395 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 91 from Jammu division and 304 from Kashmir division. 02 COVID deaths have been reported from Jammu division. According to the daily Media Bulletin on novel Corona virus (Covid-19), out of 476932 positive cases, 2001 are Active Positive (331 in Jammu Division and 1669 in Kashmir Division).

470150 have recovered and 4781 have died; 2349 in Jammu division and 2432 in Kashmir division. The Bulletin also informs that 23,355 doses of COVID Vaccine have been administered in the last 24 hours across Jammu and Kashmir bringing the cumulative number of doses administered to 2,41,94,226 till date. The Bulletin further said that out of 26404361 test results available, 476932 samples have tested positive and 25927429 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 10173 COVID tests have

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

J&K's economy lives up to expectation after 2019; MSME sector register 54% growth in 21-22: LG

Inaugurates 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo & Summit 2022 at New Delhi

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, Aug 25: Expressing gratitude towards PM Narendra Modi for bringing a revolution in MSME sector, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha today said that in the last 8 years the MSME sector has undergone very rapid change. He said new strength; resilience and global competitiveness of MSMEs will make India a preferred destination for manufacturing for the world. Sinha also inaugurated the 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo & Summit at New Delhi.

The Expo provides a much needed platform to SMEs, startups, trade, industry, service providers to explore new opportunities, buyers-sellers meet, sharing knowledge about central/state's/UTs schemes etc. The Lt Governor said that the Indian MSME sector today can be described as Magical, Steadfast, Magnificent Enterprises, which is contributing nearly 45% of overall India's exports. The number of initiatives under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is driving economic progress and social development, he added.

MSME is the nerve center of the coun-



try's business. Our focus is to rejuvenate traditional MSME's with greater access to credit and market linkage to ensure a higher growth trajectory for MSMEs, the Lt Governor observed. Productivity, Connectivity & Standardization, is in fact, three important factors for MSME's sustained growth. Vocal for local, District Export hubs, GeM portal, market linkage of domestic & global value chains, all these interventions are results of Hon'ble Prime Minister's efforts to ensure that MSMEs contribute to realize the vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat & Aatma Nirbhar Jammu Kashmir, the Lt

Governor further added. The industry centric policies, provisions of financial assistance, handholding to new and existing enterprises have encouraged MSMEs and other industries in J&K. The business ecosystem is exuding the confidence," he added.

After August 2019, J&K's economy has been living up to the expectation. In FY 2021-22, MSMEs export registered 54% growth and importer-exporter registration has gone up by 173%. Strategic focus on food processing, handicraft & organic products has stimulated the economic growth, the Lt Governor said.

J&K has one of the fastest growing horticulture markets in the country. Our strengths in natural resources & skilled workforce, best in class incentives through new Industrial development Scheme are well known and makes J&K an ideal MSME destination, the Lt Governor further added. Highlighting the government's endeavors to empower MSMEs, the Lt Governor said that JKTIPO is continuously organizing Buyers-Sellers Meetings, Exhibitions, Capacity Building programs to provide

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Mirwaiz likely to deliver Friday sermon at Jamia Masjid today

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: After remaining under house detention for more than three years, moderate Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq is expected to lead the congregational Friday prayers on August 26 at the central Jamia Masjid in Nowhatta area of the old city.

"Mirwaiz will leave his residence on Friday morning (August 26) and proceed to Jamia Masjid where he will deliver the khutba (sermon) and also lead the congregational prayers," said a source in Anjuman Aqaf Jamia Masjid (AAJM), the managing body of the 14th-century Jama Masjid in Srinagar's Nowhat-



ta locality. In a statement, the AAJM said on Thursday, August 25, that all the preparations had been made for Mirwaiz to deliver the Friday sermon, and it was "hopeful" that the Jammu and Kashmir administration will allow him to come to Jamia Masjid.

"For the last three years, the pulpit of Jama Masjid has fallen silent due to Mirwaiz sahab's house arrest.

Despite repeated appeals from all sections for his release, he was forcibly detained at home, causing grief to people (who are).... eagerly awaiting his release and looking forward to seeing and hearing him," the statement said.

The J&K administration had claimed that Mirwaiz was a "free man" and the security forces deployed at his residence were "meant for his protection".

In an interview, J&K's lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha rejected the charges that Mirwaiz was put under house arrest. "He is neither arrested nor detained. He must decide what he wants to do," Sinha had told BBC Hindi.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Farooq rules out 'split' in PAGD, says final decision contesting elections to be taken at time of polls

PAGD constituents resolve to fight for people's rights will continue, says PDP

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: Putting speculations regarding likely 'split' in People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) at rest, the alliance president, Dr Farooq Abdullah today categorically said the PAGD office will never shut and that the final decision on contesting all 90 Assembly seats will be taken when polls are announced in J&K.

Farooq Abdullah's remarks came a day after the party provincial committee unanimously resolved to contest elections on all 90 Assembly seats in individual capacity and not in the alliance. Farooq said NC is a democratic party and democratic parties can pass resolutions but the final decision whether elections will be

contested individually or in the alliance will be taken once polls are announced in Jammu and Kashmir.

Regarding speculations of likely split in the alliance which was formed for the restoration of the special constitutional position of J&K; he said PAGD office will never shut.

"Yes, I know you want PAGD to be closed, but PAGD office will never shut. It's alright, statements come, but we have to be patient. Ours is a democratic party and democratic parties can pass resolutions, but the final decision will be taken when polls are announced," he told reports after attending a condolence meeting in Srinagar. When asked whether he has any advice for his son

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Govt orders minor reshuffle in administration

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday ordered transfers and postings in the administration. According to Government Order No.966-JK(GAD) of 2022, issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Anand, Commissioner Revenue, Samba, is transferred and Ravinder Kumar JKAS, Assistant posted as General Manager, DIC, Ramban, against an available vacancy. Sanna Khan, JKAS, Deputy Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Jammu.

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Advisor Bhatnagar inaugurates Two day Mid Term Conference-2022 on ‘Telemedicine in Special Conditions and Special Geographies’ at SKIMS

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today inaugurated two day Mid-Term Conference-2022 on the theme ‘Telemedicine in Special Conditions and Special Geographies’ at SKIMS Auditorium here. The Conference is being organised by Telemedicine Society of India (TSI) in collaboration with Sher-e- Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS). Addressing the large gathering of eminent doctors, researchers and medical students, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that Telemedicine and Teleconsultation is now a new normal in present age of digital world and we need to build on it and adopt it. He remarked

that the COVID pandemic forced everyone to adopt digital means for communication and tele-consultations formed core way of getting medical advices during pandemic. Lauding the efforts of SKIMS in developing critical medical infrastructure facilities, Advisor Bhatnagar remarked that SKIMS is a pioneer across the country as far as Telemedicine is concerned and it has made remarkable achievements in developing the facilities of teleconsultations. Highlighting about the development of medical infrastructure in last few years, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the present government under the able guidance of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is making remarkable

strides and achievements in establishing state of art medical infrastructure across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that seven new Medical Colleges; five of them being operational, two AIIMS and other medical institutions have been established in last three years.The Advisor further remarked that due to Covid-19 pandemic, the capability for critical care has amplified in J&K. He highlighted that with the help of technology everyone has capability to connect and deliver services through digital means. He also lauded the TSI and SKIMS for holding this unique conference in J&K. Addressing the gathering, Administrative Secretary, H&ME Department, Bhupinder Kumar said

that in recent years lot of strides have been made in adoption of technology for improving health services across J&K. He added that Hospital Management Information System will revolutionise the health care services in coming years and the J&K Government has already integrated several hospital under HMIS for delivering best possible health care facilities to public. Addressing the gathering, Director SKIMS, Dr. Parvaiz Koul said that the deliberations of this conference will significantly improve the telemedicine services in this institute as well as other health care facilities of J&K. He also highlighted about the basic contours of this two day conference and its significance.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan: District admin plans to conduct survey for identification of drug users in Rajouri

RAJOURI, AUGUST 25: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to review the measures taken by stakeholder departments to curb the menace of drug abuse under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in the district.The meeting was attended the meeting Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohammad Aslam; ADC Nowshera, Kartar Singh; ADC Sunderbani, Vinod Kumar Behnal; ADC Kalakote, Krishnan Lal; ADC Koteranka, Surinder Mohan Sharma; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; ACP, Abdul Rashid Kohli; Chief Education Officer, Shailash Kumari; CMO, Dr Abdul Hamid Zargar; DSWO, Wakeel Ahmed Bhatt and other concerned officers.The DDC asked the stakeholders to work in close coordination and put in dedicated efforts to make Rajouri a drug free district. He also reviewed the functioning of the drug de-addiction centre at GMC&AH and asked the concerned officer to ensure.

Public Notice

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

Mohammad Assadullah Khanday
S/o Mohammad Subhan Khanday
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt.Baramulla

Public Notice

I have applied for registration of my residential house located at village Sheikhpora 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

Mohd Naseem Sofi
S/O Gh Ahmad Sofi
R/O Sheikhpora

Public Notice

I have applied for registration of my residential house located at village Dandmoh 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

Abdul Rashid Reshi
S/o Abdul Aziz Rashi
R/o Dandmoh Tehsil Kreeri
Distt ...Baramulla

Public Notice

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Mohd Naseem Sofi
S/O Gh Ahmad Sofi
R/O Sheikhpora

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Mohd Ramzan Mir
S/o Abdul Khaliq Mir
R/o Sheikhpora

GCW Udhampur organises poster making competition on Cyber Safety

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 25: Cyber Jagrukta Club of Government College for Women Udhampur today organized a Poster making competition on the theme “Cyber Safety” under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Monika Sharma.The motive of the activity was to create awareness among the students regarding the issues related to Cyber safety and security. As many as thirty five students participated in the event.The event was judged by Sumita Rao (Assistant Professor in Zoology), Sanjeev Upadhyay (HOD Dept. of Sanskrit) and Yash Kumar (Assistant Professor in Music).Students expressed their ideas in context to Cyber safety through the posters in a very creative and informative way.Sukanya of Sem-4th secured 1st position, Saher Shakeel of Sem-4th secured 2nd position and Anisha Bhat of Sem-2nd secured 3rd position. Kiran Bhatyal of Sem-4th and Palavi Sharma of Sem-2nd won certificates of appreciation.The event was organised by Sarika Mahajan (Assistant Prof. in Electronics), Jugal Kishore (Assistant Prof. in Mathematics), Arun Gupta (Librarian), Paramjit Singh (HOD Dept. Of Computer Applications), Shallu Jasrotia (Assistant Prof. in Music), Shama (Assistant Prof. in Dogri) and Pooja Bharti (HOD Dept. of Geography).

Kulgam Police launched special Bung destruction drive in the jurisdiction of Police Station Yaripora

Farooq Rather

Kulgam : August 25, 2022 Today on August 25, 2022, a special drive for destruction of wild bung was undertaken at Yaripora and it's adjacent villages falling in the jurisdiction of Police Station Yaripora. A team of Police Station Yaripora along with Municipal committee officers/officials Yaripora and inhabitants of the area launched a special drive against wild bung at Yaripora and its adjacent areas and destroyed huge quantity of bung so as to prevent its use by the drug peddlers and drug addicts. Community members have widely appreciated the action taken by Kulgam Police. All members of the Public are urged to report illicit sale/purchase of narcotics and psychotropic substances to nearby Police unit so that timely action will be taken against the culprits.

Thieves on prowl in Kulgam, 300 wooden boxes stolen

Farooq Rather

Kulgam,25-Aug; Thieves in Kulgam district are getting away scot-free even after a spree of burglaries and thefts of property worth lakhs, including of dozens of cattle and hundreds of apple boxes.Before few days, a dozen cattle were stolen by thieves at Damdol Yaripora area. The cattle worth 7 lakh rupees were stolen in a single burglary in the village and even after searching everywhere, the owners could find no trace of the stolen cows.Meanwhile, during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, Thieves looted more than three hundred empty wooden boxes in Kakran Kulgam.

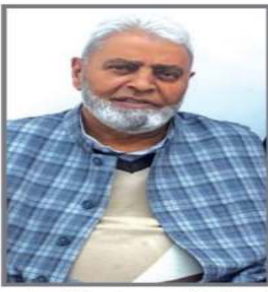
Public Notice

Name Correction

I have applied for correction of my son's Name he was wrongly recorded in SMC Srinagar Muncipal Corporation records as Aayan ali While his actual name is Irhaam Ali. If any body have any objection may contact Srinagar Muncipal Corporation Srinagar within a Period of seven days. After mentioned time no objection will be entertained.

Name Liyaqat Ali
F/O Irhaam Ali
R/O Basant Bagh Gawkadal Srinagar

DEMISE



With profoound grief and sorrow this is to inform that
Founder Chairman Shuhul Group of Companies
Haji Ghulam Mohammad Guroo Sahab
left for heavenly abode on 23-08-22.
He passed on peacefully with his family around him.
Taziyat will be only for 3 days at their residence
11 Guroo Estate, Baghi Mehtab, Srinagar.
Taziyati Majlis will be held on Thursday 25th of
August, 2022 10:30 AM at his residence.

Grief Stricken:
Guroo Family | Gora Family
Mian Family

HT - CLASSIFIED

Div Com Kashmir reviews status of 23 developmental projects of SMRDA

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today convened a meeting to review the status of 23 developmental projects of Srinagar Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (SMRDA).

The meeting held threadbare discussion regarding the present status of projects, preparation of DPRs, approvals and sanctioned cost.Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Budgam and Kulgam; Commissioner SMC; Chief Town Planner; CE, R&B; SE, SDA; CEO, Manasbal Development



ment Authority and SEs of the districts attended the meeting.The projects discussed included revamping of General Bus Stand at Parimpora, revamping Transport Nagar of Parimpora, Development of Bairam Hills and Caves

at Budgam, Development of Peer Rathsun Ziyarat, Beerwa with public convenience, Construction of public parks at Hilar Abad and Markundal Sumbal, construction of community facility at Bemina, Batamaloo, Chattabal

and Noorbagh, and construction of community Halls at Zainakadal and Batamaloo.Besides, construction of marriage Hall cum shopping complex, construction of marriage Hall and Children park Kulgam, Comprehensive master plan for SMRDA, Development of green belt, Green ways on Doodhganaga, preparation of feasibility study and DPR for alternative road of Yusmarg, Doodhpathri, Tosmaidan upto Gulmarg. While reviewing present status of projects, Div Com directed officers to start work on approved projects at the earliest.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SPL PHE

JAL SHAKTI DIVISION KULGAM

از دفتر ایگزیکٹو انجینیر سپیشل پی ایچ ای ڈیوڈن کولگام

Sub:- CORRIGENDUM

Ref:- Worthy Chief secretary J&K directions during review meeting held on 02/08/2022 in the meeting hall, 2nd floor civil secretariat Jammu

Kindly read condition No.5 in the SBD of ENIT No. 35 and 36 of 2022-23 published vide this office No 3018-30 dated 05-08-2022 and No 3061-72 dated 06-08-2022 as under:-

Existing clause	New clause
On opening of price bids, the rates of the First Lowest bidders shall be analyzed and if found reasonable shall be accepted. These rates along with the name of successful firm for that particular work shall be communicated to respective DJJM for issuance of Allotment Order in favour of the bidder. However, to avoid overstretching of the resources of a firm/s, no such contractor/bidder shall be allowed to hold more than two contracts at any given time which may be in excess of the OHTs and RSPFs being advertised by the Department under JJM.	The condition regarding execution of 02 No works (condition No 5 in e-NIT) is hereby waived off.

However the date of above NIT's is hereby extended up to 29-08-2022 and 30-08-2022 respectively.

DIPK-8592/22

S/d

Executive Engineer
Special PHE JSD Kulgam

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla

Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, executiveengineermdb@gmail.com

Gist of Short Term Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No:-MDB/e-Tender/79 of 2022-23 Dated: -23-08-2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla, invites online **e-bids in Two Cover system** on items wise basis from registered suppliers / agencies having experience in similar nature of work for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Supply of spares required for Departmental Dozer BD50 (BEML) Model 2019 chassis no: 14269-BD50 pertaining to SCCR Gurez of Field Sub Division Baramulla	2.24 lacs	200.00	4480.00	10 days	Accorded	Accorded

The tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.iktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given in the 'Abstract: appended to this notice: -

01.	Online tender download / Start Date	23-08-2022 (06:15 PM)
02.	Online tender Submission End Date	05-09-2022 (06:55 PM)
03	Cost of Tender Documents	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt/mpaytransaction acknowledgement, to be uploaded with the online bid. Tender Id to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTESHIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
04	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid (online) (Cover 1 st)	06-09-2022 at 02:00 PM in office of the Chief Engineer, Mechanical Engineering Department Kashmir
05.	Date and time of opening of Financial Bid (online) (Cover 2 nd)	After evaluation of cover 1 st in office of Chief Engineer, Mechanical Engineering Department Kashmir

Instructions to Bidders:

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format with digital signature on the official website www.iktenders.gov.in in two covers: viz Techno- Commercial / Financial cover.
 - Cover 1st shall contain:**
 - Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns. Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost, pledged to the Accounts Officer Mechanical Engineering Department Kashmir and tender document fee in the shape of Treasury receipt / e-challan / e-receipt pledged to the Executive Engineer MED Baramulla.
 - Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST No.
 - Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
 - Scanned copies of the Annexure “A” & “B” duly accepted / signed.
 - Scanned copy of Tender Fee.
 - Cover 2nd shall contain:**
 - Price bid**, as per BOQ provided by this department.
 - Additional Performance Security** in case of ALB (Abnormally Low Bid).- The department will not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons.
- The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and non-transferable.

Sd/-
**Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
Baramulla**

DIPK-8567/22

Advisor Bhatnagar chairs 48th-51st AGMs of JKAIDCL

Asks officers to employ latest technological interventions in the corporation

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today chaired the 48th-51st Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of Jammu and Kashmir Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited (JKAIDCL) at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo; Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Raghav Langar; Secretary in APD, Shabnam Kamili; MD JKAIDCL, Director Agriculture Jammu/ Kashmir, Director Horticulture Jammu/ Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu/ Kashmir, representative of Ministry of Agriculture, GoI, representative of NABARD and other senior officers of the department both in person and through video conferencing.

During the AGMs, detailed deliberations were held on different aspects of the corporation besides the audit reports of financial years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 were also discussed in detail.

Speaking during the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar reiterated that the corporation has been established with an objective of providing post harvest infrastructure, quality agriculture inputs, machinery and marketing support to farmers of J&K and therefore it should be our endeavour to provide every possible support and facilitation to our farmers.

He impressed upon the officers of corporation to make their presence felt at block and district levels to facilitate the farmers fraternity. The Advisor also enjoined upon the management of the corporation to employ all the latest technological interventions being utilised by the food processing industries so that the corporation can be made more viable and profitable.



He also asked the officers of the corporation to hold regular awareness camps as well as interactions with the farming community at the Panchayat level with the involvement of PRI representatives so that maximum people are benefitted.

The AGMs on the occasion adopted directors report and the audited accounts of the Corporation for the Financial Years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. Meanwhile, members of AGM also directed the management of corporation to submit the audited accounts of pending years before the CAG as early as possible. The members also asked them to prepare a business plan of next 10 years for the viability and development of corporation. During the AGMs, detailed deliberations were held on different aspects of the corporation besides the audit reports of financial years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 were also discussed in detail.

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Progressing J&K

Govt. fulfilling the vision of new, healthy J&K with constant development of medical infrastructure

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: J&K Government is taking several reformative measures for the advancement and upgradation of health infrastructure, besides providing affordable healthcare services to people here.

J&K Administration is fulfilling the vision of a new and healthy J&K by developing the medical infrastructure on constant basis. Five new medical colleges, two AIIMS, nearly 1000 healthcare and wellness centers, five new nursing colleges as well as start of BSc paramedical courses and with more than 100% increase in medical seats are contributing towards the development and advancement of the healthcare sector here.

To overcome the shortage of post-graduate doctors and to prepare specialists at that level, Health Department has also started Diploma of National Board Courses in the new and old medical colleges of the districts, which will increase at least 250 seats. MD Psychiatry seats have also been increased in GMC Srinagar recently. The increase in MD (Psychiatry) seats from 8 to 12 in Government Medical College, Srinagar will boost mental healthcare after National Medical Commission (NMC) approval.

Notably, last year, MBBS seats were increased from 500 to 1100. Around 111 more MBBS/BDS seats and 50 PG seats under EWS have been sanctioned. Besides, 14 dental PG seats were approved. 225 DNB seats in 16 disciplines were also approved.

Nearly 600 paramedical seats in nine courses were sanctioned.

This follows the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) report regarding faculty, their experience, publication, and other infrastructure available at GMC Srinagar. The admission for new seats will start from the academic year 2022-23.

"It is to inform that MARB reviewed the assessor's report on July 16 regarding faculty, their experience, publication, and other teaching facilities including infrastructure available at GMC Srinagar under Kashmir University, for an increase of seats in MD (psychiatry) for the academic year 2022-23," said Member/President, MARB, National Medical Commission.

NMC asked the GMC to provide all infrastructure facilities in terms of teaching and non-teaching staff, buildings, equipment, and hospital facilities as per NMC norms. This follows the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) report regarding faculty, their experience, publication, and other infrastructure available at GMC Srinagar. The admission for new seats will start from the academic year 2022-23.

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DC Srinagar reviews District Skill Plan

SRINAGAR AUGUST 25: The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Skill Committee (DSC) here in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to discuss the District Skill Development Plan to evaluate the skill gaps and to deliberate upon the road map for meeting the skill requirements of the district.

Among other, the meeting was attended by the General Manager DIC, Chief Planning Officer, Deputy Director Tourism, Chief Agriculture Officer, Assistant labour Commissioner, AD Handicrafts, District Lead Bank Manager, besides officers from Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, JKEDI, Sheep Husbandry, KVIB, KVIC, KVK, MGN Fellow and representatives of Copper Unions of the District.

The meeting discussed the various aspects related to the District Skill Plan to enhance the employability to provide opportunities to skilled human resource to earn sustainable livelihood. The meeting also held a detailed deliberation with regard to the initiatives being taken for the socio economic development of Artisans of Srinagar District and rejuvenation of the traditional and heritage craft by providing Market Interventions.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on action points under District Skill Plan by involving line Departments for widening the ambit of Skill Development programme under various schemes to create ample opportunities of employment for the unemployed youth of the District besides improving the living standards of the artisans associated with centuries old traditional crafts.

The focus of discussion was "Project Traam" launched by District administration Srinagar to revive the Copperware firms by encouraging production and establishing market linkages.

The DC directed the Officers of all line Departments to submit the revised Skill Plan as per the devised format by August 29, 2022 so that it is finalized for onward submission to the concerned Union Ministry.

While stressing on launching awareness among the Artisans including traditional copperware manufacturing & designing craftsmen regarding different Government schemes, the DC directed the concerned Departments to reach out to the target population of the District so that they are benefitted from such schemes. He also asked the concerned Departments to hold interaction sessions.

DC Kulgam reviews functioning of Cooperative deptt in the district

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUGUST 25: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers to review functioning of Cooperative Department in Kulgam along with implementation status of Yuva Sahakar and Ayushman Bharat.

At the outset, the DC took detailed review of the updated Audit position of cooperative societies, financial status of the units, besides discussing issues faced by societies. The Deputy Registrar Cooperative apprised the chair that there are a total of 87 functional Cooperative



Societies/Cooperatives in the district. Under Yuva Sahakar, three societies shall be recommended and DPR for these societies are under process, he added.

frame these DPRs at an earlier. During the meeting it was also shared that DPR for the food Processing unit stand submitted.

While sharing the data and figures of business turnover of Cooperative Societies it was informed that during 2021-22, the turnover was 15.02 crore whereas in the current financial year there is a turnover of 2.80 crore.

The Deputy Registrar also informed that 119 new societies have been recommended for registration under Cooperative Act 1999, and 51 were given registration and the rest are under process of registration.

Controller Legal Metrology visits HP Bottling Plant at Pampore

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Controller, Legal Metrology Department, M.K.A. Drabu today visited Hindustan Petroleum (HP) LPG bottling plant at Pampore.

During his visit, he reviewed the functioning of the bottling plant and directed the company officials to adhere to the Standard Operating Procedure while ensuring prescribed net contents of LPG in each cylinder supplied to the distributors for further distribution across the valley.

He also reviewed the stock position and safety Measures taken by the company. The Legal Metrology Officers conducted net content checking of different sample sizes of LPG cylinders filled with gas which has 14.2 kg of net cooking gas and cylinder weight is prominently written on each cylinder. It was informed that as many as 12,000 LPG cylinders are filled on a daily basis at the plant.

He was also informed that the company conducts sample net content checking before its supply to various dealers and it has inbuilt mechanism to ensure the net content in each vessel. It was also given out that 2.5 lacs equivalent of LPG cylinder stocks are available in the plant while more than 50000 LPG cylinders are in transit. The Controller asked the departmental official to work with added zeal and ensure daily net conduct checking in the market so that consumers get exactly quantity of LPG in the Cylinder.

DC Kulgam chairs DLRC meet

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUGUST 25: To review the performance of Banks and line Departments for current financial year, quarter ended June 30, 2022 under Annual Credit Plan and Govt Schemes, a meeting of District Level Review Committee /District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at mini-secretariat, here.

The Meeting was attended by JD-Planning ACD, DM Industries and DDM NABARD besides District officers of line departments and District Coordinators of various banks. At the outset, Lead District manager (LDM) Parvez Rashid welcomed the members and revealed that deposits of Banks stand at Rs 2119.70 Crores as on 30 June, 2022 witnessing growth of 7.38 percent over June 2021, Advances stand at Rs.1818.22 cr as on 30 June, 2022 witnessing growth of 10 percent over June 2021. The Credit Deposit Ratio at 85.80 percent stood quite above the National Benchmark of 60 percent.



Under District Annual Credit Plan (2022-23) of Rs.1538.06 Cr, Banks have disbursed Rs.287.12 Cr to 12060 beneficiaries during CFY of quarter ended June 30, 2022 thus achieving 19 percent of ACP target. The DC while reviewing sector wise achievements advised Banks to improve credit dispensations in Agriculture, MSME, and more focus should be given to housing and education sectors. He also reviewed progress made under various employment generation schemes including PMEGP.

DC Budgam calls for speedy verification of PM- Kissan beneficiaries

Chairs meeting to review progress of uploading of Revenue records of farmers

BUDGAM, AUGUST 25: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid today called for speedy completion of uploading of Revenue records of PM- Kissan beneficiaries.

DC said this, while chairing a meeting on PM- Kissan at Conference Hall Budgam.

At the outset, the DC stressed on speedy verification of beneficiaries and bulk uploading of Revenue records of eligible beneficiaries within a week's time.

He emphasized on verification of farmers to be carried out in a coordinated manner by both revenue and agriculture employees to ensure speedy completion of the task in a time bound manner.



The DC termed the PM- Kissan an important welfare scheme and stressed that benefits of the scheme should reach all eligible and deserving farmers across the district.

At the outset, it was given out that village level coordination teams are to be headed by respective NT and monitored by concerned Tehsildars.

SDMs were designated as nodal persons for keeping DC updated on daily basis.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam, Dr. Akramullah Tak; ACR, Chief Agriculture Officer, Tehsildars, NTs and other concerned officers and officials.

NO: PR/DDI/SGR/22/4219/

Sanjeev Verma chairs one-day workshop on promotion of Wood based Industries in J&K



JAMMU, AUGUST 25: Department of Social Forestry J&K in collaboration with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science & Technology (SKUAST)-Jammu today organised a one-day workshop to facilitate the consultation amongst stake holders to promote development of Wood Based Industries in Jammu as well as in Kashmir region.

The one-day event was chaired by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Sanjeev Kumar Verma.

While speaking on the occasion, he appreciated the initiative which could go a long way in identifying the strength areas and challenges in promoting the development of Wood Based Industries in UT of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised on strengthening institutional linkage between Farmers, Industries and Research Institutions for sustainable growth of Wood Based Industries in the UT.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor SKAUST Jammu, Dr. J.P. Sharma, stressed upon diversification, value addition of agriculture products and adoption of secondary agriculture. He also advised to focus on entrepreneurship development of rural youth of the district. He suggested the scientists to work on collaborative projects with Social Forestry Department and insisted for participation of officers from forest department in programme of KVKS of SKUAST-Jammu. Forest trees and medicinal fruits have immense potential in kandi areas and are viable option as alternative source of income. Agroforestry helps in encouraging apiculture by planting forest trees as Bee Flora.

PCCF & HoFF J&K Forest Department, Dr. Mohit Gera informed that Farm Forestry has the potential of optimizing the production level of land and enhancing the profits to the farmers.

The tree plantation on non-forest land including the private farm lands is an important source of raw material for Wood Based Industries after the imposition of ban on Green Felling in natural forests. In J&K and about 164 Nos. of Plywood Industries are presently functioning in the UT which requires continuous supply of good quality raw material. Presently about 80 lacs Cfts of Timber is imported by J&K to meet its domestic needs. Therefore, there is an important need to boost the production of suitable timber species to bridge the gap between demand and supply. Agroforestry has a huge potential to generate employment opportunities, increase the income of farmers and boost the industrial activities as has been demonstrated in the states like Haryana, Punjab and western UP. PCCF/ Director, Department of Social Forestry, J&K, Roshan Jaggi while delivering his opening remarks informed that Department of Social Forestry in last four decades has played key role in establishing the culture of Tree Farming.

Kulgam Police observed Thana Diwas

Farooq Rather

Kulgam : August 25, 2022 Kulgam Police continuing its public outreach programme today held ‘Thana Divas’ functions at police station Kulgam, police station Devsar, police station Manzgam and police station Kund, chaired by respective jurisdictional Police officers in which Sarpanchs, Panchs, Respectable citizens, civil societies of concerned areas, including members of Auqaf Committees, Numberdars, Chowkidars, Traders Federation and Transporters of respective areas participated. During the meetings, participants highlighted various issues of public importance, and they were assured that their genuine grievances pertaining to Police will be resolved on priority and that of civil administration will be taken up with

the concerned Departments for their early redressal. While speaking on the occasions, it was reiterated that the main aim of organising ‘Thana Divas’ is to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability in Policing at grassroot level and to hear and redress grievances of general public, besides seek support and active cooperation in maintaining L&O, curbing drug menace and others social evils in the areas. The participants were also stressed to co-operate with Kulgam Police in identifying anti-national and anti social elements who always try to disrupt the peaceful environment in the district. The participants appreciated the role of Police for conducting such interactive meetings which further boost Community Policing and Public.

Raghav, Shahid discuss modalities for STC, Tribal Sub-Plan formulation by all departments, districts

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: The Jammu and Kashmir government has initiated first ever exercise for formulation of Tribal Development Plan by all the departments as an amalgamation of Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) of all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Union Territory CapEx for targeted development of tribal population in both rural and urban areas. Modalities were also finalised for model villages scheme (PMAAGY) to be implemented in 134 tribal villages this year.

Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department (PD&MD) Dr Raghav Langar and Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department (TAD), Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary convened a meeting with Directors and Joint Directors of Planning wing in all the Administrative De-

partments and Directorates to finalise modalities for Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) formulation and earmarking budget for tribal welfare and development.

Secretary PD&MD, Dr Raghav Langar underlined the statutory requirement of formulation of tribal development plan as a district part of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes and CapEx budget of the UT as per guidelines issued by the Government of India. He asked the Directors, Jt Directors and Deputy Directors of planning wings in various departments to start exercise on the notified formats and uploading plans on MIS portal. He also discussed about focussed planning for inclusive development of tribal population.

Secretary TAD, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary made a detailed presentation about the modal-

ities of tribal development plan. He dwelled on the

and Central Ministers making it mandatory for



guidelines of NITI Ayog all departments to ear-

mark funds proportionate to tribal population for planned tribal development. He added that Tribal Development Plan shall be comprised of Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Tribal Sub-Plan of UT Capex which will be augmented by Special Central Assistance to TSP by the department.

Pertinently, Planning Commission in 2014 issued guidelines making it mandatory for all the departments to formulate Tribal Sub-Plan proportionate to tribal population for allocation both under CSS and State/UT CapEx. The NITI Ayog made it mandatory for formulate TSP as a pre-condition for approval of State/UT annual plans however the practice was not adopted in J&K. In line with Government's commitment for inclusive development of tribal com-

munities the Tribal Affairs department and the Planning, Monitoring & Development Department have initiated the exercise for statutory tribal development plan by all departments, missions and districts.

The Tribal Affairs Deptt also presented the gap analysis of facilities in tribal villages requiring planning by various departments including education, healthcare, veterinary care, power supply, PDS, water supply etc. Deptt has projected 2843 villages and 314 urban wards for allocations by all the departments under the statutory tribal sub-plan. Deptt also shared Village Development Plan formats for PMAAGY model villages scheme which requires 43% of TSP funds to be converged by all the departments.

CUK’s SLS holds webinar on ‘Pro Bono Publico: Justice Within Reach Through Legal Aid’

Ganderbal, Aug 25: The Department of Law, School of Legal Studies (SLS), Central University of Kashmir (CUK), in collaboration with School of Law, University of Kashmir (KU), Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RG-NUL), Patiala, and Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU), Visakhapatnam, organized a national webinar on “Pro Bono Publico: Justice Within Reach Through Legal Aid” at Tulumulla Campus here on Thursday. In his welcome address, Dean SLS, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, talked about Public Trust Doctrine and some landmark judgments regarding free legal aid. He highlighted the Constitutional and Statutory provisions relating to free legal aid in India, discussed special Legislation, implementation mechanism relating to free legal and emphasis criteria for giving legal services under section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah talked about legal aid and how we can help needy people for

getting free legal aid. He said Justice cannot be achieved unless and until all have equal opportunity



for access to justice. Prof. Farooq Shah asked the Department to conduct more such programmes to educate the students about the role of legal aid clinics in providing the much-needed legal aid to the impoverished class of the society.

Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, highlighted various issues related to free legal aid, and observed

that the concept of legal aid is enshrined in the Constitution, but the benefit secured has been micro

in nature. He said that 58 per cent of the population living below the poverty line is yet to be covered and the major challenge is that we have to reach to the unreachable and for that we need to conduct legal awareness programmes in far flung areas.

The programme was followed by presentations by speakers from different corners of India. Prof.

Dayananda Murthy, Director Academics, NLU, focused on “Legal Aid to the victims of mass disaster and industrial disaster.” Prof. Shruti Bedi, UILS, Punjab University, focused on constitutional perspective shedding light on the contributions of Justice Krishna Iyer and Justice P.N Bhagwati. She said “let this constitutional right become a reality with colors.” Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Associate Professor, DoLS PU, gave a presentation on Lok Adalats, and ground reality and how cases are dealt therein. Dr. Shabir Ali, Principal, V.M. Salgaocar College of Law, highlighted various provisions of legal services and discussed the grass-root level issues particularly about Goa. Dr. Sophy Joseph, Associate Professor, NLU, New Delhi accentuated the exploitative factors in the labour sector where she discussed the concept of vulnerable workers in labour and its related statistics. Prof. Beauty Bandy, Head and Dean School of Law, University of Kashmir proposed the vote of thanks. Asst Prof. Dr. Mudasar Bhat, conducted the programme proceedings.

HDFC Bank wins 3 prestigious awards at Asiamoney Best Bank Awards

Mumbai, Aug 25, KNT: HDFC Bank has won 3 prestigious awards at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2022. These categories include Best Domestic Corporate Bank, Best Bank for SMEs and Best Bank for Diversity & Inclusion.

The magazine said on its website – “HDFC Bank is India's largest private-sector lender by assets. It has the scale, processes, expertise and vision to meet the needs of its 70 million-plus customers. Those strengths came in handy when the pandemic roiled markets. Size doesn't get in the way of HDFC Bank's efficiency, as is clear from its overall gross non-performing assets ratio, which fell to 1.17% by March from 1.32% a year earlier.”

Asiamoney's award decisions were made by a team of senior journalists after receiving detailed submissions from market participants and in conjunction with research into the banking and capital markets by their editorial committee. Their senior editors also visited each country or territory to meet leading bankers and gather client and competitor feedback.

While deciding the Best Domestic Corporate Bank the jury appreciated HDFC Bank's strengths across different business lines, with special mention of its corporate book which had grown 16% year on year by the end of March, through a diverse portfolio of clients, including government-owned corporations, telecom-

munications, energy, power, metals, infrastructure, food and agriculture, as well as pharmaceuticals.

The Bank also brought home the top award in the category Best Bank for SMEs. The jury noted that in the last seven years, advances to this segment grew at a compound annual rate of 31%, indicating the Bank's razor-sharp focus on this market. “HDFC Bank has about three million MSMEs on its roster. Despite the pandemic, the quality of its book stayed steady, with a relatively low gross non-performing asset ratio of 1.28% by the end of March. The NPA ratio was 1.17% in the previous financial year and 1.39% in the 2020 financial year,” the magazine wrote in its editorial. (KNT)

3 Days Medical Camp concludes at District Jail Baramulla

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 25: A three days Medical Camp organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Baramulla in collaboration with Government Medical College today concluded at District Jail Baramulla. The camp was organised under the Supervision of Chairman DLSA Baramulla, Mohammad Yousuf Wani and Secretary/Sub-Judge District Legal Services Authority Baramulla, Fariqa Nazir. The Medical Camp consisted of a Board of 04 doctors viz Dr. Yasir Bashir (Assistant Professor General Medicine), Dr. Humam Nissar (Assistant Professor General Surgery), Dr. Mubashir Rashid (Senior Resident Orthopedics) and Dr. Fayaz Ahmad (Dental Surgeon). On the occasion, a total of 38 inmates were examined by the medical board out of which 34 were male inmates and 04 were female inmates. All the inmates (Patients) were thoroughly examined by the aforementioned Board and necessary medicines/tests were prescribed for inmates accordingly. Moreover, in view of rising symptoms of hepatitis-c among the jail inmates, 'collective hepatitis-c tests' were taken among symptomatic jail inmates (patients) of District Jail Baramulla. A team of doctors and technicians thoroughly examined the inmates and thereafter successfully conducted tests among the symptomatic jail inmates (patients). A total of 16 symptomatic inmates (all males) were tested by the team for hepatitis-C and the samples were accordingly sent to Medical College Baramulla for report. No women inmates were found symptomatic of hepatitis-C.

Registration cum licensing mela held at Larnoo



ANANTNAG, AUGUST 25: The Food Safety Team District Anantnag today organized a registration cum licensing Mela to issue licenses to Food Business Operators on the spot at Larnoo, here. During the said Mela, 60 applications were received for licenses and registrations out of which 55 registrations were issued on spot. The President Municipal Committee Kokernag presided over the Mela and distributed the certificates among Food Business Operators. In addition, the Food Business Operators were imparted awareness regarding RUCO initiative and SOPs regarding safe disposal of used oil. They were sensitized about the harmful effects of newspapers used for wrapping food items. The local people hailed the efforts of the department and advocated for more such programmes in near future.

DDC Kupwara asks officers to take extra efforts for completion of dev works in far flung Karnah sub division

Addresses public darbar, review meeting at Tangdar

KUPWARA, AUGUST 25: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray today directed officers and field functionaries to accelerate developmental tempo in the district especially in the far flung areas of Karnah, Keran and Machil.

The DDC, who had his maiden visit to Karnah sub division today, was addressing a public darbar and officers meeting.

The DDC asked officers to fix priorities and take extra efforts to ensure completion of all ongoing and targeted developmental works. Addressing the public darbar at Dak Banglow Tangdar, which was also attended by Senior Officers and PRIs said that Government is committed

for equitable development of all areas of the district including far flung areas like Karnah.

Replying the demand of public, the DDC said that special staff will be deputed to the NTPHC Karnah, Keran, Machil and like areas which remain cut off in winter months so that people of these far off places do not face any inconvenience.

The DDC said that he will discuss the issues in detail with the DDC Member and PRIs separately and will resolve them on priority in view of coming winter season.

Regarding drug menace, the DDC said that the police or administration cannot win the war against drugs alone adding that, every person of the society has to make his contri-



bution in terms of cooperation towards eradication of the drug menace. Earlier, on reaching Tangdar, the DDC was given warm welcome by the people

of the sub division for his first visit soon after joining as Deputy Commissioner of Kupwara district.

The DDC also chaired a sepa-

rate meeting of officers at Mini Secretariat Tangdar during which he took a detailed sector wise review of all developmental schemes and welfare programmes. The DDC received updated status and feedback from the officers. He urged upon them to accelerate the developmental tempo in the area and ensure completion of all ongoing and target works within the stipulated time frame. Due to limited working season in the Karnah area, he asked the officers to make extra efforts for completion of all ongoing works. He said that leniency and laziness shall not be tolerated in anyway and directed officers to be prompt and vibrant in public delivery system.

JDU Team from Dangarpore Sopore visited party HQ Rajbagh Srinagar

Srinagar: Team came with different issues and JDU party president G.M. shaheen today emphasized strengthening the organization at the grassroots level and expediting development works while addressing party workers at Dangarpore Sopore. All party workers in a large number which also raised their issues and problems faced by them. During the Meeting, locals also highlighted their grievances and sought adequate compensation of land acquired for the ring road project, clearance of liabilities and adequate jobs under MGNREGA, besides early tendering of proposed development works for the area. Dangarpore Sopore team is also raised of Panchayats of the block raised several issues of public importance and demanded improvement of roads, link roads, adequate water supply, and uninterrupted power supply to villages of the block.

Speaking on the occasion, Party President G.M. shaheen said that Janta dal united is a cadre-based party and hence believes in the holistic welfare of its workers who would then go on to work for the welfare of society, touching the lives of everyone, irrespective of their colour, creed or religion. Shaheen said It is thus very



crucial to strengthen the organization at the grassroots level and we have to abide by team spirit to make this organization even greater,”

Vivek Bali State General Secretary impressed upon the cadre present in the meeting. He directed for focusing on the training of workers by infusing a sense of nationalism so that they work for the betterment of this great nation. “The team must be completed at the earliest and well organised with all the complaints, too,” he added. In the visit, people detailed about the various developmental works undertaken by them in their respective wards to the cadre and the public present there. Bali asked the district Presidents to hold monthly meetings in their respective districts every month.

DDC Vice Chairman reviews developmental works in Dooru

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 25: The Vice Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Anantnag today held a detailed review of the developmental works being undertaken in Sub Division Dooru.

DDC members from Vessu Qazigund, Hiller Shahabad and Shahbad Bala as well as concerned BDCs were present on the occasion.

SDM Dooru presented a brief overview of various developmental works being undertaken in the district. He elaborated on the works completed in the previous fiscal and the expenditure made as well the works being tendered in the present fiscal.

He informed the chair that most of the estimations have been completed and tendering of works is underway and assured him that works will be completed within the stipulated timeline.

The DDC members discussed projects of importance and highlighted areas for improvement. The BDC members put forth their observations and directed the officers to ensure that works are completed within a given timeframe. They said that works plans have been vetted by Gram Sabhas and implementation of the development works must be carried out as per plan.

Sarpanches of the respective halgas

highlighted their concerns and sought the intervention of the Administration in resolving the issues.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice chairman said that holding of Gram sabhas has been instrumental in projecting genuine public demands. He further said that in future such meetings will be held for better development of the sub division.

He exhorted the PRI members and officials to work in close coordination for welfare of the people and ensure that public money is spent on community welfare works as per the plans prepared by the Gram Sabhas.

He laid emphasis on social audit of works and appealed to the sarpanches to ensure that quality standards are strictly adhered to. He further said that works should be prioritized and accordingly executed.

The DDC Vice Chairman directed the officials to ensure that they are accessible to the public during office hours so that the public can put up their grievances. He stressed on timely resolution of grievances.

The meeting was attended by the SDM, concerned Tehsildars, BDOs, representatives from engineering wings among others.

HEADLINES TODAY**EDITORIAL****Dowry makes women 'vulnerable'**

As has been correctly observed by the Supreme Court, offence of dowry death is a crime against society and a strong message must be sent that a person who commits such an offence shall be dealt with an iron hand. The top court said the legislative intent of incorporating Section 304 B (dowry death) of the Indian Penal Code was to curb the menace of dowry death with a firm hand. In dealing with cases under Section 30B, such legislative intent has to be kept in mind, it underlined. Earlier the Supreme Court observed that domestic violence in India is rampant and several women encounter violence in some form or the other or almost every day. A woman resigns her fate to the never ending cycle of enduring violence and discrimination as a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, a partner or a single woman in her lifetime, the apex court noted. Many women, mostly young, become victims of domestic violence which refers to any abuse including physical, emotional, sexual, or financial between intimate partners, often living in the same household. The term is often used specifically to designate physical assaults upon women by their male partners. Domestic violence is widespread, deeply ingrained and has serious impacts on women's health and well-being. This aspect is not restricted to this part of the globe but world over. According to a worldwide analysis published in The Lancet earlier this year, over one in four women (or 27 per cent) experience intimate partner violence before the age of 50. While the numbers are alarming, the true scale of violence is likely even higher, said researchers from McGill University and the WHO, noting that the studies were based on self-reported experiences. Given the stigmatised nature of the issue, women can be hesitant to report their experiences, they explained. This is happening despite the fact the progress of any society depends on its ability to protect and promote the rights of its women. As per the top court of India, the “non-retaliation” by women coupled with the absence of laws addressing women's issues, ignorance of the existing laws enacted for women and societal attitude makes the women vulnerable. The entire society must rise above the occasion and let the home be truly home for her and not a place which imperil lives.

RNI REGISTRATION NO

JKENG/2011/39231

TITLE CODE

JKENG00842

CHIEF PATRON

SYED SAD UD DIN BUKHARI (SAIDI)

EDITOR IN CHIEF

JAHANGIR BUKHARI

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

AHMAD MAJID

MANAGING EDITOR

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GEN MANAGER

MANZOOR HYDER

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MUKARAM ALI

ABU HASNAIN

SHEIKH SANJEEEL

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS/SUB EDITORS

BHAT SHAHNAWAZ

SHEIKH MUDASIR

FAREED AHMAD KHAN

LEGAL ADVISORS

AD. TANVIR TAHIR QADRI

AD. RAYEES UL AHAD AAKHOON

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

SRINAGAR J&K 190017

CONTACT US**ADVERTISEMENT SECTION**

9999038812

dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com

EDITORIAL SECTION

9419008414

jahangirbukhari@gmail.com

dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com

PRINTING PRESS SECTION

9419002367

lubaabpublications@gmail.com

POLITICAL TRANSITION IN KASHMIR HAS GOT A NEW TWIST

UNITY DEMONSTRATED IN GUPKAR DECLARATION FALLING APART

DR. GYAN PATHAK

Political transition in Jammu & Kashmir has now a new twist. With Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) declaring to go solo in the next Vidhan Sabha Election whenever would be held, the unity demonstrated by the political parties of the state has started falling apart, the indication of which has been emanating for the last few months. Though it is not a surprise for the people who are privy to the politics of the state, the beginning of the crumbling down of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) so soon is certainly a surprise providing an opportunity for great delight to BJP and its supporters.

The BJP has always wanted to do away with the Article 370 and 35 A of the Constitution of India and when the Narendra Modi government at the Centre had been moving large number of armed forces into Jammu & Kashmir during last week of July and first week of August 2019, the political parties of Jammu & Kashmir sensed something extraordinary to happen. Therefore, they assembled at residence of National Confer-

ence leader Farooq Abdullah at Gupkar, and made a declaration on August 4, 2019 that is now known as Gupkar Declaration.

The political parties of the state resolved to defend “identity, autonomy, and special status of Jammu & Kashmir” provided under Article 370 of the Constitution of India and the Article 35 A which empowered the Jammu and Kashmir state's legislature to define “permanent residents” of the state and provide special rights and privileges to them.

Seventeen leaders across the political parties with Farooq Abdullah in chair unanimously had resolved:

1. That all the parties would be united in their resolve to protect and defend the identity, autonomy and special status of J&K against all attacks and onslaughts whatsoever.

2. That modification, abrogation of Articles 35A, 370, unconstitutional delimitation or trifurcation of the State would be an aggression against the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

3. That the parties participating in the meeting resolved to seek audience with the President and Prime Minister of India and the leaders of other political



parties to apprise them of the current situation and make an appeal to them to safeguard the legitimate interests of the people of the State with regard to the guarantees given to the State by the Constitution of our country.

However, only a day after on August 5, 2019, Modi government got the Article 370 and 35 A abrogated in the Parliament of India, the statehood of Jammu & Kashmir was withdrawn, bifurcated into two Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the leaders of the political parties were arrested, internet shut down, a large number of armed forces deployed, and people's movement disrupted. Opinion was divided – some said the action and the manner in which it was done was immoral, unethical, unwise, and unjustified, while majority of non-Kashmiri Indians hailed the action bold and historic. Kashmiris termed

the fateful even as ‘black day’.

One year later on August 22, 2020, seven political parties National Conference, People's Democratic Party, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Jammu & Kashmir People's Conference, Awami National Conference, Indian National Congress, and Jammu & Kashmir People's Movement announced the Second Gupkar Declaration, which re-asserted the resolution passed on August 4, 2019. However, on November 17, 2020, Congress denied their involvement with PAGD. On January 19, 2021, People's Conference also announced its exit for the alliance, while People's Movement left it on July 4, 2022. Presently, there are only four political parties left in the PAGD which are NC, PDP, CPI(M), and Awami National Conference.

The contour of politics in the Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir started chang-

ing further with declaration of fresh delimitation of the assembly constituencies in by the end of 2021. Delimitation Commission set December 31 as the last day for submitting objections on its proposals. Political activities began after a long gap since August 2019. National Conference declared to participate in the delimitation exercise, which was severely criticized by one of the estranged constituents People's Conference alleging U-turn.

A new controversy has emerged recently after the order of the Jammu & Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer that intends to allow registration of all non-local people residing in the Union Territory as voters. In all, over 25 lakhs voters are expected to be added in the electoral roll of the state, which would also include large number of non-locals. The political parties of the state have slammed the extension of voting rights to non-local which they fear would alter the political prospects of the people of the state. They allege that the BJP is trying to capture the power in the state by importing voters from outside the state.

Now National Conference, which joined hands with arch-rival Jammu and

Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to set up the alliance, has said it will contest the next assembly elections on its own. It denounced “unfair treatment” which it claims the party has been subjected to in the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD). It also demanded “immediate course correction” from PAGD constituents, alleging that some constituent of the Gupkar alliance has made statements and speeches against the NC which doesn't contribute to the overall unity of the alliance.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah has tweeted to convey people that only way to protect J&K's identity is to first register and cast your vote in huge numbers. He also said that provincial committee members unanimously resolved that JKNC should prepare and fight all 90 seats.

The PDP has responded to the National Conference statement saying, “PAGD was conceived for a much larger cause than just an electoral alliance. If some constituent of the Alliance has reservations for any kind of electoral alliance, that will not impact our unity for the larger goal.”

IPA SERVICE

ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY IS BEING SCUTTLED IN JAMMU & KASHMIR AGAIN

NO DEMOCRATIC CITIZEN CAN TURN A BLIND EYE TO DEVELOPMENTS IN VALLEY

PRAKASH KARAT

Three years after the virtual abrogation of Article 370 and nullification of the special status on August 5, 2019, the Modi government is continuing its efforts to reorder the electoral system in Jammu & Kashmir to suit its interests by disempowering the Muslim majority population.

The chief electoral officer of J&K announced on August 16 that anyone ordinarily resident in J&K can enrol as a voter in the union territory. He also added that 20 to 25 lakh voters are expected to be added during the special summary revision of the voter list. Earlier, when Article 370 was in force, only permanent residents could vote in the assembly election while those “ordinarily resident” were eligible to vote only in parliamentary polls. Such a voter was termed as ‘Non-Permanent Resident’ (NPR).

Now those who are staying in J&K for doing business, jobs or studies can vote has set alarm bells ringing among the political

parties. In fact, the addition of around 25 lakh voters to the 76 lakh registered voters would alter in a major way the electoral balance in favour of the BJP and bring about a demographic change. There is also the question whether serving members of the armed forces or central para-military forces who are staying in peace stations can become eligible for enrolment as voters along with their spouses.

The new regulations would also mean that refugees from west Pakistan, resident in the state after 1947 and who could enrol as NPRs and vote in parliament would now be eligible as ordinarily resident to vote in the assembly election. This latest measure on giving voting rights to non-permanent residents is part of the overall plan to reduce the weightage of the Muslim population in the Valley and in the Jammu region for the purpose of representation in the future assembly.

All the political parties, except the BJP, have rejected this inclusion of non-locals in the electoral



list. At a meeting convened by Farooq Abdullah, nine parties announced that they would not allow any move to extend voting rights to non-locals. They termed it as an attempt to change the state's demographics by the BJP government at the centre.

Prior to this, the Delimitation Commission had reorganised the assembly constituencies in a manner as to reduce the weightage of the Valley and of the Muslim majority areas in Jammu. The commission increased the number of seats from 83 to 90. Out of the increase in

seven seats, Jammu gained six, while the Valley only one.

Based on the 2011 Census, Jammu region has 44 per cent of the population and in the new dispensation, it has got 48 per cent of the seats, while the Valley had 56 per cent of the population, has got 52 per cent of the seats. Moreover, in Jammu, Muslim majority seats comprise less than a quarter of total seats in the region, though Muslims constitute over a third of the population in the region. The commission had also recommended the provision

of two nominated seats for Kashmiri pandit migrants and another seat for west Pakistani refugees.

All this is designed to help the BJP secure a big majority in the Jammu region and to form a government with the help of some splinter groups of smaller parties who have emerged in the Valley.

All these preparations for holding an assembly election is being undertaken with no assurance that statehood will be first granted to J&K. Further, all these measures are being pushed through when the Reorganisation Act of 2019 has been challenged in the Supreme Court and the matter is pending there.

After trampling upon the constitutional guarantees given to the people of J&K, the last three years have seen an unprecedented attack on democracy and democratic rights of citizens in J&K. According to the Forum for Human Rights in Jammu & Kashmir chaired by former chief justice of Delhi High Court, Justice A P Shah, and former home secretary, G K Pillai, three years after the state was dismantled, there

are still a large number of political detainees who continue to remain in jail under preventive detention. Anti-terrorism and sedition laws are being continuously employed disproportionately against residents, political parties and journalists. There has been a severe clampdown on the freedom of press through police harassment, intimidation and arbitrary detention of journalists.

In short, J&K continues under siege. It is in such a situation that a truncated and communally designed electoral system is being imposed.

This will further deepen the alienation of the people in the Valley and give a fillip to militancy. Already the state has seen an increase in targeted killings of over 20 people this year.

No democratic-minded citizen of India can turn a blind eye to what is happening in Jammu & Kashmir, since whatever happens there has been a forerunner of things to come in the rest of the country.

IPA SERVICE

COURTESY: PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

UNDER NARENDRA MODI REGIME, STATE GOVERNORS ARE ACTING AS THE TOOL OF BJP**BINOY VISWAM**

Under the RSS-BJP rule the office of governors is becoming more and more undemocratic and conspiratorial. The meaning and spirit of federalism is routinely violated by these governors' office in many parts of the country. Uninterrupted functioning of the state governments is hindered by the unjustifiable interventions of the governors. The Constitution discusses about the powers and duties of the governor elaborately. From Article 153 several provisions are incorporated by the framers of the Constitution with the proclaimed purpose of a healthy Centre-State relation. However, many a time the political agenda of those who run the show at the Centre have undermined the novel scriptures attached to the governors' office. The tendency of powers to centralise everything, often try to make the governor as an instrument to impose its wishes.

In 1959 this tendency of high-handedness went up to the extent of dismissing the first ever communist government of Kerala by invoking

article 356. From then onwards more than 115 times this article was used by various central governments to impose their authoritarian rule in various states. The makers of the Constitution envisaged the governor to perform as a meaningful link between the Centre and the states. Mutual understanding and respect between governments at the Centre and the State is an ideal situation that helps both the entities. The RSS controlled ruling dispensation at the Centre is in a frenzy to overshadow everything of our federal structure. For them the states and the state government are to be treated as their orderlies. This has created tedious challenges in the realm of Centre-State relations. In many states, the governor questions the well-structured advancement of the state for their political ends.

The BJP government has made it a practice to hand-pick governors of their choice. Political wisdom of statesmanship is not a criterion for the BJP in selecting the governors. RSS supporters with undisputable loyalty to its ideology are becoming incumbents of the Raj Bhawan/Raj

Niwas in different states. In a matter of few days, these ‘Swayamsevak governors’ convert their Raj Bhawans into a camp office of the BJP. The prescriptions of partisan politics prepared by BJP heavy weights are put into practice by such kind of governors. They seek and act as if they are deputed to the states to fulfil the whims and fancies of the BJP in the concerned states and the Centre.

Governors in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab have been acting as the political stewards of the BJP violating the basic doctrines of democracy. Not so long ago, in several states after the election governors were deployed to install BJP governments with cooked up majority. Bypassing the single biggest political formation in hung assemblies, BJP leaders were allowed to form the government. With this political patronage from the ‘Constitutional Head of the State’ BJP could easily manage the required numbers through horse-trading. It is shameful to see governors, who are supposed to perform the task irrespective of political considerations competing each other

to become ‘more Christian than the Pope’.

Arif Mohammed Khan, the governor of Kerala is doing everything possible to become number one in this race. His only aim seems to be the appeasement of Modi-Amit Shah combine. In a state like Kerala where democratic norms are held in high esteem, every now and then, the governor attempts to dig up controversies. The ‘comparatively new convert of the RSS’ is creating opportunities to prove his ideological loyalty and political subservience to the Sangh Parivar. He believes that confronting the only Left Democratic government in the country is the easiest way, to find a place in the good books of the Parivar. He stoops to any low in his politically motivated tirade against the left government. The latest controversy about a seminar in 2019 organised by the Kannur University. Arif Mohammed Khan had no hesitation to call the vice chancellor, a renowned academic, ‘a criminal’. The internationally acclaimed historian Dr Irfan Habib was also targeted by the governor by using unexpected words from such a

high office. By all means the governor is trying to fill the vacuum for the BJP, which has no representation in the legislature of Kerala. It may be useful for his political ambitions, but unworthy for the office that he holds.

In the course of last so many decades, the country has discussed about the relevance of governorship. It was the growing tendency of the ruling circles at the Centre to make the Raj Bhawan/Raj Niwas as a tool in their hands that has triggered this discussion. With the ascendancy of the RSS-BJP to power, the authoritarian tendency has grown to many-fold. This has resulted in the unconstitutional arrogance of governors, as it is seen in many states. In this background, the relevance of the question has re-emerged with more seriousness: “Is the governor's office necessary for the country to uphold its federal principles?” Experience tells us that it is not necessary. The CPI and other left parties have raised this question before the country, much in advance. In the coming days, this debate will be taken up by wider democratic forces

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CONGRESS SHOULD GO FOR A NEW PARTY PRESIDENT AS PER POLL SCHEDULE

SUSHIL KUTTY

Ashok Gehlot is a magician. His father was also a magician. Tricks are part of Gehlot growing up. Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi believes Gehlot will make a great Congress president if Rahul Gandhi declines. Gehlot himself is playing decoy, insisting rank and file will revolt if Rahul refuses to be Congress president.

That makes it a variant of 'who will bell the cat'. The elephant in the room for Congress leaders is that none of them wants to be heard saying he/she wants to become Congress president. So, even after Rahul Gandhi has refused the party president post, none of the non-Gandhi Congress leaders wants their name put up for the top party post.

Even G-23 stalwarts do not have the guts to voice the forbidden thought. They would rather be found hanging from the London Bridge. The Gandhis have a stranglehold on the Congress mindset, which in two words is "Gandhi hegemony". It, therefore, must have taken immense courage for 'talk' to tiptoe to "how about a non-Gandhi family Congress president?", with the rider, of course, "if nobody from the Gandhi family wants to be president."

Last heard from the horse's mouth, Rahul Gandhi has declined to be part of more experiments. But his disinterest hasn't been backed with a straightforward refusal. The most powerful man is the one who can say 'No'. But, in the Congress, the most powerful will be the man who will say 'Yes', and become Congress president, i.e., a man other than from the Gandhi family.

Ashok Gehlot says he will not because there's nobody fitting other than Rahul Gandhi. Playing second fiddle to Gandhi scions is second nature to Congress ligers. And Gehlot cannot be expected to be the tiger! Veteran Congress leader Anand Sharma also does not have the stripes.

In his heart of heart, Anand Sharma expects Rahul Gandhi to take the plunge once more. But he wouldn't mind if a non-Gandhi replaced a Gandhi. It's not as if a non-Gandhi family president will want to become prime minister, Sharma added, an afterthought. That's what probably worries the Gandhis: Will a non-Gandhi Congress president insist on being named "Prime Minister"?

The Congress is adamant that come 2024 there will be a Congress Prime Minister! The question now, however, is... "Will it be Gandhi or a non-Gandhi Congress president?" A new president has to be installed by mid-September. And, even this late, there is no clarity. One faction wants a Gandhi family member to lead from the front. Another, a not too well-defined faction, would prefer a non-Gandhi. The Gehlot sorts live and breathe Gandhi family, they will be completely lost and never found if the Gandhis step out of contention. Many of them will die of sheer fright.

These are Congress leaders who found security in the overarching shadow of the Gandhi family; people like the Karnataka Congress leader who exhorted his Karnataka colleagues not to be "disloyal" to the Gandhis. The Gandhis, according to this non-Gandhi, "made us rich, such that generations of our families can live off it."

Without doubt such are the people who stand in the way of the Congress regaining a foothold in the ever-changing political terrain. Mostly, such people are freeloaders; their fortunes are linked to the Gandhi family's fortunes. But the family doesn't have the same charisma as before. Leave things as they're and the party will survive another generation and a half of the Gandhi family. Then, thereafter, it will be too late for the Congress.

There are other compelling reasons why a non-Gandhi should replace a Gandhi, least of which is that Rahul Gandhi has been given enough chances to experiment. And, now, it has come to the stage where there's no chemistry between Rahul Gandhi and the party. For some inexplicable reason, Rahul fails to convert "love" for "votes", especially in the north states.

Second, nobody from the Gandhi family after Sonia Gandhi wants to lead the Congress. It is as if this is written in the genes. And that includes Rahul Gandhi, who if he is not a sadist, is clearly reluctant. Rahul was president for two years, 2017-19. Now, he runs away the minute somebody says "President". Next, Priyanka Gandhi! All fire and brimstone. But her interest flags after a while. Last of the troika, Sonia Gandhi was for the longest time Congress president! She no longer wants to be. Period. Her health betrayed her.

That leaves 'Plan B'. But, it's like standing at the brink, staring into the abyss, and asking, "If not a Gandhi, then who?" All that one would see will be depthless nothingness. There's a complete paucity of Congress leaders who are qualified to replace a Gandhi at the top. Most, if anyone of them gets appointed/elected, will be found running to a Gandhi for advice and instruction every second decision to make.

Among the lot available, Ashok Gehlot has ruled himself out. Anand Sharma says, "Nobody asked that Rahul should step down in 2019, it was his decision". Then, there's Shashi Tharoor. Unfortunately, Tharoor is too smooth an operator to strike a consensus. Sachin Pilot is spoken of as a contender! But Gehlot will object.

The moot question, however, is whether a non-Gandhi will be able to hold the party together. Election Sherpa Prashant Kishor came up with a slew of revamp ideas. He asked the Gandhis to play smart and behave statesman-like. The idea didn't percolate to the cerebral depths of the Gandhi family members. Bottom-line is, if the Gandhis do not make the sacrifice, there will be nothing left of the Congress.

IPA SERVICE

Lateral Recruitment



VIJAY GARG

(The policy of lateral entry to infuse professionalism into the bureaucracy)

The government's decision to expand the policy of lateral entry into the bureaucracy is, no doubt, appreciable, but it alone cannot solve the crunch of IAS officers nor can it be seen as a panacea for the ills plaguing the administrative machinery. The primary objective of this initiative is to hire experts and specialists from the market and place them in relevant ministries at the ranks of joint secretary, director, and deputy secretary. So far, 37 officers have been appointed through lateral recruitment across 21 ministries and

departments. However, it is far-fetched to project this programme as a key element of civil services reforms because it is unlikely to do much to solve the shortage of IAS officers. These lateral recruits, especially those from the private sector, are unlikely to have the training required to handle matters pertaining to federal functioning and to deal with State- and district-level officers. The government can use the services of lateral entrants as market experts rather than as administrators dealing with the tricky task of governance and policy-making. The number of personnel the government plans to recruit through lateral entry is miniscule and will have a negligible impact on filling the vacancies. More importantly, the Centre must first treat the States as equal partners in development and give up the idea of exercising greater control over the civil servants. The spirit of federalism that guides the country can be strengthened only if the States are strong and given the flexibility and freedom to take policy decisions in the interests of



the people.

One area which defines the harmony of the Centre-State relations is how the civil service wing of the government is handled. Unfortunately, on this front, the

NDA government has been tinkering with the powers of the States. The revelation by a parliamentary standing committee that over 1,500 sanctioned IAS officer posts at the State level are lying vacant reflects

NEW YORK PRIMARY RESULTS HAVE REPUBLICANS SHAKING IN THEIR SHOES

MARK GRUENBERG

The constitutional right to abortion and democracy itself took centrestage and gave Democratic Ulster County, N.Y., Executive Pat Ryan a win in a special congressional election in a swing U.S. House seat in New York's Hudson Valley this week.

The unexpected win by a pro-abortion rights candidate in his race against a popular Republican, Marc Molinaro, is being felt like an earthquake by GOP powers that be across the country. Biden racked up victories in some 228 congressional districts across the nation in 2020 that were often bigger than his margin in the swing district where a Republican went down to defeat in New York yesterday. The result is that, according to almost all pollsters, the once-vaunted Republican lead in the Midterms has all but evaporated.

With all votes counted in New York's 19th Congressional district, Ryan defeated Marc Molinaro, the Republican Dutchess County Executive, who ducked the issue of abortion entirely and focused instead on inflation and alleged Democratic responsibility for high crime. Even more worrisome for Republicans is the fact that Molinaro is far from being among the worst of the rabid right wingers who have taken over the GOP. He was considered a Republican "moderate," if there is such a thing these days. Republicans to his right, the party fears, may do even worse when confronted by Democrats on the issues of abortion rights and preservation of democracy. Ryan's 3,000-vote win—65,943-62,952—was the latest victory for abortion rights forces nationwide,

following on the heels of a widely watched referendum in deeply red Kansas, where retaining abortion rights in the state constitution won almost 60% in a turnout that rivalled presidential elections.

And a USA Today poll, released just before the primary, showed abortion rights has become a key issue for 64% of all voters, with almost 60%—including 40% of Republicans—supporting the constitutional right. In many polls the preservation of democracy itself is also now a leading issue in the election, overtaking the economy and crime, both of which the Republicans had hoped to use against Democrats.

Ryan also won even though the House Republicans' campaign finance committee poured \$1.2 million into ads supporting Molinaro, more than offsetting a \$300,000 spending edge Ryan had over Molinaro in their own campaigns.

The two vied for an open seat due to Democratic Rep. Anthony Delgado's resignation to become New York's lieutenant governor. Ryan takes the seat immediately. He's running in the general election in November for the redrawn 18th District, which is also a swing district in the Hudson Valley. Ballotpedia reports the current 19th has a generic R+4 edge, while the new 18th is R+1.

The upstate New York race was in a district that now includes Dutchess and Ulster Counties, which face each other across the Hudson River, plus nearby areas of Orange County. Other results in primaries in New York and Florida included:

New York Democratic Rep. Jerry Nadler clobbered colleague Carolyn

Maloney by almost two-to-one when redistributing by a right-wing judge threw them together in one Upper Manhattan district bridging Central Park for the first time ever and pitting the West Side (Nadler) versus the Upper East Side (Maloney).

New York's largest union, the United Federation of Teachers, decided to "wait until after the primary," for an endorsement. Other big New York City unions, including Office and Professional Employees Local 153, AFSCME District Council 37, and Transport Workers Local 1000, were silent.

Though their 30-year voting records are similar, Nadler, the House Judiciary Committee chair, is considered a more outspoken progressive and activist than Maloney, the Oversight Committee chair, whose current—and dismembered—district is the late progressive Republican John Lindsay's old "Silk Stocking" turf. Unlike Maloney, Nadler backed the Iran nuclear deal and he opposed authorization of the war in Iraq.

Even as a State Assemblyman, Nadler took on rogue developer Donald Trump—and did so during two impeachment investigations of the later Oval Office occupant, too. Nadler also successfully battled disruptive Trumpite House toadies Republican leaders dumped on the Judiciary Committee. And in his earlier political years, Nadler frequently was arrested during citizen protests against South Africa's now-dead apartheid regime.

Maloney, as Oversight Committee chair, is a staunch advocate of women's rights. At least one progressive group endorsed both incumbents. But Maloney is also more corporate oriented and prone

to compromise. The latest example was when she gained Republican support for this year's Postal Service reform law, pushed by postal unions. The GOP's apparent price for agreeing: Retaining Trumpite and GOP big giver Louis DeJoy as Postmaster General, along with his controversies and conflict of interest. Maloney was one of two New York City House Democratic incumbents to lose. First-term Mondaire Jones lost to attorney Daniel Goldman, a Trump impeachment lawyer backed by the New York Times. Goldman's an intimate of the ruling family of the Times. Jones, too, had been redistributed out of his chair and had to move to a new district. Goldman is a first-time candidate.

In the other marquee state, Florida, Rep. Charlie Crist (D), a former Republican governor whom current Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Trump clone, redistributed out of his House seat, easily won the party nomination to battle DeSantis. In his victory statement, Crist alluded to DeSantis's open presidential ambitions—the unopposed governor spent last week campaigning for a fellow Trumpite in Ohio's U.S. Senate race—and promised to bring that train to a halt.

DeSantis's concentration on social issues, the governor's "overreach" of executive powers—according to political activists interviewed—and his willingness to manipulate school systems, teachers, and kids for political gain all make him vulnerable. So do his open presidential ambitions. But he can offset that with money: \$140 million and counting.

Also in Florida, Rep. Val Demings, D-Orlando, a former city police chief, coasted in with 94% against a

little-known foe for the party's U.S. Senate nomination against incumbent Marco Rubio (R), yet another Trump follower. He was unopposed. Demings, from a powerful political family, if she beats Rubio would be the state's first Black senator and its second female senator. Opinion polls put the Rubio-Demings race as a virtual tie. She's raised more money than he has but had to spend a lot of it to push other potential contenders out of the Democratic contest.

Abortion became a big campaign issue in the upstate New York race after the Republican-named right-wing U.S. Supreme Court majority eliminated that 49-year-old constitutional right in a 5-4 ruling in late June.

"I fought to defend the freedoms of this country and access to abortion is a fundamental freedom," said Ryan, a tech entrepreneur and former Army intelligence officer. "Women should make healthcare decisions about their own bodies. Period. I fought to defend the freedoms of this country and access to abortion is a fundamental freedom. This issue will remain front and centre of my campaign," he added in a tweet. Abortion is "very much on the top of voters' minds even in a seemingly safe state like New York, at a time when you're hearing about women who are having their lives compromised, being forced to carry unviable pregnancies to term, risking their life or their fertility in the process. I would say that was a huge motivating factor for voters," Otsego County, N.Y., Democratic chair Caitlin Ogden told the CHNI News Service, which covers updates for several papers there.

IPA SERVICE

COURTESY: PEOPLE'S WORLD

Little dew drops who bring instant smiles to us whenever the kids like the one in the picture smile! Happy 75th Indian independence day kids!



M S NAZKI

For in every adult there dwells the child that was, and in every child there lies the adult that will be! Welcome to the great party of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav!

'Don't you find it odd, a lady teacher continued, 'that when you're a kid, everyone, all the world, encourages you to follow your dreams. But when you're older, somehow they act offended if you even try'! Therefore allow children to move on in life! That is what Freedom is all about!

'It was the biggest Independence day ever since we got freedom from the British buisers!' And a historic journey began and today we completed 75 years of the glorious history of India and the relay continues into the future!

'Each and every Indian celebrated the day in his/her own way but it was the children who enjoyed the most!

'They were in the schools, on the roads despite a heavy down-pour in Jammu Division but that

did not dampen the spirits as the tricolor fluttered everywhere'.

'There were several cute and interesting scenes on the roads similar to the picture with the story! Cute little child with a couple of flags and that sparkling smile!

'Long time back I heard a line which said that It's never too late to have a happy childhood. And I think that the best thing we can do for our children is to allow them to do things for themselves, allow them to be strong, allow them to experience life on their own terms, allow them to take the subway... let them be better people, let them believe more in themselves. And this is because they are the ones who will be the future of the country tomorrow!'

'I told that there were great scenes on the roads though the rains were lashing the roads, pond-like puddles were everywhere on the roads but still everyone moved! It was the teachers and the school children in their respective school who gave a brilliant start to the day. Flag hoisting and singing of the National anthem added the requisite flavour to the proceedings!

'Scenes in the streets, roundels and important places were also the same activity and children were again the central pieces of the show!'

'I will tell you about an incident which I read in a book a long time back and it goes something like this, once upon a time, there was a boy. He lived in a village that



no longer exists, in a house that no longer exists, on the edge of a field that no longer exists, where everything was discovered, and everything was possible. A stick could be a sword, a pebble could be a diamond, a tree, a castle. Once upon a time, there was a boy who lived in a house across the field, from a girl who no longer exists. They made up a thousand games. She was queen and he was king. In the autumn light her hair shone like a crown. They collected the world in small handfuls, and when the sky grew dark, they parted with leaves in their hair. Once upon a time there was a boy who loved a girl, and her laughter was a question he wanted to spend his whole

life answering.'

'Summer will end soon enough, and childhood as well.'

You know, I do believe in magic. I was born and raised in a magic time, in a magic town, among magicians. Oh, most everybody else didn't realize we lived in that web of magic, connected by silver filaments of chance and circumstance. But I knew it all along. When I was twelve years old, the world was my magic lantern, and by its green spirit glow I saw the past, the present and into the future. You probably did too; you just don't recall it. See, this is my opinion: We all start out knowing magic. We are born with whirlwinds, forest fires, and comets inside us. We are born able

BRIEFLY NEWS**Actress-wildlife photographer Sadaa poses with panther named Shyama**

Actress Sadaa, who has been part of several blockbuster films in Tamil and Telugu, has now also turned into an avid wildlife photographer.

The actress, who has played the female lead in several blockbusters including Vikram-starrer 'Anniyan', 'Unnale Unnale' and 'Jayam', recently put out on Instagram, pictures of a black panther she had shot in Pench, Madhya Pradesh.

Posting her pictures of the panther called Shyama, the actress said, "She is young, she is bold, she is curious and playful, none other than the young beauty of Pench, Shyama, who's taken the wildlife enthusiasts' world by storm."

"She was seen an evening before I reached Pench last time on August 12. Just a couple of days after I finished my trip of four dry safaris and headed back home, she was sighted again."

"I fell in love almost instantly seeing her images. I have always had a softer corner for black cats, big or small, but there was no way I was going to travel back."

"By then she was being seen in almost every safari. I was resisting the temptation so hard until Dr Priyansha called me late night saying, 'Come if you can'. In spite of having a work schedule a day later in Hyderabad, I still decided to take the first flight to see this beauty. Never have I done anything as insane as this. But it was so well worth it!"

"I have goofed up the images this time, so this is all I have to share of her."

Maxim Baldry says 'LOTR' series explores epic themes in simplest ways

English actor Maxim Baldry, who is gearing up for the release of his series 'Lord of The Rings: Power Of Rings', has shared that although it's an epic series, it aims to engage the viewers on a human level with themes that are relatable to millions across the globe.

The actor told IANS: "A large part of the show is about exploring epic themes but on a human level. My character is someone who yearns for something deeper, there's an emptiness and a void in him that he's trying to fill."

He lauded the show writers for disseminating huge chunks of information in the simplest of words. "The lines and dialogues affect you emotionally irrespective of you being a viewer or a performer," Baldry said.

He continued: "Despite the fact that we were performing in the most intricate and grand sets in beautiful costumes, lots of supporting artistes and an insane production design, we still had a job to do."

"It was to connect on a human-to-human level and tell stories that are intimate and honest. I am sure people across the globe will connect with the story and enjoy the series as much as we did while working on it."

"The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power" will drop its first two episodes on Prime Video on September 2, followed by a weekly release in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada that concludes on October 14.

Radhika prays for celebrated director at Lourdes church in France

Actress and producer Radhika Sarathkumar has lighted candles and offered prayers at the famous Lourdes church in France for the well-being of legendary Tamil director Bharathirajaa, who has now been hospitalised.

Taking to Instagram, actress Radhika posted a video clip of her lighting huge candles at the church, even as she offered prayers for director Bharathirajaa's well-being.

She wrote, "En iniya director Bharathirajaa avargaley (My sweet director Bharathirajaa sir), my special prayers to you at the Lourde church, France. Get well soon, want to see you soon, hale and healthy. Miss talking to you."

In the video clip, Radhika is heard saying, "For the director who lit a lamp in my life - Bharathirajaa sir, I am lighting this candle in Lourdes church, offering heartfelt prayers for his well-being. Please bless him."

It was Bharathirajaa who introduced Radhika as an actress in the Tamil film 'Kizhakke Pogum Rail' in the year 1978. The film was an overwhelming success and ran in theatres for an entire year! Radhika shot to stardom and went on to become an iconic actress in Tamil cinema.

'Siya' director calls the film 'a story of resilience and grit'

Manish Mundra - the producer behind films like 'Masaan' and 'Newton' is making his directorial debut with 'Siya', the trailer of which was released recently. The director has shared that the film, which stars Pooja Pandey and Vineet Kumar Singh is "a story of resilience and grit".

The film takes audiences through a tale of a small-town girl who despite all hurdles, decides to take down oppressive patriarchy and fight for justice.

Talking about his film, Manish said: "'Siya' is a story of resilience and grit. It also deals with the hypocrisy behind crimes against women. It is such an important story at a time where these atrocities continue to rise all around the world."

The trailer of the film speaks of a plight for justice and a fight for what's right. The film takes audiences through the journey of the protagonist who navigates a man's world.

"I hope 'Siya' sparks important conversation and dialogue on the subject and that audiences understand the relevance of the film and support it", the director further mentioned.

For actress Pooja Pandey, it is "a role of a lifetime", as it challenged every aspect of her as an artiste.

"Victims have endured so much and I had to ensure that the character reflected the roller-coaster of emotions that goes through a woman's mind when something this terrible happens to her. I hope I've done justice to the character and that audiences connect with her", Pooja added.

Vijay Deverakonda had to audition for roles for several years to get a break

'LIGER' star Vijay Deverakonda says he relates to the journey of contestants on 'India's Laughter Champion' as he himself has given auditions with a lot of hopes in his acting career.

He shares: "I relate to all the finalists as I too auditioned with a lot of dreams. For me as well, it took many years of auditioning, trying to breakthrough and getting a chance. So yes, it made me emotional seeing all of them perform. I know each one of them has big dreams and now that the show is coming to an end, only one will take home the trophy."

While referring to the Top 5 finalists including Rajat Sood from Delhi, Himanshu Bawandar from Ujjain, Nitesh Shetty, Vignesh Pande, and Jayvijay Sachan from Mumbai, he mentions that he has been part of a number of shows where those who didn't turn out to be winners but later became successful. Vijay said: "I have seen so many shows where somebody does not win but later on, they achieve huge success, like Arijit Singh. I know that today one guy is going to win and become big and really popular but the other four, I am sure people are already following you and supporting you. I can see the fire in you."

Vijay along with Ananya Panday are coming for the finale episode of 'India's Laughter Champion'. It airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

**John Abraham looks ubercool as villain in 'Pathaan' first look**

A new motion poster featuring Bollywood actor John Abraham as the villain from the much-awaited film 'Pathaan' was unveiled by the makers on Wednesday. It starts off with a bomb blast and then reveals the actor behind the smoke, standing his ground and holding a gun amid the sparks and flames.



The new asset follows the release of the film's teaser, Shah Rukh Khan's look and a glimpse of Deepika Padukone.

Siddharth Anand, the director of the film, said in a statement: "Every announcement of 'Pathaan' is like revealing a piece of an epic puzzle, in front of the curious eyes of the fans and audiences, leading right up to our release day. We aspire for every asset of 'Pathaan' to be a big talking point mainly because, we fortunately, have the content to create that buzz."

Talking about his decision to cast John as the villain, the director said: "John Abraham is THE antagonist, THE villain of 'Pathaan'. And I have always believed in the fact that the villain's projection should be as big, if not bigger than that of the hero's."

"Only when the villain is massive, can the tussle between them be spectacular. And we have an extraordinary battle when SRK takes on John! We wanted to present John in a super slick avatar." The director is happy with the kind of response the film's assets have garnered. "The first looks of SRK, Deepika Padukone and now John, truly represent the zone we want the audiences to view the film in. People have now just got a taste of the world of 'Pathaan'. This truly is just the tip of the iceberg and I can assure you that nothing can prepare you for the action spectacle that is coming your way." 'Pathaan' is set to release on January 25, 2023 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

Raju Srivastava continues to recover at AIIMS

Veteran comedian Raju Srivastava's condition is stable and he continues to recover slowly in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi. Srivastava was admitted to the hospital on August 10 after he experienced chest pain and collapsed while working out at the gym. However, he is still on ventilator. In a statement, the comedian's daughter Antra Srivastava said, "My dad's condition is stable and continues to improve slowly." "My dad Mr. Raju Srivastava Ji's condition is stable and he continues to recover slowly. He is on the ventilator at the moment," Antra said.

'The Kapil Sharma Show' makers drop a hilarious promo, reveal new faces

As Kapil Sharma has already made an announcement about the new season of 'The Kapil Sharma Show' by sharing his new look, the makers have dropped a promo to reveal the new faces on the show and also the date on which it is going to air.

The caption reads: "Kapil Sharma laa raha hai comedy ka naya season! Dekhiye #TheKapilSharmaShow 10th September se Sat-Sun raat 9:30 baje, sirf Sony par (Kapil Sharma is back with a new season of comedy! Watch The Kapil Sharma Show on Saturday and Sunday at 9.30 p.m. on Sony TV.)"

In the funny video, Kapil is shown inside a hospital room with a bandage on his head surrounded by comedians Kiku Sharda, Sumona Chakravarti and Chandan Prabhakar and as soon he



wakes up he recognises everyone except his wife played by Sumona.

At the same time, a new actor Srishty Rode as Gazal enters the room with a bouquet of flowers for him and he immediately runs towards her and hugs her

tightly calling 'darling' and repeats the scooter number of his wife. At this moment only Archana Puran Singh holds his collar from behind and says you forgot your wife but not her scooter number.

So, with the teaser it is for sure that this season has

new contestants like Srikanth Maski, Siddharth Sagar, Ishiyak Khan and Satinder Soni and it has more comic elements for the audience.

"The Kapil Sharma Show" is going to start from September 10 on Sony Entertainment Television.

Big B to make debut as music composer with R Balki's 'Chup'

The upcoming film 'Chup' will mark the debut of veteran superstar Amitabh Bachchan as a music composer, director R Balki divulged the details as the film is set to release on September 23.

The film is a romantic psychopath thriller, a thought Balki had after 'Cheeni Kum' and decided to write it much later. The poster revealing the release date was released on Thursday.

Talking about the same, Balki said "'Chup' is special for more than one reason. For me the biggest reason

is it marks the official debut of Amitabh Bachchan as a music composer."

Big B and Balki have a long standing association and the superstar has worked with him in almost all of his films.

The director then revealed how the music composing debut for Big B unfolded, "Amitji saw 'Chup' and played an instinctive original melody on his piano as he relived the film. It was his way of expressing his feelings for the film, paying a tribute. This composition, his gift to the film, will be the end

title track of 'Chup'. I don't think there can be an artist whose sensitivity can beat Bachchan's and 'Chup' has his touch!"

The film stars Sunny Deol, Dulquer Salmaan, Shreya Dhanwanthary and Pooja Bhatt. The original story is by R Balki, with the screenplay and dialogues co-written by R Balki, critic-turned-writer Raja Sen and Rishi Virmani.

The film has been produced by the late stock investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, Anil Naidu, Dr. Jayantilal Gada (PEN Studios) and Gauri Shinde.

Ranbir rocks as DJ Shiva to Pritam's music in 'Dance Ka Bhoot'

A new track, composed by Pritam, choreographed by Ganesh Acharya and sung by Arijit Singh, from the Ranbir Kapoor-Alia Bhatt-starrer 'Brahmastra' was released on Thursday.

Titled 'Dance Ka Bhoot', the song presents the perfect combination of Ranbir's dance moves and an upbeat, colourful vibe.

Talking about the song, Ranbir said in a statement, "I am extremely excited to present our latest track to the audience 'Dance Ka Bhoot'. This is my character Shiva's introduction song in the film, and I can't wait for my fans to groove to it."

"I am sure that the audiences will show the same love and response to 'Dance Ka Bhoot' like they have given to 'Kesariya' and 'Deva Deva'."

The music video of the track features Ranbir as DJ Shiva, and has its music composed by hitmachine Pritam, with lyrics by Amitabh Bhattacharya, and



vocals by Arijit Singh. The song is touted to be the 'Celebration of Brahmastra'.

Sharing his thoughts on the launch of the song, music director Pritam said: "Dance Ka Bhoot is the third Brahmastra track. This song has amazing dance beats. I am sure the youth of the country will enjoy the song as much as Ranbir did while shooting for it."

The song has been choreographed by Ganesh Acharya. Director Ayan Mukerji, who has worked with Pritam and Amitabh in 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani', had a "tremendous experience" working with Pritam, Arijit and Amitabh Bhattacharya.

"Despite a lot of challenges which we faced while filming for this song, we have managed to create a masterpiece for our audience. Both 'Kesariya' and 'Deva Deva' have received so much love from the audience and we are expecting to get the same reaction to this song as well," Ayan said.

Produced by Star Studios, Dharma Productions, Prime Focus and Starlight Pictures, 'Brahmastra Part One: Shiva' also stars Amitabh Bachchan, Nagarjuna and Mouni Roy. The film will arrive in theatres on September 9, 2022, in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

'Vikram Vedha' teaser clocks 22.4 million views in 24 hours

The teaser of the upcoming film 'Vikram Vedha', which stars Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan, has received a thunderous response from all quarters. The teaser, which promises the film to be a complete entertainment package with an epic storyline, clocked 22.4 million views across all platforms.

In addition, it has secured the top spot on YouTube and micro-blogging site Twitter's trending list. It has raked close to a million likes on YouTube (9.4 likes and counting).

The teaser drew unanimous praise from the industry and the audience.

Amongst those cheering for the teaser were B-town celebrities like Vicky Kaushal, Abhishek Bachchan, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Rakesh Roshan, Sara Ali Khan, Alia Bhatt, Zoya Akhtar, Sonakshi Sinha, Vaani Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Kriti Sanon, Varun Dhawan, Parineeti Chopra and Sunidhi Chauhan.

The film presents an intriguing story of a righteous cop Vikram (Saif Ali Khan) and menacing gangster Vedha (played by Hrithik Roshan). The film is an adaptation of the 2017 Vijay Sethupathi and R. Madhavan-starrer film of the same name and has been helmed by the same directors Pushkar and Gayatri.

Vikram Vedha is presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series and Reliance Entertainment in association with Friday Filmworks & Jio Studios and a YNOT Studios Production. The film is produced by Bhushan Kumar and S. Sashikanth and is set to land in theatres globally on September 30, 2022.

DC Ramban reviews performance of banking sector at DLRC meeting

RAMBAN, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam today reviewed the performance of Banks in the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting held in the Conference Hall, Maitra.

Reviewing the sector-wise performance of different banks, the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the Chairperson of DLRC, directed the Bankers and officers of line departments to use social media for disseminating information regarding financial sector schemes among people especially, the youth of the district.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Kasturi Lal, Lead District Manager, Abdul Rashid Sofi; Cluster Head JK Bank, DDM NABARD,



CHO, DSHO, CAHO, Bankers and various senior officers.

The Deputy Commissioner took the stock of bank-wise deposits, advances, and the CD Ratio targets. It was informed in the meeting that the CD Ratio registered an increase of 3.46% and stood at 56.86%, till June end in progress on decisions taken in previous meetings

Bankers to extend the banking facilities in uncovered areas by using digital modes of banking like ATM service. He directed them to sensitize the people regarding schemes pertaining to the banking sector.

Discussing the issues and achievements of the banking sector in deposits and advances, the Deputy Commissioner confirmed the minutes of the last meeting besides emphasizing on timely disbursement of loan cases by implementing all other youth and self-employment oriented schemes by achieving the 100% targets under different segments of priority sectors like Agriculture, MSME, Housing, and Education in the district.

Doda: DC, SSP inspect offices, educational institutions

DODA, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Abdul Qayoom today conducted surprise inspections of government offices and educational institutions to check the attendance of the Officers and staff.

They visited PHE, Treasury, Apiculture and Tehsil office, besides Government Higher Secondary School Girls and Boys. The visiting officers asked the office heads and staff members to be punctual, take administration to the doorsteps of the common people and maintain cleanliness in and around the office premises.

During their visit to the twin schools, the officers interacted with teachers and students and inquired about the academic and co-curricular activities. The teachers were asked to work with dedication to impart quality education to the students and imbibe in them moral values to make the law abiding citizens. The students and teachers were further urged to fight the menace of substance abuse, be Swachta Champions and adopt best practices.

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D&FCO team seizes haul of intoxicant drugs

JAMMU, AUGUST 25: The teams of Drug and Food Control Organisation have seized huge stocks of formulations containing Tapentadol (14,095 Tablets) worth more than Rs 3 Lakh during a special drive launched across the Jammu Division.

The team of Regulatory Officers of the Organization seized tramadol, tapentadol and allied pharmaceutical preparations during surprise inspections of De-addiction Centers, Pharma Dealers & Chemists Shops. under the relevant provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act from and investigations in the matter have been initiated.

According to the Organization, the inspection drive was conducted after evident reports regarding unethical trade and misuse of the tramadol, tapentadol by the anti social/ nefarious elements for the purpose of addiction and intoxication especially amongst the youth.

“During the special drive the Inspecting teams observed that some firms were stocking huge quantities of Drugs Formulations consisting of Tapentadol especially by the De-addiction Centers/ Psychiatric-Clinics and selling the same in gross violation of the mandatory provisions,” the department said.

During the drive, Operations of Seventeen Medical Establishments were disallowed u/s 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 on spot which included four each in Jammu and Samba, two in Kathua, three each in Udhampur and Rajouri and one in Ramban. “The establishments were indulging in unethical trade practices particularly sale of habit forming formulations without maintaining records” it informed further.

In light of these observations, the Department has directed all the Authorized Stockists dealing with such kind of formulations to strictly restrict sale and distribution of aforementioned restricted drugs for the legitimate requirements only.

They have been further directed to submit distribution details of formulations consisting of habit forming ingredients on a monthly basis through mail :deputycontroller-jammu@gmail.com ,so that the Drugs Control Officers (Concerned) shall check the rationality and curb the unethical trade of such drugs, failing which severe action.

Govt SPMR College of Commerce holds series of activities to mark Rashtra Kae Naam Paryavaran Saptah

JAMMU, AUGUST 25: Eco club and Department of Environmental Sciences of Government SPMR College of Commerce, in collaboration with Paryavran Sanrakshan Gatividhi, Jammu organised a series of activities to mark “Rashtra Ke Naam Paryavaran Saptah” started on August 15th 2022. During the Celebration different awareness programs related to Environment were conducted in which Students participated with enthusiasm.

The special series of programs started on Independence Day, 15th August with the hoisting of the National Flag, followed by Plantation Drive and cultural program on patriotic songs., Ajay Kotwal and Amit Pal Singh, students of the College performed on the occasion. Collection of E-waste was conducted on 16th of August 2022 in the College. Faculty and students collected electrical and electronic waste from their homes as well as neighbourhood and submitted it to the college. People were also made aware about E-waste and its safe disposal.

A competition on Best out of waste was organised on 17th August, 2022 in which students prepared beautiful and useful items from solid waste. Ms. Shajel Bhat, Ms. Simrandeep Kaur and Ms. Deepasha bagged 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes respectively.

A Cleanliness drive, inside the college campus, was conducted on 18th August 2022, followed by demonstration of making eco-bricks and the concept of composting. These activities were aimed at promoting proper disposal of solid waste both biodegradable and non-biodegradable.

SPIC MACAY founder Dr Kiran Seth visits GDC Samba

SAMBA, AUGUST 25: Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College, Samba on Thursday hosted a function to honour Dr. Kiran Seth, Padma Shree, an ex-IIT Professor and the founder of the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture among Youth (SPIC MACAY) here during his 145 day cycling mission from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. He was accompanied by Dr. Sapna Sangra, Chairperson, SPIC MACAY, Jammu & Kashmir.

On this occasion, the faculty members and the enthusiastic students of the College accompanied him for a cycling spree from Chichi Mata to the College Campus.

Dr. Surinder Sharma, the Principal of the college along with the students, NSS volunteers, NCC cadets, students and faculty members from different



schools of the district, welcomed him at the gate with garlands and a loud round of applause.

He was formally welcomed by Dr. Surinder Kumar Sharma, Principal of the host institution.

An interactive session was held in the college Smart Room with the students, faculty members and citizens of Samba. He spoke about the phenomenal growth of SPIC MACAY from the time of its Inception.

The session began with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the distinguished guests. The function was also attended by Rajinder Singh, ADDC Samba, Suram Chand Sharma, ADC Samba and other prominent citizens of the Samba district.

Dr Sapna Sangra, Chairperson SPIC MACAY, gave a detailed account of the different programmes and activities being organized by SPIC Macay

Mandeep Kaur reviews progress of IWMP

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Commissioner Secretary Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur today reviewed progress of Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) here.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) IWMP, Dr Bharat Bhushan briefed the meeting about the status of the programme. The meeting was also attended by Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Er Aamir Ali and all District Project Managers of IWMP.

It was informed during the meeting that 37 Projects under IWMP scheme of Phase 3rd, 4th & 5th have been completed and the Base Line Survey (BSL) of all Watershed Management Projects in the Districts is nearing completion.

117 Projects under ‘Entry Point Activity’ (EPA) have also been identified and 97 works already put to tenders, including 25 Amrit Sarovar works.

Commissioner Secretary Rural Development appreciated the progress and gave directions to complete the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of all the identified works within one month.

CEO Poonch inspects schools in Mandi, Loran; Interacts with PRIs, students, staff

POONCH, AUGUST 25: Chief Education Officer Poonch, Bishamber Dass on Thursday inspected different educational institutions in Mandi and Loran areas.

He visited Government Higher Secondary School Loran, Government High School Palera, KGBV Loran, GMS Rajpura, GMS Barachad and over a dozen other Educational institutions and interacted with the PRI members, staff and students and took stock of the issues confronting the education system.

During his interactions with School staff and PRIs, he emphasized on the implementation of NEP-2020, centrally initiated schemes and in-



stallation of Biometric Aadhaar System of attendance.

The concerned were dren and grooming them

pressed to work more dedicatedly for good results. ZEO, ZEPO Mandi and cluster heads were directed to conduct frequent inspections of the schools falling in their jurisdictions to monitor the functioning and attendance and submit reports to the CEO office.

The CEO inspected different sites in Loran to identify suitable land for the construction of the KGBV building. He also inspected KGBV Loran, which is presently functioning from Middle School Loran and interacted with the inmates and enquired about the facilities being provided to them.

The warden and the

ZEO were asked to take remedial measures to improve the quality of education to make the KGBV a Model institution in the area.

During his visit, the CEO also resolved some issues on the spot raised by the Principal GHSS Loran, heads of schools and PRI Members .The Teachers were impressed to work more dedicatedly for good results. ZEO, ZEPO Mandi and cluster heads were directed to conduct frequent inspections of the schools falling in their jurisdictions to monitor the functioning and attendance and submit reports to the CEO office.

COVID 19 vaccination camp organised at SKUAST-Jammu

JAMMU, AUGUST 25: With the multiple efforts and initiative of Prof. J. P. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, a COVID 19 Vaccination Programme (Special Drive) started today on the Main Campus, Chatha, SKUAST-Jammu. The drive was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Dr. Sumati Sharma, First Lady of SKUAST-Jammu in presence of Guest of Honour Dr. Sumir Koul, Block Medical Officer, Suhanjana and Dr. Rajesh Katoch, DSW, SKUAST-Jammu.

The programme was organized by Health Centre (Dean Students Welfare), SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with the Health Department, Jammu.

Dr. Sumati Sharma appreciated the efforts of Health Centre (Dean Students Welfare) of SKUAST-Jammu for



organizing the drive and said that SKUAST-Jammu administration is very particular that 100 per cent employees and students of the University are fully vaccinated. More than 200 people were vaccinated and benefitted from this drive. Dr. Sumati Sharma while congratulating organizers for initiating the Vaccination drive said the COVID vaccination is very important and the first step

to contain the spread of Corona infection. Dr. Sumir Koul, Block Medical Officer, Suhanjana coordinated with Dr. Anil Gupta and Dr. Sushma Gupta, Medical Officer(s) of SKUAST-Jammu for successful organization of the drive. Earlier, Dr. Rajesh Katoch, DSW, SKUAST-Jammu welcomed all the dignitaries in the programme.

Dr. Sangeeta and Dr. Ankush Medical Officer Pri-

mary Health Centre, Bhour Camp, faculty members and students participated in the drive following COVID 19 norms.

The programme ended with the vote of thanks. The programme was organized by Health Centre (Dean Students Welfare), SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with the Health Department, Jammu.

Dr. Sumati Sharma appreciated the efforts of Health Centre (Dean Students Welfare) of SKUAST-Jammu for organizing the drive and said that SKUAST-Jammu administration is very particular that 100 per cent employees and students of the University are fully vaccinated. More than 200 people were vaccinated and benefitted from this drive. Dr. Sumati Sharma while congratulating organizers for initiating the Vaccination drive said.

DC Rajouri reviews Lumpy Skin Disease control measures

RAJOURI, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting to review the measures taken to combat the spread of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid; VAS Dr. Yasir Sheikh; VAS Majid Akram and other concerned.

A threadbare discussion was held with regard to the measures being taken in the district to control the spread of the viral Disease among dairy animals. He inquired about the steps taken for identification of the infected animals, death rate, progress in vaccination and medication and availability of the medicines in the district.

The Officers of the Animal Husbandry department informed the chair that Rapid response teams and the other Officials are visiting door to door to impart awareness among the cattle rearing population in the district. He also informed that samples are being taken during the visits.

“Medicines are being provided to the farmers which are available in ade-



quate quantities. Moreover stocks of more medicines are expected from the Directorate in the coming days” the meeting was told.

Regarding the identification of the animal infected with the LSD, the officer informed the chair that a survey has been conducted and infected animals have been identified.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the department to disseminate information about the District cells and sub-divisional cells constituted to provide assistance to the public in connection with the LSD.

He further stressed on ring vaccination of all uninfected cattle followed by the mass vaccination.

D&FCO team seals medical store at Ramban

RAMBAN, AUGUST 25: Drug and Food Control Organization has intensified inspections across the district of Ramban, especially in far-flung areas.

In continuation of the drive, Drug Control Officer (DCO), Imtiyaz Ahmed on Thursday conducted an extensive inspection in Tehsil Ramban including Village Silla, Suligam, Gandoth, Brad Galion etc, and sealed a medical store on spot for violation of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940.

The team also lifted four drug samples on a random basis to ascertain quality parameters by sending them for testing to the State Testing Laboratory. In continuation of the drive, Drug Control Officer (DCO), Imtiyaz Ahmed on Thursday conducted an extensive inspection in Tehsil Ramban including Village Silla, Suligam, Gandoth, Brad Galion etc, and sealed a medical store on spot for violation of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

HOME MINISTER

On August 21, soldiers deployed in the Jhangar sector of Rajouri's Naushera spotted the movement of two to three terrorists on the Indian side of the LoC and challenged them, the officials said. One of the militants tried to flee, but was injured in firing by the soldiers and captured alive. The two other one managed to flee, the officials said. On the intervening night of August 22 and 23, a group of two to three militants tried to infiltrate in the Lam sector of Naushera. As they moved ahead into minefields, a series of mines got activated and two ultras were killed on the spot. Militants attacked an Army camp in Rajouri district on August 11, killing four soldiers. The two attackers were gunned down in a shootout after the pre-dawn suicide strike that marked the return of “fidayeen” attackers to Jammu and Kashmir after more than three years. The government had informed Parliament that till last month, as many as 118 civilians, including five Kashmiri Pandits and 16 other Hindus and Sikhs, were killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in 2019. The killings of Kashmiri Pandits triggered protests by the members of the community, who demanded enhanced security and transfer of government employees to safer locations. In May, four Hindu pilgrims were killed and at least 20 injured when their bus caught fire near Katra in Jammu. Police suspect a sticky bomb might have been used to trigger the fire. Article 370, which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated on August 5, 2019 and the state was bifurcated into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

LG

entrepreneurs with requisite support for their businesses. In the last financial year, J&K Bank was given a target to provide credit facility to the accounts of 60,000 entrepreneurs and we have ensured credit of Rs 3579 crore to 81,238 accounts, very well exceeding the target, the Lt Governor noted. The Lt Governor informed that MSMEs from the manufacturing and service sectors contribute 8% to the GSDP of Jammu and Kashmir. Our GDP in this financial year is estimated to reach Rs 2,03,716 crore which will be 7.5% higher than last financial year, he further observed. J&K is making rapid strides in both manufacturing as well as the service sector. Setting up a biotech park at Kathua will help us to exploit the opportunities in sunrise areas and further open up opportunities in the knowledge economy, the Lt Governor noted.

BANDIORA

and 5 hand grenades recovered. Case registered. Investigation started,” Kashmir Zone Police tweeted.

URI

bids along the LoC in Jammu region in the last four days.

MIRWAZ

Sinha also referred in the interview to the killing of Mirwaiz's father on May 21, 1990 and the lynching of a middle-rung undercover police officer, Ayub Pandith, by a mob outside the shrine on June 23, 2017 to underscore the security concerns of the administration in allowing the Mirwaiz to move freely.

However, contrary to Sinha's claims, the Srinagar residence of the Hurriyat leader continues to remain out of bounds for journalists, religious bodies and commoners who come to seek the counsel of Mirwaiz as Kashmir's chief cleric on religious matters. Earlier this week, The Wire was denied entry to the triple-storied residence situated in the Nigeen locality of Srinagar where Mirwaiz lives with his ageing mother, wife and two children. In a phone conversation, Mirwaiz said that he was being prevented by security forces from leaving the house.

Mirwaiz had also told The Wire that the police van parked right in front of the main gate to his house since he was allegedly put under detention on August 4, 2019 had been moved some 20 metres away after Sinha's interview.

However, it is not clear whether the administration will allow him to lead the prayers at the grand mosque in Nowhatta, which has been one of the epicentres of anti-India and pro-freedom protests in Srinagar. The mosque is sparingly opened since the Union government read down Article 370 and bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories.

Situated in the heart of Srinagar's old city, Jamia Masjid was commissioned by Sikandar Shah, the sixth emperor of the Shahmiri dynasty which ruled Kashmir from 1339 to 1561. It was during this time that Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani, a Persian scholar and Sufi mystic, visited Kashmir with his followers and laid the foundation for Islam in the region.

The mosque was built on the orders of Mir Mohammad Hamadani, son of Sayyid.

A senior member of AAJM said that the Friday prayers had been sparingly allowed at the grand mosque since 2016 when the popular Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani's killing set off a vicious wave of violent protests in Kashmir.

“The congregation prayers were banned on 30 Fridays in 2016, 18 in 2017, 16 in 2018, 26 in 2019 (which includes ban for five months in a row), 21 in 2020, 42 in 2021 and 14 in 2022,” the AAJM member said, adding that the management was stopped since 2020 from hosting the congregational night prayers on Shab-e-Baraat and Shab-e-Qadr, when Muslims pray from dusk to dawn.

“The mosque has also not hosted any Eid prayers since the Eid-ul-Azha of 2019 which is deeply offensive to the sentiments of Muslims across Kashmir. The government should end all the curbs and allow Mirwaiz saheb to perform his religious duties,” said the AAJM member.

Anjuman Aqaf said that Mirwaiz was intermittently put under “illegal house arrest” for more than four years since 2016 which includes 78 days in 2017, 200 days in 2017, 120 days in 2018, 174 in 2019, and all the subsequent days of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

During this time, the separatist leader, who was part of the Track-II dialogue between India and Pakistan on Kashmir, also spent two months at a sub-jail in Srinagar-(The Wire).

COVID

been conducted in last 24 hours.

Till date 6699125 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 163 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 2001 in isolation and 369 in home surveillance. Besides, 6691811 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases for today, the Bulletin informs that in Kashmir division, Srinagar reported 61 cases, Baramulla reported 30 cases, Budgam 31 cases, Pulwama reported 07 cases, Kupwara reported 14 cases, Anantnag reported 15 cases, Bandipora reported 04 cases, Ganderbal reported 05 cases, Kulgam reported 19 cases while as Shopian reported 02 fresh case for today.

Similarly in Jammu division, Jammu reported 22 cases, Udhampur 04, Rajouri reported no fresh case, Doda 01, Kathua 03, Samba 07, Kishtwar 00, Poonch 01, Ramban 03 and Reasi reported no fresh case for today.

DR FAROOQ

and party vice-president Omar Abdullah, Farooq said “no as Omar is mature enough, he need no advices” Farooq advised all the constituents of the alliance to work with patience if they want to do something for the people. “Remember, you have to create two things in yourself, patience and perseverance and you have to be ready to sacrifice yourself. If you don't work with patience you won't be able to do anything for the people, we cannot take any decision beforehand, let's see what will be the situation that time,” he added.

Meanwhile, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) echoed the same views saying reservations by any one of the constituents will never impact PAGD in any way.

Speaking to reporters here, PDP chief spokesperson, Syed Suhail Bukhari said the alliance partners instead of acting as strong adversaries should be united to fight for the democratic rights, honor and dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

PDP leader said PAGD was formed to fight for the honor and dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and that the alliance would continue to work in that particular direction in future as well.

“Keeping political differences apart, all the constituents of PAGD have pledged to fight for the rights and dignity of the people of J&K. Instead of being strong adversaries of each other, we should be united to fight for the political rights of the people, their honor and dignity as PAGD was conceived in that perspective,” he added.

DC BUDGAM

for their unauthorized absence from duties.

The DC also observed that cleanliness is not up to the mark in offices. He instructed that proper sanitation and cleanliness shall be maintained in and outside premises of all Government offices.

FUNDING CASE

Babu Singh has already been arrested, who has obtained terror funds brought one Mohammad Sharief Shah of Kashmir for furthering the cause of separatism and for facilitating anti-India and Pro-Pak entities,” he added. He further said that this is the first case of its type wherein a terror financier has been arrested after deportation from United Arab Emirates (UAE), Dubai, adding, “the name of the accused has figured in various terror financing transactions during investigation of the instant case and further investigation regarding his role/ involvement is being carried out by State Investigation Agency.”

SPO

Men are more likely than women to conduct acts of severe domestic abuse. Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence (IPV), affects many women across India which sometimes heightens during pregnancy. Many of these mothers worry about harm coming to their unborn children as well as to themselves. Abuse during pregnancy, according to research, is a warning sign for pregnancy-related homicide. Whether pregnancy is a contributing element is difficult to say.

TRANSFAR

Manu Hansa, JKAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, is transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Samba. Piyush Dhotra, JKAS, General Manager, JKRTC, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Jammu, vice Mr. Vijay Kumar, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department. Maxiumn Gorkie, JKAS, Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu.

SKIN

of LSD are being sent to NIHSAD, Bhopal on daily basis, however two BSL-II Labs have been set up at Jammu & Srinagar to conduct the testing for LSD in J&K only which will start functioning within weeks time and surveillance of the disease shall disease shall be taken up in a large scale for controlling the disease.

Jammu Administration initiates string of measures to prevent, control spread of LSD

JAMMU, AUGUST 25: Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa, the District Administration has taken a string of measures to prevent, control and contain the spread of Lumpy Skin disease in the animals.

The District Administration has been organising a series of camps, besides providing door to door treatment to the affected dairy animals.

The District Administration has also issued a set of advisory to prevent and control the spread of disease among the animals.

According to a public notice order, an outbreak of LSD among cattle has been reported in several districts. LSD is a contagious disease in which peculiar lumps or nodules appear on the skin of affected cattle. Symptoms of the disease include fever, loss in milk production, nodules on the skin, nasal and eye discharge, etc. The administration has banned the movement, transportation of dairy animals from one place to another. The movement of all trucks/tractor trolleys/other vehicles carrying animals/cattle in/out within the district shall be stopped with immediate effect.

The order further says that to check the spread of the LSD disease, infected animals are to be isolated from healthy stock. Also, carcasses of animals are not to be disposed of in the open and skinning of carcasses is also prohibited. Animal carcasses are to be disposed of in two days under the supervision of officials of the Animal Husbandry department as per protocol. The order said that cleaning and disinfection of the infected premises/ shed shall be done by using phenol/sodium hypochlorite/fromalin. It also said that in case of emergency the people should seek immediate help from the nearest veterinary centre for treatment.

The District Administration has also issued a helpline number 18001807205 for the farmers.

Rajouri admin establishing District Disability Rehabilitation Centre

RAJOURI, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to discuss the modalities for the establishment of a District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC) in the district.

Discussing the facilities to be provided in the centre, the DSWO informed that the centre would have the provision for multiple therapies like aqua therapy, yoga therapy, music therapy, and language therapy, besides a prosthetics production unit.

“To provide necessary skills to the persons with disabilities, a skill development centre is already functioning in the district” he said.Addressing the officers during the meeting, the DDC said that the District Disability Rehabilitation centre is a noble initiative of the Govt to facilitate.

Health Department organises Blood donation Camp at Batote

RAMBAN, AUGUST 25: Health Department Ramban on Thursday organized a Blood Donation Camp at Accidental Emergency Hospital (Community Health Center), Batote.

The Blood Donation Camp, organised under the aegis of under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, was inaugurated by the Chairperson Block Development Council, Batote, Rajeshwar Kumar and coordinated by the Chief Medical Officer,Dr Kamal Zadu.

A special Medical Care vehicle was arranged from Jammu by the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu to facilitate the blood donors. A number of volunteers and students, besides the hospital staff, donated blood.

A Team of doctors headed by the Pathologist, Dr Pervez Ahmed and Incharge BMO, Dr.OP Singh e provided the necessary health services to the donors.

While encouraging the students of Government Model Higher Secondary School, Batote, Chairperson BDC said that blood donation is a noble and harmless service to humanity which benefits both, the donor as well as the recipient.

Implementation of Developmental Deliverables, Online Services reviewed in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 25: The implementation and achievements under developmental deliverables and delivery of Online Services was today reviewed by Additional District Development Commissioner, (ADDC), Kishtwar Sham Lal at a meeting of District and Sectoral officers of line departments.

At the outset, the officers and heads of departments gave a resume on the progress made in developmental deliverables. He stressed upon the departmental heads to strictly adhere to the timeline and redouble their efforts to realise the targets under Developmental Deliverables.

While taking department-wise status of implementation of the designated 205 Online services, the ADDC laid special thrust on shifting all the public deliverance services to online mode as per the guidelines of govt.

The departmental heads were asked to ensure the implementation of Biometric Attendance System in their respective offices.

Joint Director Planning, Mohammad Iqbal; ACD, Atul Dutt Sharma; CMO, CEO, DSWO, XENS besides Officers of other departments attended the meeting.

DDC reviews achievements under Agriculture, Horticulture Sectors in Rajouri

RAJOURI, AUGUST 25: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today reviewed the performance of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Horticulture here at a meeting of the concerned officers.

During the meeting, the DDC took a comprehensive review of the achievements recorded under different schemes being implemented by the twin departments.

Asking for timely realization of the targets under different schemes, he asked the departments to ensure that the desired benefit reach to the last person in the queue.

Spreading mass awareness among the farmers about different schemes being implemented by the Department was also stressed upon. “There is a need to educate the farmers about the benefits of different schemes and motivate them to avail the benefits of the same,” he said.

The DDC also stressed on introducing high density fruit plantation and quality vegetable seeds to benefit the farmers. Status of Ultra High density plantation, olive plantation was also discussed in detail. The Chief Horticulture officer also informed about the status of plantation in different nurseries.

Vigorous Drive Launched By Food Safety Department Against Adulteration At Doda

Amir Iqbal Khan



Bhadarwah, Aug 25:With a view to identify the Food Business Operators who are committing non-compliances under Food Safety Act, a team of the department of Food Safety DFCO Doda today initiated an extensive drive in the market which started from Old Bus Stand Doda & undertook the random Enforcement inspections across the markets including New Bus Stand, Barth Road and Nagri. During the exhaustive rounds of surprise inspection, the Food Bussiness Operators who were found to be guilty of offences of different proviso's under FSSA, Rules and regulations, more than 06 challans were booked on the Spot. The action was also against insanitary conditions, packing & labelling norms,running the Bussiness without Licenses/registrations vis a vis keeping the outdated Food items on exhibition for sale.In these surprise raids, more than 43 establishments were coveredand particularly chicken dealers were warned not to keep & sell alive & slaughtered poultry under one roof because this culture contaminates the atmosphere with the transmission of diseases.Meanwhile ,more than 30kg of substandard Vegetables and 15 kg Sweets were destroyed on the spot at various Dhabas besides destroying uncovered & fermented chutneys to prevent spread of bacterial infections & related diseases. The main focus was on the Safe Drinking water to be provided to the customers and for this, the Dhabas & restaurant Operators were strictly directed to wear Hygienic kits, Head Gears, Aprons and gloves to maintain Hygienic practices.Simultaneously, Sweet shop dealers & Backers were also strictly directed to follow the instructions of making adherence to the packing Labelling including date of manufacture and Date of consumption. Other products inspected included fruits and milk and special instructions were passed for maintaining prescribed standards of these items.The Food Bussiness Operators during this drive were imparted & encouraged with the initiative of “Eat Right India”. In respect of RUCO (Repurpose used cooking oil), the dealing vendors were guided ,educated & awared to segregate the used fried oil.

In order to cover far flung areas while implementing multiple strategies of Food Safety & initiatives of “Eat Right India” including to explore the main goal of Food Fortification, the Enforcement Officers at Gondoh organised a camp of Food Fortification & for cross checking lifted 02 Enforcement samples under FSSA for analysis.

Likewise, the Enforcement Officer at Marmat lifted legal samples of different categories & organised Awareness camp of Food Fortification.

“The Department is committed for day to day market monitoring & shall execute ,implement & accomplish the valued targets for the welfare of the Consumers & public,” explained Taraq Ahmad Butt- Assistant Commissioner department of Food Safety Doda.

NEWS HEADLINES TODAY

GMS Kote Qasba!s students force to cross dangerous nalla, parents demand footbridge

M S Nazki



Mendhar,The students of Government Middle School, Kote Qasba, risk their lives to reach their school by passing through the middle of the very dangerous nalla. The parents of these students while talking to the Global News Service said that their children could ever be victims of any accident, which is the reason that a footbridge has not yet been constructed on this dangerous canal. The parents while talking to the concerned news agency have said that it is very unfortunate that the LG administration does not care about their children at all. He said that the head of the Panchayat here brought this serious problem to the notice of the administration several times, but the concerned department did not pay any special attention to this problem. The local people said that along with the children, the teachers of this school also go to their duty by crossing this nalla and while crossing this nalla many times they risk their lives to educate the children. Local people said that several times DDC was informed about this important issue. He also confirmed that a footbridge should be constructed there immediately and said that he too would like to construct a footbridge at this location. He said that concerned higher authorities have been informed about this matter. The local people have demanded the LG administration to construct a bridge at this location immediately.

Aryans to organise Scholarship Mela from 26th Aug to 5th Sep in Ganderbal, Pulwama, Handwara, Anantnag, Kunzer & Srinagar

Srinagar, Aug 25Chandigarh based Aryans Group of Colleges is going to organise a scholarship mela from 26th August to 5th Sep in various regions of JK.

Rayees Ahmed, Head, Jk Admission, Aryans Group said that in Aryans Scholarship Mela, the selected students would get 10%- 100% scholarship on merit cum mean basis. The students can also call on Aryans helpline number 98781-08888 for any admission related queries.

Rayees further added that the scholarship mela would be organised at Dream Ways Education Group, Beehama Ganderbal on 26th August ; Paradise Career Experts, Noor Complex Near GDC Boys, Pulwama on 28th August; Dream Education Services New Bus Stand Handwara on 30th August; Al Mehad Career Consultancy Group Near Hista Higher Secondary School, K.P road Anantnag on 1st September; Delta educational consultancy, Kunzer near fire service station on 3rd September; Kashmir career avenues and educational services on 5th September.

It is to be mentioned that, established in 2007, Aryans campus is located on Chandigarh-Patiala highway, near Chandigarh and has lush green 20 acres pollution free campus and has become the destination for JK students. Aryans Group has been serving the educational and intellectual interests of the youth in a commendable manner. The Group is running Engineering College, Law College, Pharmacy College, Management College, Business School, Education College, Agriculture College, and Nursing College etc

Ganderbal police observed “thana diwas” at various police establishments.

SULIMAN SAITH



Ganderbal 25th August : As a part of public outreach programme and an initiative by Government of J&K, District Police Ganderbal observed Thana Diwas at Police Station Lar, PS Kangan and PS Gund respectively.

The meeting chaired by SDPO Kangan Shri Yasir Qadri-JKPS and DySP Headquarters Ganderbal Shri Ghulam Hassan-JKPS under the directions of SSP Ganderbal Shri Nikhil Borkar-IPS.

The participants from Civil Society , Trade , Transport participated in the event and highlighted various issues of public importance and they were assured that their genuine grievances pertaining to Police will be resolved on priority and that of civil administration will be taken up with the concerned departments for their early redressal.

The meeting was also attended by officers of Civil Department and other officers of Police Department.

On the occasion, te chairing officers stated that policing at grass-root level in the district would be revamped to enhance proficiencies of the cops and to develop confidence among the people. The officers also added that Thana Divas is an initiative to bridge the gap between Police and Public and also to hear and redress the grievances of common masses and further added that Community policing is mandatory to boost public confidence which would help in fighting against crime and social evils.

It was stressed upon the officers to brace up with a missionary spirit to fight against drug abuse and eradicate other social evils from the society and to take a pledge to serve the society with missionary spirit and maintain the dignity of force. The participants were requested to co-operate with Police in maintaining Law and Order in the area and identifying Anti-National and Anti-Social elements who always try to disrupt the peaceful environment.

Shopian Administration accords warm farewell to outgoing ADC

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 25: The District Administration Shopian today organized an impressive farewell party for the outgoing Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani on his transfer as the Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Additional District Development Commissioner, Shopian Manzoor Hussain, Chief Planning Officer, Shopian Khurshheed Ahmad Khatana, Accounts Officer, Umar Javid besides District heads of line departments and officials of various departments were also present.

All the officers present in the function extended their best wishes to the ADC for his new assignment.

India Votes Against Russia In UN Security Council Vote On Ukraine

Washington: India for the first time on Wednesday voted against Russia during a “procedural vote” at the United Nations Security Council on Ukraine, as the 15-member powerful UN body invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to address a meeting through a video tele-conference.

This is for the first time that India has voted against Russia on the issue of Ukraine, after the Russian military action began in February. So far, New Delhi has abstained at the UN Security Council on Ukraine, much to the annoyance of the Western powers led by the United States.

Western nations, including the US, have imposed major economic and other sanctions on Russia following the aggression.

India has not criticised Russia for its aggression against Ukraine. New Delhi has repeatedly called upon the Russian and Ukrainian sides to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue, and also expressed its support for all diplomatic efforts to end the conflict between the two countries. India currently is a non-permanent member of the UNSC for a two-year term, which ends in December.

On Wednesday, the UNSC held a meeting to take stock of the now six-month-old conflict on the 31st anniversary of Ukraine’s independence.

As the meeting began, Russian

Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily A Nebenzia requested a procedural vote concerning Ukrainian President’s



participation in the meeting by video tele-conference.

Following statements by him and Ferit Hoxha of Albania, the Council extended an invitation to Zelensky to participate in the meeting via video tele-conference by a vote of 13 in favour to one against. Russia voted against such an invitation, while China abstained.

Nebenzia insisted that Russia does not oppose Zelensky’s participation, but such participation must be in-person. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council decided to work virtually, but such meetings were informal and, after the pandemic’s peak, the

Council returned to the provisional rules of procedure, he argued. Reiterating that his country’s objection pertains specifically to

the President’s participation by video tele-conference, he called for a procedural vote on this matter, to which India and 12 other countries did not agree and supported Zelensky to address the Council via video conference.

Albania’s Hoxha argued that Ukraine is at war, and the situation in that country requires the President to be there. Due to this unique situation, he supported Zelensky’s participation via video tele-conference and urged other members to do the same.

Nebenzia regretted that Council members had spoken out against complying with the rules of the or-

gan. “We can understand the logic of Kyiv’s Western backers,” he said, expressing disappointment that other members contributed to the erosion of the Council’s very foundation and practices.

Soon thereafter, Zelensky in his remarks via a video conference called for the Russian Federation to be held accountable for its crimes of aggression against Ukraine. “If Moscow is not stopped now, then all these Russian murderers will inevitably end up in other countries,” he said.

“It is on the territory of Ukraine that the world’s future will be decided,” he added. “Our independence is your security,” he told the UNSC. Zelensky alleged that Russia has placed the world on the brink of nuclear catastrophe by turning the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant into a war zone. The plant has six reactors - only one exploded at Chernobyl - and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) must take permanent control of the situation as soon as possible, he said.

The Ukrainian President called on Russia to cease its “nuclear blackmail” and completely withdraw from the plant.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres expressed grave concern over the situation in and around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, underscoring that “the warning lights are flashing”.the physical integrity,

Technology Revolution Has Empowered India’s Democracy: Lok Sabha Speaker

Halifax: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said that the IT revolution has played a significant role in empowering democracy in a vast country like India.

He made this remark while addressing the workshop on “A People’s Parliament: Accessibility through Innovation”.Om Birla is leading the Indian Parliamentary delegation to the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference being held in Halifax in Canada.Observing that the hopes and aspirations of people in a parliamentary democracy are expressed through the Parliament, Mr Birla opined that people see the Parliament as a medium of transformation in their socio-economic status. “Therefore, as the supreme representative body, it is the responsibility of the Parliament to act according to the expectations and aspirations of the people,” he said.Mr Birla urged delegates to build a prosperous, inclusive and enlightened society so that the benefits of development could reach the last person in the queue.Speaking on the successful democratic system in India, Birla said, “The people in India have consistently reposed their faith in democratic institutions through free and fair elections in the 75 years since independence. The increasing voter turnout in the elections has proved that the people consider democracy as the best form of governance.”

Lauding the emergence of India at the global stage, the Lok Sabha Speaker said that we are celebrating this year as the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence to mark the successful journey of Indian democracy during the last 75 years.“On this occasion, the people of India have also resolved to make our country the most developed in the comity of nations,” he added.Underlining the role of technology



in the functioning of legislatures, Mr Birla observed that technology has bridged the gap between democratic institutions and citizens.

“In a vast country like India, the IT revolution has played a significant role in empowering democracy. Through information technology, citizens can not only monitor the work of public representatives in Parliament but public participation in a parliamentary democracy can be made more easy and accessible.” In this context, he mentioned about Digital India Mission, Digital Sansad, Mobile App and Sansad TV. He said that Information Technology and mobile applications have increased the efficiency of Parliament and parliamentarians and the Digital Parliament App and Digital Library have increased transparency and accountability in the working of Parliament.

Mr Birla suggested that the Parliaments of Commonwealth countries should interact regularly, share best practices and help each other to implement these best practices.

Later in the day, Birla met Speaker of the Senate of Canada George J Furey. Mentioning about Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections in India, Birla apprised Mr Furey that a tribal woman has been elected.

US announces \$3bn in military aid for Ukraine

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden announced nearly \$3 billion in military aid — the biggest US package so far — on Kyiv’s Independence Day, as officials warned that Russia appeared to be planning to launch fresh attacks in coming days on Ukraine’s civilian infrastructure and government facilities.

“The United States of America is committed to supporting the people of Ukraine as they continue the fight to defend their sovereignty,” Biden said in a statement while announcing the package on Wednesday.

The new package uses funds from the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI) appropriated by Congress to allow the Biden administration to procure weapons from industry rather than taking weapons from existing US weapons stocks.

The US president hailed its resistance against Russian invasion and said the \$2.98 billion for arms and other equipment aimed “to ensure Ukraine can continue to defend itself over the long term”. The approximately \$2.98 billion in assistance “will allow Ukraine to acquire air defense systems, artillery systems and munitions, counter-unmanned aerial systems, and radars to ensure it can continue to defend itself over the long term,” he said.

Norway offers micro drones; British PM pledges more military support to Kyiv on its Independence DayThe Pentagon said the new package would include six additional surface-to-air missile systems known as NASAMS, 24 counter-artillery radars, Puma drones, along with counter-drone systems known as VAMPIRE.

Former PM Imran granted interim bails in terrorism, Section 144 cases

PTI chief Imran Khan was granted interim pre-arrest bail in two cases registered against him in connection with a PTI rally held in Islamabad on August 20.The former prime minister has been booked in a terrorism case for his controversial remarks about a female judge at the rally while a separate first information report (FIR) has been registered against him on charges of violating Section 144 (ban on public gatherings exceeding four persons) in the capital on the day of the rally.Imran’s bail plea in the case pertaining to his remarks about the judge was heard at an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in the capital today, with Judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan granting him interim bail till September 1 against a surety of Rs100,000.

Later, additional sessions judge Tahir Abbas Supra granted him interim bail till September 7 in the case pertaining to the alleged violation of Section 144. This relief was provided against a surety of Rs5,000.Imran’s plea for bail in the terrorism case was filed in an ATC at the



Federal Judicial Complex in Islamabad today, prior to his arrival at the court.

The plea stated that the case was registered against the PTI chief by police as an “act of revenge”.Security was tightened around the Federal Judicial Complex ahead of Imran’s arrival, with police and Frontier Corps personnel deployed at the site, the Dawn.com correspondent in the capital said. Roads in the complex’s surroundings have also been blocked.Women police are deployed outside the Federal Judicial Complex in Islamabad ahead PTI chief Imran Khan’s arrival.

Taliban say they’ve not found body of Al Qaeda leader Zawahiri

The Taliban have not found the body of Ayman al-Zawahiri and are continuing investigations, group spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said on Thursday, after the United States said they killed the Al Qaeda leader in an airstrike in Kabul last month.The United States killed Zawahiri with a missile fired from a drone while he stood on a balcony at his hideout in July, US officials said, in the biggest blow to Al Qaeda since US Navy SEALs shot dead Osama bin Laden more than a decade ago.His death in Kabul raised questions about whether he re-



ceived sanctuary from the Taliban, who had assured the United States as part of a 2020 agreement on the withdrawal of US-led forces that they would not harbour other mili-

tant groups.Zawahiri, an Egyptian doctor, was closely involved in the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US and was one of the world’s most wanted men.US officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, had said the United States carried out a drone strike in the Afghan capital Kabul on the morning of July 31.

“Now justice has been delivered, and this terrorist leader is no more,” Biden had said in remarks from the White House. “We never back down.”The senior US official had said finding Zawahiri was the result of persistent.

Biden orders strikes against ‘Iran-backed militias’ in Syria

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden on Tuesday ordered air strikes in eastern Syria targeting “facilities used by Iranian-backed militias”, a US military spokesman said.

The strikes in oil-rich Deir Ezzor province “targeted infrastructure facilities used by groups affiliated with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps”, Central Command (Centcom) spokesman Colonel Joe Buccino claimed in a statement.

Buccino said the “precision strikes are intended to defend and protect US forces from attacks like the ones on August 15 against US personnel by Iran-backed groups”, when a number of drones targeted an outpost of US-led anti-jihadist forces without causing any casualties.

Tuesday’s air strikes hit nine bunkers in a complex used for ammunition storage and logistics, the colonel told CNN separately.

Tehran says it has deployed forces in Syria at the invitation of Damascus and only as advisers

The US military had originally intended to hit 11 of 13 bun-

kers in the complex but called off strikes on two after groups



of people were seen near them, he said, adding an initial assessment indicated no one had been killed.

US forces “took proportionate, deliberate action intended to limit the risk of escalation and minimise the risk of casualties”, the Centcom statement said.

“The United States does not seek conflict, but will continue to take necessary measures to protect and defend our people.” Hundreds of American

troops are deployed in Syria’s northeast as part of a coalition

focused on fighting remnants of the militant Islamic State group.

There was no immediate confirmation of the US strikes from Syrian state media.

Earlier, Iranian state media said a Revolutionary Guard general “who was on a mission in Syria as a military adviser” had been killed on Sunday.

The reports did not say how the general was killed, only describing him as a “defender of the sanctuary”, a term used

for those who work on behalf of Iran in Syria or Iraq.

Iran says it has deployed its forces in Syria at the invitation of Damascus and only as advisers.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps is the ideological arm of the Iranian military and is blacklisted as a “terrorist” group by the United States.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights on Wednesday said the strikes killed six fighters that were guarding the targeted facilities.

The monitor, which relies on a wide network of sources in Syria, said it could not immediately determine the nationalities of those killed.

It said that Iran-backed Afghan Shia fighters are among the groups operating in the region.

Arms depots and a training camp for Iran-backed militia fighters were among the targets hit, according to the monitor. Arms depots and a training camp for Iran-backed militia fighters were among the targets hit, according to the monitor.

Iran tests drones amid US concern of possible supply to Russia

DUBAI: Iran on Wednesday launched exercises to test its combat and reconnaissance drones, state media reported, amid US concerns over the possible supply of Iranian-made unmanned aircraft to Russia for use in the war in Ukraine.

The two-day war-games will involve 150 drones and will cover Iran’s Gulf coast and most of its territory, state television reported. The country’s air-defences and “electronic warfare” capabilities will also be tested against mock enemy drones.

Iran and the regional forces it backs have increasingly relied in recent years on drones in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

The United States said earlier this month that Russian officials were being trained in Iran as part of an agreement on the transfer of drones between the two countries, and accused Tehran of planning to

supply hundreds of unmanned aircraft to Moscow for use in Ukraine. Iran’s foreign minister denied the claim last month, including in a phone call with his Ukrainian counterpart.

Iran has developed a large domestic arms industry in the face of international sanctions and embargoes that bar it from importing many weapons.

Western military analysts say Iran sometimes exaggerates its weapons capabilities, though concerns about its ballistic missiles contributed towards Washington in 2018 leaving Tehran’s 2015 nuclear pact with world powers. Iran has developed a large domestic arms industry in the face of international sanctions and embargoes that bar it from importing many weapons.

Western military analysts say Iran sometimes exaggerates its weapons capabilities, though concerns about its ballistic missiles contributed towards Washington in 2018.

ISZL Athletic Meet for Boys & Girls held in Kishtwar



KISHTWAR, AUGUST 25: An Inter School Zonal Level (ISZL) Athletic Meet was today organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar. A good number of students from different Government and private schools participated in the mega event organised on the directions of Director Youth Services & Sports J&K, Subash Chander Chibber. Block Development Council Chairman Kishtwar, Suresh Kumar Sharma was the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony, while the tournament was held under the overall supervision of DYSSO, Kharati Lal Sharma. The Chief guests formally declared the event open by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The sports event witnessed Running, Jumping and Throwing competitions. The budding athletes are being guided by a panel of experts drawn from the field staff of the Department of Youth Services and Sports. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest laid stress on participation of all youth in sports and nation building.

Mohammad Yousuf looking beyond India clash, says Pakistan eyeing Asia Cup title

DUBAI: Pakistan had just finished their first training session for the Asia Cup at the ICC Academy here on Wednesday, when players from India arrived to being their practice. The arch-rivals are due to lock horns in a blockbuster Group 'A' opener on Sunday and while all talk ahead of the six-team Twenty20 tournament has surrounded that clash, Pakistan's batting coach Mohammad Yousuf is looking beyond it. "The first thought is to win the Asia Cup and we're focused on that goal," Yousuf told reporters after the training session, when asked how the Pakistan team was gearing up for the clash. "The preparation is for the whole tournament. We're not looking just at the India match rather we're looking to win the whole tournament." The last clash between the two teams was also in Dubai, when Pakistan beat India at the Twenty20 World Cup in October last year. That helped Pakistan end their jinx of never having won against India in a World Cup match. Yousuf said Pakistan players are heading into the Asia Cup high on confidence on the back of good recent results. Babar Azam's men won three of their last four Twenty20 Internationals since losing the semi-final at the World Cup to Australia last year. There have also been ODI clean sweeps over the West Indies and, more recently, the Netherlands.

Injured Buttler eyes full fitness ahead of Pakistan T20s

LONDON: England's white-ball captain Jos Buttler said he was aiming to return to action in next month's seven-match T20 tour of Pakistan. The 31-year-old is hopeful he can fully recover from a calf injury and hit top gear in time for this year's Twenty20 World Cup in Australia. Buttler picked up the injury last week while playing for the Manchester Originals in The Hundred and has been ruled out for the remainder of the tournament. "It is frustrating to miss some cricket, I have really been enjoying playing," Buttler, who missed a portion of the previous season due to an injury to his other calf, told Sky Sports in an interview published on Tuesday. "I actually did the same thing last year in my other calf so I had an idea what was coming.

Stadiums & Indoor Sports Complexes come alive with 'My Youth My Pride' activities across J&K

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: With the target to include around 14 lakh youth in the Phase-II of 'My Youth My Pride' programme after the successful completion of Phase-I which witnessed participation of around 9 lakh youth across J&K, the programme is a massive hit among the sporting circles of J&K.

In the Jammu division, hundreds of players participated in the events held for Gymnastics, Football, Hockey Judo, yoga, Boxing, and Cricket in the Kathua Stadium and Indoor Sports Complex Billawar in the Kathua district.

Spectators in large numbers kept visiting the venues throughout the day and visitors demanded the inclusion of more sports disciplines in the programme for the district.

In the Kashmir division, a number of competitions were held in North Kashmir's Baramulla, Kupwara, and Bandipora districts under the program though the 28th Master's Table Tennis Championship being held in Sheri-Kashmir Indoor Stadium has entered day-3. More than 400 matches were played in the cham-

pionship today. Finals in many categories of the championship were in



progress when the report was being filed.

In Baramulla, the bouts in Thang-Ta were held in Khushal Stadium Sopore and the finals of Kho-Kho were held in Uri. Government Higher Secondary Uri clinched the title by beating Government Middle School Uri in a very

close-fought contest. Ghulam Abbas, Deputy Director, Information pre-

Events for Badminton and Carrom were held in Baramulla Main Stadium. Similarly, many sports activities kept the stadiums in limelight with the massive gathering of sports lovers and supporters thronging the venues to witness the matches and root for their players.

District Kupwara hosted a Table Tennis event which was played in Kupwara Hr. Sec. School. Weightlifting and Judo events were held in Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium Bandipora while Boxing was held in Indoor Hall Shadipora, and Pencak Silat in Sumbal.

In South Kashmir, Pulwama hosted Rugby and Soft Tennis matches in Pulwama Sports Stadium while the Indoor Hall of Rajpora was lit with Thang-Ta, Weightlifting, and Yoga activities.

The vision to use the power of sports to prevent crime and drug abuse among youth is the main theme of Phase II of the program in addition to scouting and grooming talent said, Dr. Zaffar Iqbal Chief Accounts Officer J&K Sports Council.

Virat Kohli Meets Pakistan Captain Babar Azam Ahead Of Asia Cup 2022

The Indian cricket team has landed in Dubai for the Asia Cup 2022 which starts on August 27. The Rohit Sharma-led side will begin its campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan cricket team on August 28. All eyes are on that clash. Ahead of the big match, players from both the teams met each other in Dubai. Players from the Afghanistan side were also present. In a video uploaded by the BCCI on its social media handles, the likes of Hardik Pandya, Yuzvendra Chahal could be seen chatting with the likes of Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi. However, the focus was on Virat Kohli as he met with Pakistan captain Babar Azam.

Going by recent form, Babar is one of the top batters in the world, whereas



Kohli has struggled of late. Comparisons between the two had started long back and now it has gathered steam. In a recent conversation with broadcaster Star Sports, ahead of the team's bumper

clash against Pakistan in the Asia Cup, Kohli compared his current form with his struggles on the tour of England in 2014.

He said that his failures in England had a pattern, while the current lack of runs isn't a matter of worry because he feels he is batting well.

"What happened in England was a pattern, so something that I could work on and something that I had to kind of overcome. Right now, as you rightly mentioned, there is nothing that you can point out saying that the problem is happening here. So, that for me, is actually an easier thing to process because I know that I'm batting well and at times, when I start feeling that rhythm back,

Gained confidence after CWG bronze, says midfielder Nisha

New Delhi, Aug 25 (UNI) The Indian women's hockey midfielder Nisha said that the after Commonwealth Games (CWG) bronze medal win she has gained a lot of confidence. India women made history at the recently-concluded Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games after clinching the bronze medal, their first CWG medal after 16 years. The 27-year-old midfielder Nisha, who was absolutely thrilled to be a part of the bronze medal-winning

team, expressed about the importance of the medal for the team and for her career.

"This CWG medal will always be special to me as I have always dreamed of being part of medal-winning teams at prestigious tournaments. We have always looked to play our best hockey at the Olympics and Commonwealth Games and we are glad to have put in a great performance in Birmingham. The team has grown from strength to strength since I joined the



side in 2019 and hopefully, we keep evolving as a team

in the future," she said. Nisha also said that the

CWG Medal is a huge confidence booster for her, "I have certainly gained a lot of confidence after CWG. I feel blessed to have been part of a fantastic experience and we gelled as a team very well during the competition. It was very rewarding for me to contribute to the team's success and I will keep working hard in order to help the team do even better in the upcoming tournament."

The Indian women team will return to National Camp on August 29 in SAI,

Bengaluru. Speaking about the team's focus after their return to training, Nisha said, "We have noted down the mistakes we made during CWG and we will definitely be focussing on improving them. I feel the team is moving in the right direction and if we play to our potential, we can certainly start winning Gold medals at the biggest of stages. We are coordinating very well on the field and it's been an absolute pleasure to be a part of this team."

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کُلِّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ

یہ خبر نہایت ہی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ
الہیہ بشیر احمد میر سائنس کو حید آباد بمبے سرینگر 23 اگست 2022ء
بروز منگلوار اس جہاں فانی سے ملت کر گئیں یہ مرحومہ نیک میرت،
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مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 26 اگست 2022ء بروز جمعہ،
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