

DC Srinagar reviews action plan under NMBA for the District

Calls for collective efforts from all stakeholders to make Srinagar Drug Free

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: In order to review the action plan and other measures to be taken for making Srinagar drugs free District under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today chaired an Officers meeting at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

The meeting held threadbare deliberations on the rising trend of drug abuse—a reason behind many other crimes. The challenges like cracking down on the peddlers, local drug supply hubs, consumption hotspots, rehabilitation measures were discussed in detail and strategies to tackle them were highlighted.

At the outset, the DC said that Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan was launched to focus on institutional support and also on community outreach programme to make society free from all kinds of harmful addictions like alcohol, drugs abuse etc.

On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the prevention and curability aspects of drug de-addiction so that youth would remain far away from the consumption of narcotic substances and simultaneously they are guided and rehabilitated under different self-employment



schemes. The DC emphasised for better coordination among all the line departments, stakeholders and Drug law enforcement agencies to keep a check on drug trafficking and related issues and ensure prompt sharing of inputs within all enforcement units so that timely action is taken against the drug peddlers for larger social and humanitarian causes. The DC also directed the concerned officers to ensure proper vigil in and

other important places by holding awareness workshops against the menace of drug abuse.

The DC also stressed on keeping proper vigil on the students bunking the educational Institutions during the schools/colleges timings to prevent chances of getting them involved in the drug menace.

During the meeting, the HoD Department of Psychiatry/Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre, SMHS, Hospital Dr Yassir shared his clinical experience in handling victims of substance abuse and also suggested several preventive measures to combat the drug menace and monitoring of Drug Trafficking. He said taking vigilant efforts to check drug trafficking will help in creating deterrence.

Besides Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr Syed Haneef Balkhi and SP South, Lakshya Sharma, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Chief Medical Officer, District Panchayat Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, District Programme Manager, NRIM, District Planning Officer, Education, HoD Department of Psychiatry/Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre, SMHS, Hospital and other concerned.

around the schools/colleges to keep check on supply and use of drugs across the District.

He further stressed on the need to make joint efforts to break the supply chain and demand for drugs in the district, besides to track the drug trafficking modules and tracing their source.

The DC also asked for disseminating detailed awareness about the ill effects of Drugs in educational Institutions and

Relief Organisation holds first of its kind grievances Redressal Camp at Purkhoo Migrant Camp

JAMMU, AUGUST 18: To provide doorstep delivery of services and on the spot redressal of grievances, the Relief & Rehabilitation Organisation (M) J&K on Thursday organized an interactive and grievance redressal Camp for Kashmiri Migrants at Purkhoo Camp.

The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K, K.K. Sidha, along with Deputy Commissioner, Relief, Devender Singh Bhau, Riaz Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner and staff of Relief Organisation gave a patient hearing to the demands of the inhabitants of the Purkhoo Camp and redressed several grievances on the spot.

The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K assured the migrants that the UT Government and the Relief Organisation is committed towards delivery of services and mitigation of all the inconveniences of the migrants.

The spokesperson from the Purkhoo Camp apprised the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner about the problems, issues faced by the migrants. The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), K.K. Sidha said that the interaction has been organized to have firsthand appraisal of all the issues of inhabitants of Purkhoo Camp, listen to their suggestions and inputs for their welfare.

During the camp, the team issued 52 Ayushman Golden Cards, 12 Migration Certificates for Employment/Education purpose, provided all services related to the ration cards



i.e. Inclusion, Bifurcation, 02 RBA Certificates, issued 12 Domicile Certificates and also assessed the issues related to civil works, sanitation, issues of electricity, water supply, supply of medicines in Health Centres, besides grievance related to property were also discussed.

The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) directed the Technical Officer to prepare estimates for all repair and renovations works of the Purkhoo Camp quarters and furnish the same to his office within one week.

During the session, several issues pertaining to Kashmiri migrants

were discussed and the RRCM assured the participants of timely resolution of all their issues and concerns.

The inmates of Purkhoo Camp through their President, Dayakrishen expressed gratitude to Relief Organisation (M) for this outreach programme which cemented their faith in the system.

Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) Sh. K.K. Sidha stated that this is the first of its kind initiative of the Relief Organisation and similar camps would be organised in all other migrant camps and non-camp areas.

DC reviews progress under Capex budget, ADP, B2V and 14th FC works in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 18: District Development Commissioner, Udhampur, Kritika Jyotsna, today convened a meeting of the officers and field functionaries of Rural Development Department here in the District at Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex to review the status of AAA, Tendering, Allotment, Execution and Completion of works under District Capex budget 2022-23,

Back to village, 14th FC and other schemes of RDD sector.

The DDC took an extensive block-wise review of the ongoing developmental works undertaken by the RDD department across different blocks of the district under District Capex budget, 14th FC, MGNREGA, Area Development Plan, B2V and other schemes respectively.

The DDC stressed upon the officers

to accelerate the developmental tempo in the district, adding that people were pinning high hopes on the Administration for quick and speedy development of the district.

The BDOs of concerned blocks briefed the DDC about the status of various ongoing developmental works under District Capex budget, 14th FC, ADP, B2V, MGNREGA and other allied schemes.

CS bids farewell to Pr. Secy GAD

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta bid farewell to Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi at a simple function organized at Civil Secretariat.

Calling Dwivedi an excellent officer, Dr. Mehta complimented the outgoing officer for his hardwork and dedication. He called him very

passionate towards work and his contribution exemplary as a civil servant.

He also narrated various instances where the outgoing Principal Secretary showcased his vast experience in dealing with administrative matters.

While giving his best wishes to outgoing Principal Secretary for his future assignments, Dr. Mehta

remarked that Dwivedi is a capable and experienced officer who can contribute at every level and post and can deal with most complex issues with his insight.

He gave him best wishes for his next assignment and said that he would be the best ambassador of J&K wherever he would go in his long and promising career.

Public Notice

I have applied for registration of my residential house located at village Bandy Payeen 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 7days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained

Mohammed Ashraf Bhat
S/O Mohammed Subhan Bhat
R/O Bandy Payeen Tehsil Kreeeri
Distt Baramulla

Public Notice

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

Abdul Ahad Reshi
S/O Ghulam Mohammad Reshi
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeeri Distt. Baramulla

Newspapers Owners at the verge of Suspending Operation. Printers Association Kashmir Seeks Govt Attention.

HT NEWS NETWORK.

Srinagar, Aug 18: An important meeting of the Press Association Kashmir was held under the chairmanship of President Bilal Ahmed Qureshi in which the problems and issues related to the publishing of newspapers and printing presses established in the Kashmir Valley were discussed. Concerned from Khidmat Printing Press, Tameel-e-Irshad, Images Printing Press, Rising Kashmir Printing Press and Labab Printing Press were included. On the occasion, the members point-

ed out that prices of printing materials, especially newsprint (paper), plate, ink, chemical, etc., have increased by about 40% in last one year and this trend is continuing unabated. During the meeting, the members drew the attention of the government to the fact that if the price of newspaper publishing material continues to rise, the publication of newspapers may become a big problem and the newspaper owners will not be able to afford to bear this burden. Such a situation, they said, was likely to force the newspapers owners to shut or suspend the opera-

tions. They appealed the government to pay attention towards the issue and prevent the printing operation from being deleterious affected. Another important decision was taken during the meeting that if a newspaper owner has outstanding printing charges of any printing press for the past one or two years, he or she should settle the accounts with the concerned press within 15 days otherwise after 15 days Publication of such newspapers will be suspended by the Printers Association.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of Horticulture Kashmir

INCENTIVES UNDER DIFFERENT COMPONENTS

Department of Horticulture Kashmir is providing incentive under different schemes for welfare of the farming community. Some of the major components are given below.

S.NO	NAME OF THE SCHEME	COMPONENET	TARGET FOR THE YEAR 2022-23 (UNITS)	AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY/UNIT (In Rs.)
01	MISSION FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE (MIDH)	REFRIGERATED VAN	09	13.0 Lakhs
02		LOW-COST PRESERVATION UNIT	30	1.0 Lakhs
03		INTEGRATED PACK HOUSE	06	25.0 Lakhs
04		PRIMARY MINIMAL MOBILE POCCESSING UNIT	06	13.75 Lakhs
05	Sub Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM)	ESTABLISHMENT OF CUSTOM HIRING CENTRE	30	4.0 Lakhs
06		FARM MACHINERY BANKS	30	8.0 Lakhs

For further details feel free to contact

Directorate of Horticulture Kashmir, Rajbag Srinagar/

Concerned Chief Horticulture Officers of Kashmir Division.

Issued in public interest by:

DIPK-8264/22

Directorate of Horticulture Kashmir.

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Mohammad Ashraf Khanday
S/O Mohammad Assadullah Khanday
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeeri Distt. Baramulla

Public Notice

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Ghulam Hassan Reshi
S/O Ghulam Ahmad Reshi
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeeri Distt. Baramulla

Public Notice

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Bashir Ahmad Reshi
S/O Ghulam Ahmad Reshi
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeeri Distt. Baramulla

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DEE Class Contract card from R&B Office. if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engineer (R&B) Circle Baramulla /Kupwara within aperiod of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Irshad Ahmad Najar
S/O- Mohammad Ramzan Najar
R/o- Dandmooha

घड़ी डिटर्जेंट भारत का No.1

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Youm-e-Mehmood celebrations held at Mehmood Abad Dooru

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 18: The JK Tourism Department and J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in collaboration with District Administration Anantnag and Mehmood Gami Working Committee today organised the Youm-e-Mehmood under the banner "Baseerat Tasawuf conference" at Dooru, here. On the occasion, the speakers highlighted the poetic skill, writing skills, prose, and developmental contribution of the Sufi saint Mehmood Gami towards Kashmiri language and literature. Director Tourism, Dr G.N. Ito, while speaking on the occasion threw light on different aspects of the life of the Kashmiri saints, Sufis, poets, writers and particularly on Mehmood Gami. He said the area is lucky and fertile to have given birth to such poets like Rasool Mir, also known as John Keats of Kash-

mir and Mehmood Gami. He stressed upon the new generation to have due respect and regard for Kashmiri culture and language as Kashmir is having a rich civilized culture and promotion of this culture is the duty of every citizen. He said that the Tourism department is committed to highlighting the rich culture through such functions and days like this will also be celebrated in future. Secretary DLSA Anantnag, Mir Wajahat while speaking on the occasion highlighted legal provisions meant for cultural preservation. A colorful sufi culture programme was also presented by different well known singers of Kashmir valley including Gulzar Ganje, Gh. Mohidin Shah, Aijaz Gundpore etc. The programme was attended by President MC Dooru, CEO VDA, SDM Doru, Tehsildar Dooru, Chairman and members.

DC reviews developmental, regulatory requirements for smooth vehicular movement in Jammu City

JAMMU, AUGUST 18: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa today convened a meeting with the senior officers of concerned departments to discuss regulatory and developmental requirements for smooth vehicular movement in the City. ADC (L&O) Minga Sherpa; ADC (ADM) Satish Sharma; SSP Traffic, Dr Koushal Sharma; RTO Jammu Ghanshyam Singh, ACR JMC Munisha and SP North, Kuldeep Handa were present in the meeting. Threadbare discussion was held on certain issues regarding declaration of No Vehicle Area, No Parking Zone, drawing of Zebra Crossing at various locations, installation of no parking boards and imposition of fine on violators and extension, repair, construction of dividers. The concerned official informed the Chair that different areas/locations have been identified for no parking and no vehicular zones. It was also informed in the meeting that roads from City Chowk to Shaheedi Chowk, City Chowk to Purani Mandi and Purani Mandi to Parade have been identified for one way traffic to avoid the congregation of vehicles at these areas. The Deputy Commissioner

asked the concerned officers to remove the encroachment on the footpaths by



The Deputy Commissioner emphasized to sensitize people regarding traffic

asked them to recover the fine from the violators as per law.

She asked to initiate the works regarding extension, construction and repair of dividers, installation of sign boards and drawing of zebra crossing at various locations and completed them at the earliest. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized upon all the stakeholder departments to work in close coordination and synergy to ensure smooth vehicular movement in the old city of Jammu. The traffic officers were asked to strictly enforce no-entry on the one-way routes to decongest traffic in the old city. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized to sensitize people regarding traffic rules, especially to park their vehicles in designated parking areas and not to enter from the wrong side of the road. She asked the concerned to install sign boards for no parking zone and one way traffic to restrict violations. She also asked them to recover the fine from the violators as per law. She asked to initiate the works regarding extension, construction and repair of dividers, installation of sign boards and drawing of zebra crossing at various locations and completed them at the earliest.

vendors and Shopkeepers. She directed for conducting a Joint anti encroachment drive to clear the footpaths. The traffic officers were asked to strictly enforce no-entry on the one-way routes to decongest traffic in the old city.

rules, especially to park their vehicles in designated parking areas and not to enter from the wrong side of the road. She asked the concerned to install sign boards for no parking zone and one way traffic to restrict violations. She also

NIT Srinagar inks MoU with CIIT Baramulla MoU will encourage academic partnership, and research collaboration between two institutions: Dir

Srinagar, Aug 18, 2022: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Centre for Innovation, Innovation, Incubation, and Training (CIIT) Government Polytechnic College Baramulla under the Directorate of Skill Development, Govt. of J&K. The MoU was signed between Director, NIT Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal and Principal Government Polytechnic College Baramulla Er. Altaf Gowhar. Prof M.F Wani, Dean R & C, Dr. Shahid Saleem, Head T & P, Dr. Saad Parvez, Head IIEDC, and Dr. Dinesh Kumar, A.P MED, and other faculty members from Government Polytechnic College Baramulla were present on the occasion. In his key address, Director, NIT Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said this MoU will further strengthen ties between two institutions. It is indeed of matter of great pleasure as technological institutions are coming together to sign the historic MoU, he said. "We will take this MoU forward

for the benefit of students, faculty members, and other staff members of both respective intuitions.



It will help us to serve humanity through technological dimensions", he said. Prof. Sehgal said it is a very positive step that the MoU will encourage academic partnership and fruitful research collaboration between two prestigious technological intuitions of Jammu and Kashmir. We are aiming forward for the joint research projects and student exchange programs, he added.

Dean Research and Consultancy (R&C) NIT Srinagar, Prof. M F Wani said NIT Srinagar will col-

laborate with CIIT Baramulla in identifying the current skill gaps existing in the Technical manpower in the area of Manufacturing Technology and Automobile Engineering. "NIT Srinagar will suggest the training curriculum to be adopted for bridging this gap. Both the parties shall endeavor to promote and support promotional activities to be undertaken by them in the area of skill development," he said. In his message,

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said this collaborative move will bring synergy in finding novel and innovative solutions to the problems faced by the industry in the region. "I am confident that MoU between CIIT Baramulla and NIT Srinagar will lead to major research works that will benefit the general public and residents of Jammu and Kashmir in particular," he said. Prof. Bukhari said there is no dearth of talent among the youth of Kashmir but there is a need for proper guidance, counseling to enhance and encourage their capabilities. Dr. Shahid Saleem, Head Training and Placement Cell, NIT Srinagar said it is indeed of matter of great pleasure as two technological institutions are inking a historic MoU. "It will definitely benefit the students of both colleges," he said. "Both students will get internship opportunities across the country. This MoU will provide students valuable mentor relationships often start with a personal connection that enhances their experience as well," he said.

Sanjeev Verma chairs third BoDs meeting of JKFDCL

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment (FE&E) Department, Sanjeev Verma today chaired the third Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting of J&K Forest Development Corporation Limited (JKFDCL) at Civil Secretariat here. During the meeting, the Board reviewed the implementation of decisions taken in the previous board meetings and the members stressed on the need for transparency and efficiency in conduct of business. While reviewing the overall functioning of the Corporation, the Chairperson of the board, Sanjeev Verma appreciated the efforts of Forest Department in supporting the activities of the Forest Corpo-



ration, especially for the significant increase in markings handed over in 2021-22. The board also took note of the Audit reports of the erstwhile J&K State Forest Corporation for the year 2020-21 and took on record the changes among Directors. Among others, the BoDs meeting was at-

Rs 2 lac fine imposed on erring FBOs at Anantnag

ANANTNAG, JULY 18: The Additional Deputy Commissioner Anantnag who is also designated as Adjudicating Officer today imposed a penalty of Rs 2 lac in 11 cases filed by Food Safety Officers in District against various Food Business Operators (FBOs) for violating different provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act (FS&SA). The erring FBOs were found involved in manufacturing/sale of substandard/misbranded food products and for non-compliance of orders of Food Safety Officers for not obtaining license/registration and violation of Schedule 4 of FSSAI, 2006 (Good hygienic & Good manufacturing practices). All 11 FBOs were present in person along with their standing counsels and were given ample opportunities to defend the allegations leveled against them. However they failed to prove their innocence. The ADC during the trial of these cases directed the Food Business Operators to adhere strictly to the provisions of Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 and desist from such unwarranted acts in future.

JKAP-14th Bn. organizes Story Telling Competition at Sainik School Manasbal

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 18: As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the JKAP-14th Bn. Today organized a storytelling competition on Freedom Fighters under the "Har Ghar Tiranga" programme at Sainik School Manasbal. A total of 100 students of the school participated in the event. The objective of the programme was to invoke the feelings of patriotism, national pride and belonging in the hearts of the students and to promote awareness about the Indian National Flag. Raj Singh Gouria-SSP (Commandant JKAP-14th Bn.) and Abdul Rehman, DySP in their address highlighted the significance of the national flag as a unifying force in India. "It is us as citizens who can bring India up to its true potential, and secure its place on the world stage", they added. The programme concluded with flag distribution among students followed by flag March.

GM DIC Budgam takes review of District Skill Development Plan

BUDGAM, AUGUST 18: The General Manager DIC and Joint Director Planning today took review meeting regarding implementation of the skill development plan. The GM directed officers to involve youth in various skill development works and impart training to youth so that they can start up their units. Officers highlighted various aspects of programmes which can uplift the youth and can be trained accordingly. The GM said that almost 4000 persons can be trained in different skills in various Delors like opening of cold storage, hiring of vehicles, mushroom cultivation, etc he further added for all these start ups already loan amount is available with us. Joint director planning focused on awareness of these programmes under skill development plan. Among others, CAO and other officers attended the meeting. Joint director planning focused on awareness of these programmes under skill development plan. Among others, CAO and other officers attended the meeting.

Secretary MEITY interacts with Chief Secretary Visits State Data Centre Jammu

JAMMU, AUGUST 18: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today held an interaction with Union Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), Alkesh Kumar Sharma who visited the J&K State Data Centre Jammu. On this occasion the Commissioner Secretary Information Technology (IT), Prerna Puri and senior officers from ITD J&K, NIC J&K, CDAC and JaKeGA were present.

The Secretary MeITY reviewed the progress of e-Governance Projects and recent IT initiatives by the Government of J&K. Commissioner Secretary IT apprised the Secretary MeITY that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has embarked on an ambitious journey for usher-

ing in the era of smart, efficient, responsive, transparent, citizen friendly and corruption free governance. A number of major IT initiatives have been taken in recent times by the UT Government. These have brought about a paradigm shift in the structure of governance and the common people are really beginning to feel this transformation to forward looking, modern, people-friendly, empathetic and corruption free governance. The main emphasis is on G2C (Government to Citizen) Online Services, 213 of which have so far been launched and many of which have now been made available under a Unified Service Delivery Portal called e-UNNAT. These have been integrated with MeriPehchaan,

RAS feedback mechanism, Services Delivery Portal, SASB e-Payment gateway, SMS gate- Portal, BEAMS, Jan-Bhagidari, way, DigiLocker, Aadhar eKYC and UMANG. A presentation was made by the State Informatics Officer, NIC J&K, Mr. Mohammad Saleem Khan, highlighting recent projects like e-UNNAT Unified

Services Delivery Portal, SASB Portal, BEAMS, Jan-Bhagidari,



e-Kitabkosh and EPM (Employee Performance Monitoring). Another presentation was made by Abhishek Sharma, CEO JaKeGA in which he highlighted major IT initiatives like JK MyGov, UT Dashboard, e-Of-

office etc. The Chief Secretary said that the Government of Jammu & Kashmir is firmly committed to reach out to the common public and make available to them the G2C services in an easily accessible, uncomplicated and transparent manner. The Government's resolve is to provide an enriching experience to the citizen / user and save them from physically visiting offices and having to deal with public officials in crowded offices and to go through complicated processes. At the same time, the objective is also to save the citizen from visiting too many online portals and having to remember all those website addresses and login credentials. There was a long felt need of the citizens to have easy access to all.

Toshkhana brought under the administrative control of Department of Culture

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the transfer of administrative control of Toshkhana Organization from the Hospitality & Protocol Department to the Department of Culture. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting. The Toshkhana houses the royal gifts and antique items of the erstwhile Dogra Rulers of Jammu & Kashmir. In Jammu, the articles of the Toshkhana have been stored at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, whereas, the articles in Srinagar have been kept in a locker at Saddar Treasury, Srinagar. The decision to transfer the administrative control of the Toshkhana to the Department of Culture will synchronize its functioning with the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums under the Department of Culture and citizens will be able to have better information about their heritage. Further, the Administrative Council also sanctioned the transfer of sanctioned posts and incumbent staff of the

Toshkhana Organization to the Culture Department along with all records and immovable/movable assets. The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the transfer of administrative control of Toshkhana Organization from the Hospitality & Protocol Department to the Department of Culture. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting. The Toshkhana houses the royal gifts and antique items of the erstwhile Dogra Rulers of Jammu & Kashmir. In Jammu, the articles of the Toshkhana have been stored at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, whereas, the articles in Srinagar have been kept in a locker at Saddar Treasury, Srinagar. The decision to transfer the administrative control of the Toshkhana to the Department of Culture will synchronize its functioning with the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums under the Department of Culture and citizens will be able to have better information about their heritage.

DG IMPARD chairs valedictory session training courses at Srinagar



SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: Director General, J&K IMPARD, Saurabh Bhagat today chaired the joint valedictory session of three short-duration training courses held at IMPARD Main Campus, here. The training courses were simultaneously held on Flood Risk Mitigation, Empowerment of Rural Women through UMEED and e-Governance and Digital India and were coordinated by Dr. G. M. Dar, Dr. B. A. Kumar, and Dr. Rukaya Amin, Associate Professors of IMPARD, respectively. Addressing the joint valedictory session, Saurabh Bhagat said that Disasters are natural phenomena and floods are the most common disasters and like other disasters they wipe out years of development within a short time. He said that

India is a flood prone country and it is incumbent upon the people and the Government functionaries alike to respond to all disasters and provide immediate relief to the disaster hit populations and rehabilitate them through reconstruction programmes. The Director General in his address laid stress upon the fact that we need to have behavioural change on community scale to tackle disasters efficiently. He further said that disasters especially in rural areas destroy crops and houses which increase poverty and indebtedness in those areas. The DG remarked that in order to ensure overall development of rural families the Government has launched National Rural Livelihoods Mission (named UMEED in J&K).

Northeast getting highest priority on developmental front: Dr Jitendra Singh

Itanagar, Aug 18 (UNI) Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi accords "highest priority" to the North East states so that they stride on the path to development at par with the rest of the country.

"North East is getting highest priority now as Prime Minister focuses on bringing fast development in NE at par with rest of the country," Dr Jitendra Singh said after inaugurating the two-day Regional Conference on "Bringing Citizens and Government Closer through Administrative Reforms" with Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu at Itanagar today.

"Prior to 2014, Northeast was in the news all for the wrong reasons. But since the day Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister in 2014 things started to change... Huge transformations have happened in the NE over the period of last eight years with peace and development taking precedence over all the bitter experiences of the past," the Union Minister said.

Talking about this frontier state, Dr Singh said, "Arunachal Pradesh, the most peripheral state of Northeast located the China border, has the earliest sunrise and the day dawns before any other state of India, but could see the 'dawn of development' only after Narendra Modi took over as PM."

Dr Singh said that under the leadership of PM Modi, India adopted the "Maximum Governance, Min-

imum Government" paradigm to "reduce human interference as far as possible" – a model which is being commended all over the world



with civil servants from across the world visiting India to pursue internships.

He said that the two-day regional conference that aimed at familiarizing officers with best governance practices is a step in the direction of reaping the benefits of good governance by bringing national and state-level organizations along with other stakeholders including NGOs, intelligentsia, media, etc on the same platform to share experiences in the formulation and implementation of good governance practices.

The Minister has said that Modi Government is committed to transparency and "Justice for All", and the people-friendly reforms taken

in the last eight years have benefited the entire country including the people of North-Eastern states. He cited several governance initiatives undertaken by Government for Arunachal Pradesh while emphasizing that the administration must reach out to the last man in the queue.

Referring to the long-pending issues including the one regarding the creation of a separate cadre for IAS/IPS/IFS for Arunachal Pradesh, the Union Minister said, "I hope, in the course of time, the issues will be taken care of as communicated by CM Pema Khandu previously."

Regarding 'Armit Kaal' (as the Prime Minister refers to) from 75 years to 100 years of India's Independence, Dr Singh said, "For next 25 years, we have to focus on the same by concentrating on capaci-

ties undertaken by Government for Arunachal Pradesh while emphasizing that the administration must reach out to the last man in the queue. Referring to the long-pending issues including the one regarding the creation of a separate cadre for IAS/IPS/IFS for Arunachal Pradesh, the Union Minister said, "I hope, in the course of time, the issues will be taken care of as communicated by CM Pema Khandu previously."

Nitin Gadkari Pitches For Alternative Fuels To Reduce Oil Import, Pollution

Mumbai: Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday pitched for the use of alternative fuels for vehicles to reduce the import of crude oil as well as cut down on pollution.

As much as 35 per cent of the pollution in the country is due to diesel and petrol, Mr Gadkari said, adding, "this is why we need import-substituting, cost-effective and pollution-free and indigenous products".

At the launch of the country's first electric double-decker air-conditioned bus, the Minister for Road Transport and Highways said that electric automobiles are greatly cost effective when compared to diesel ones.

"In the Indian situation, import of crude oil is a big challenge. We are already experiencing the way rates are increased. It is also very difficult for the common man..." he said.

According to him, it is time to start using alternative fuels like electricity, ethanol, methanol, bio-diesel, bio-CNG, bio-LNG and hydrogen for the automobile sector.

Further, he said the current size of the Indian automobile industry stands 7.5 lakh crore and it has maximum employment potential besides giving maximum taxes to central and state governments.

"My dream is to make this industry 15 lakh crore by the end of 2024, and this is possible," he said.

Switch Mobility, the electric vehicle division of Hinduja group's flagship Ashok Leyland, unveiled the country's first electric double-decker air-conditioned bus EV 22.

These buses, with a seating capacity of 65 passengers, will replace the ex-



isting double-decker fleet of the BEST (Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport) undertaking.

As of now, Switch is operating its twin-floor electric AC buses in the United Kingdom.

Switch India has already secured an order of 200 electric double-decker buses from the BEST and it is looking at a dominant space in the electric double-decker segment across key regions in the country, the company said.

"We already have an order for 200 electric double-decker AC buses in Mumbai. We will deliver 50 of these buses this financial year. Many more cities are discussing with us for these buses," Mahesh Babu, CEO of Switch Mobility India and COO at Switch Mobility Ltd told PTI. "We already have an order for 200 electric double-decker AC buses in Mumbai. We will deliver 50 of these buses this financial year. Many more cities are discussing with us for these buses," Mahesh Babu, CEO of Switch Mobility India and COO at Switch Mobility Ltd told PTI.

US Embassy Reacts To Wait As Long As 500 Days For Visa Appointments

WASHINGTON: People planning to visit the United States are in for a rude shock as they will have to wait till 2024 to get a visitor visa. NDTV checked the website of US State Department and found that the average waiting time was about one-and-a-half years, which means those planning to apply now will get an appointment for March-April 2024. The website shows that average wait for a visa appointment in the US consulate at New Delhi is 522 days for visitor visas and 471 days for student visas.

If the location is changed to Mumbai, the average wait time for a US visa appointment is 517 days for a visitor visa and 10 days for a student visa, according to the website. The waiting time for all other non-immigrant visas is 198 days in Delhi and 72 days in Mumbai.

In case of Chennai, the waiting time for visitor visa is 557 days for visitor visa and 185 days for all other non-immigrant visas. Those applying from Hyderabad will have to wait for 518 days, to get a visitor visa, according to State Department website.

"The estimated wait time to receive an interview appointment at a US Embassy or Consulate can change weekly and is based on actual incoming workload and staffing. These are estimates only and do not guarantee the availability of an appointment," the visa page on the website said.

Sena MP Sanjay Raut Pleads Not Guilty In Defamation Case By BJP Leader

Mumbai: Jailed Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday appeared before a magistrate in Mumbai through video conference in a defamation case filed by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya's wife Medha Somaiya and pleaded not guilty.

Mr Raut is lodged at the Arthur Road jail in Mumbai following arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case.

Earlier in the day, the Sewri metropolitan magistrate, hearing the defamation case filed by the BJP leader's wife, asked the jail authorities to produce the Sena leader before the court through video conference at 12 noon.

Accordingly, Mr Raut appeared before the magistrate and pleaded not guilty in the case. Medha Somaiya's lawyer Vivekanand Gupta said.

The lawyer said the matter has been adjourned till September 19.

Medha Somaiya in her complaint alleged that Mr Raut had made baseless and completely defamatory allegations against her and her husband, accusing them of being involved in a scam



worth 100 crore over the construction and maintenance of some public toilets under the jurisdiction of the Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation in neighbouring Thane district.

She has urged the court to begin proceedings against Mr Raut on the charges of defamation as defined under sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code. Sanjay Raut is in the Arthur Road jail in Mumbai following arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case.

38 Dead, Over 200 Injured After Massive Forest Fire In Algeria

Algiers: Algerian firefighters were Thursday battling a string of blazes, fanned by drought and a blistering heatwave, that have killed at least 38 people and left destruction in their wake.

Deadly forest fires have become an annual scourge in the North African country, where climate change is turning large areas into a tinderbox.

According to multiple sources including local journalists and the fire service, at least 38 people have been killed, mostly in the El Tarf region near Algeria's eastern border with Tunisia which was baking in 48 degrees Celsius (118 Fahrenheit) heat.

At least 200 more people have suffered burns or respiratory problems from the smoke, according to various Algerian

21 Dead, 33 Injured After Huge Explosion At Kabul Mosque: Police

Kabul: A huge explosion struck a mosque in Kabul during evening prayers on Wednesday, witnesses and police said, with many feared dead or injured.

Police said there were multiple casualties but did not say how many. One Taliban intelligence official told Reuters that as many as 35 people may have been wounded or killed, and the toll could rise further. Al Jazeera quoted an unidentified official as giving a total death count of 20. Witnesses told Reuters

the powerful explosion was heard in a northern Kabul neighbourhood, shattering windows in nearby buildings. Ambulances rushed to the spot.

"A blast happened inside a mosque... the blast has casualties, but the numbers are not clear yet," Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran told Reuters.

The Taliban intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the explosion occurred in a mosque among worshippers in Khair Khana area of Kabul. The Imam

of the mosque was among those killed and the count could still rise, the source added. Intelligence teams were at blast site and investigations were ongoing. Other officials in the Taliban government did not reply to multiple requests to confirm the number of casualties.

The Imam of the mosque was among those killed and the count could still rise. (Representational)

A huge explosion struck a mosque in Kabul during evening prayers on Wednesday, witnesses and police said,

I&B Ministry blocks 8 YouTube channels

New Delhi, Aug 18 (UNI) The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on Thursday said eight YouTube channels, one Facebook account and two Facebook posts have been blocked for showing fake news and spreading communal hatred.

The I&B Ministry issued the order on Tuesday, utilizing the emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021.

The blocked YouTube channels had a cumulative viewership of over 114 crore, were subscribed by over 85 lakh users. The blocked YouTube channels include Loktantra TV, which had 23,72,27,331 views and 12.90 lakh subscribers, U&V TV, with 14,40,03,291 views and 10.20 lakh subscribers, and a channel called AM Razvi, which had 1,22,78,194 views and 95,900 subscribers.

Other channels are Gouravshali Pawan Mithilanchal, with over seven lakh subscribers and almost 16 crore views, SeeTop5TH with over 24 crore views and 33.50 lakh subscribers, Sarkari Update with over 70 lakh

views and 80,900 subscribers, Sab Kuch Dekho with over 32 crore views and 19.40 lakh subscribers and Pakistani based News Ki Dunya



which had 61,69,439 views and 97,000 subscribers.

The I&B Ministry in a statement said the purpose of the content published by some of these YouTube channels was to spread hatred among religious communities in India. False claims were made in various videos of the blocked YouTube channels. Examples include fake news such as the Government of India to have ordered demolition of religious structures; Govern-

ment of India to have banned celebration of religious festivals, declaration of religious war in India, etc. Such content was found to have the

potential to create communal disharmony and disturb public order in the country. The YouTube channels were also used to post fake news on various subjects such as the Indian Armed Forces, Jammu and Kashmir, etc. The content was observed to be completely false and sensitive from the perspective of national security and India's friendly relations with foreign States. "The content blocked by the Ministry was

found to be detrimental to sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, India's friendly relations with foreign States, and public order in the country. Accordingly, the content was covered within the ambit of section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000," the I&B Ministry said.

The blocked Indian YouTube channels were observed to be using fake and sensational thumbnails, images of news anchors and logos of certain TV news channels to mislead the viewers to believe that the news was authentic, the ministry said.

All the YouTube channels blocked by the Ministry were displaying advertisements on their videos having false content detrimental to communal harmony, public order and India's foreign relations. With this action, since December 2021, the Ministry has issued directions for blocking of 102 YouTube based news channels and several other social media accounts. "The Government of India remains.

Jaishankar offers prayers at Hindu temple in Thailand

New Delhi, Aug 18 (UNI) External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar on Thursday offered prayers at a Hindu temple during his visit to Bangkok and highlighted "shared religious and cultural traditions" of the two countries. The Minister has been on an official visit to Bangkok from 16-18 August to co-chair the 9th Meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission (JCM) with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Don Pramudwinai. "Offered prayers this morning at the Devasthanas of Bangkok. Received the blessings of Phra Maharajaguru Vidhi. Underlines our shared religious and cultural traditions," Jaishankar said in a tweet.

"The JCM was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Both Ministers discussed wide ranging issues of mutual interest and reviewed the progress made in various areas, including political, defence and security, economic and commercial, connectivity, cultural, tourism and people-to-people ties," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The Ministers welcomed the ongoing activities to celebrate the historic occasion of 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Thailand. Both sides also exchanged

views on regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest and reiterated their commitment to further strengthen the multi-dimensional partnership that exist between the two countries. The JCM was preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) held on August 16 where the two sides held detailed discussions on various areas of bilateral cooperation along with regional and multilateral issues. The Minister addressed and interacted with the Indian Community in Thailand and spoke about the special occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence which also coincided with the 75th anniversary of establishment of India-Thailand diplomatic relations, the MEA said.

The Minister also invited the India community in Thailand to contribute actively in forging strong economic and commercial ties along with cultural and people to people exchanges between the two countries.

He also highlighted the initiatives of the government aimed at facilitating the Indian diaspora and bringing them closer to India.

The Minister called on Gen. Prayut Chan-o-Cha, the Prime Minister of Thailand and conveyed personal greetings and good wishes from Prime Minister Modi.

Champions Cup Chogal Handwara Shiekh Faheem's All-Round Display Guides Talha Waseem Traders Club To Easy Win Against Star-XI Langate By 5-Wickets

Lone MUSAIB



Handwara 18th Aug.:- In the ongoing Champions Cup Chogal Handwara Talha Waseem Traders Club beats Star-XI Langate by 5-Wickets. Batting first Star-XI Langate put the paltry total of 103/7 in 20 overs with the help of Nasir Mir's 35 runs off 31 balls. Muntazir took 2 wickets for Talha Waseem Traders Club while Shiekh Faheem took 1 wicket. In response Talha Waseem Traders Club comfortably chase the allotted target in 13.3 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. Shiekh Faheem played a blistering knock of 66 runs off just 39 balls and was adjudged player of the match.

Super Smash Cricket Tournament Tarzova Edition-II Saqib Shareef's Heroics Helps United-XI Hail, Win Over Atoms Mandamus By 79 Runs



Lone MUSAIB

Sopore 18th Aug. :- Saqib Shareef, Mohammed Momin and Faizan's Splendid performances helps United-XI Hail a 79 run Comfortable Win over Atoms Mandamus on Thursday here at Shiekh-ul-Alam Stadium Tarzova. Batting first United-XI Hail put a decent total of 178/4 runs in allotted 20 overs. Saqib Shareef Played a Splendid knock of 83 runs off 50 balls while Mohammed Momin and Faizan added splendid 43 and 41 runs respectively for United-XI Hail. In response Atoms Mandamus were bundled out for 99 runs in 15.3 overs. Azim Pandith remain the highest run-getter with 36 runs off 26 balls for Atoms Mandamus. Waseem took 3 wickets while Amir and Jordan took 2 wickets each for United-XI Hail. Saqib Shareef was awarded as player of the match for his splendid batting display.

India Thrash Zimbabwe By 10 Wickets, Take 1-0 Lead In The Series

Harare, Aug 18 (UNI) Shikhar Dhawan (81*) and Shubman Gill's (82*) unbeaten 192-run opening stand helped India beat Zimbabwe by 10-wicket victory and went 1-0 up in the three-match ODI series here at Harare Sports Club on Thursday.

India now have 13 consecutive ODI wins against Zimbabwe - their most against a single opponent. Deepak Chahar was adjudged Player of the Match for his figure of 3/27.

With a modest 190-run target to chase, India started off with a bang signaling their intent from the first delivery. Shikhar Dhawan began with back-to-back fours off Richard Ngarava. Both Dhawan and Shubman Gill were careful in their approach but saw off the bad deliveries with ease. Zimbabwe's bad run in the field helped the visitors, with Dhawan being dropped on 32. Gill soon joined the party smashing three fours off Brad

Evans in one over to push India further. Both batters brought up their respective



fifties. With the milestones under their belts, the two openers broke free, scoring runs at a faster tempo. They scaled the target with all 10 wickets in hand and 19.1 overs to spare. Earlier, putting Zimbabwe in to bat first, the Indian pacers were aiming to exploit any movement the pitch had to offer in the morning. Tadiwanashe Marumani and Innocent Kaia had a circumspect start, with both

Chahar and Mohammad Siraj extracting some extravagant movement.



After surviving some close calls, India finally had a breakthrough, with Deepak Chahar dismissing Kaia (4) courtesy a short delivery. Marumani (8) was Chahar's next victim and Sean Williams (1) could not last long, with Siraj sending him packing for 1. Chahar got his third, with some late swing trapping Wesley Madhevere's plumb in front of the stumps, reduced Zimbabwe to 31/4.

The wickets continued to tumble for Zimbabwe as Axar Patel and Prasad Krishna joined in on the act. Both scalped two wickets apiece, reducing Zimbabwe to 110/8, with the lower middle-order failing to contribute much. But Evans and Ngarava embarked on some late rearguard action, helping the hosts save their blushes. The pair saw their partnership last 65 deliveries, aggregating 70 runs, which took Zimbabwe close to a total of 200.

Ngarava scored 34 off 42 deliveries, smashing 3 fours and 1 six, before he was bowled by Krishna. Evans remained unbeaten on 33, also hitting 3 boundaries and a maximum. Zimbabwe's innings came to an end when Axar dismissed Victor Nyauchi for 8, with the hosts putting up a total of 189 on the board. For India, Chahar, Krishna and Axar picked up three wickets apiece while Siraj got one.

"Even In A Room Full Of People Who Support And Love Me, I Felt Alone": Virat Kohli

Indian superstar Virat Kohli, who took his team to unprecedented heights, says he has struggled with his mental health throughout his career, local media reported Thursday. The 33-year-old ex-captain built a reputation for in-your-face aggression and exemplary batting, leading his team to the top of the five-day rankings. But the man dubbed "King" Kohli by Indian media has been plagued by a run of poor form and has been relieved of his captaincy of all formats since late last year after a dismal showing at the 2021 T20 World Cup.

Kohli told The Indian Express newspaper that the pressure of his career had at times had a negative impact on his mental health.

"I personally have experienced times when even in a room full of people who support and love me, I felt alone, and I am sure that this is a feeling that a lot of people can relate to," he said in an interview published Wednesday. "It is definitely a serious issue and as much as we try to be strong at all times, it can tear you apart."

Kohli said it was important for athletes to rest and recover from the pressures of sport and reconnect with their "core self".

"If you lose that connection, it wouldn't take very long for other things to crumble around you."

His comments came just months after he revealed he had struggled with depression after failing to score runs during an England tour in 2014.

"It's not a great feeling to wake up knowing that you won't be able to score runs... I felt I was the loneliest guy in the world," he said on a podcast with English commentator Mark Nicholas in February.

Pakistan eye series-clinching victory against Dutch

ROTTERDAM: After seeing his side edge the Netherlands by 16 runs in the opening One-day International of their three-game series, Pakistan captain Babar Azam admitted being concerned at times during the match in what he described as "tricky conditions".

It was hardly a convincing win the bowlers failing to maintain their lines and lengths against the Dutch middle-order and Pakistan will look to put those things right in the second ODI and secure a series-clinching victory on Thursday.

The onus will be on Babar and first-game centurion Fakhar Zaman to be among the runs again, while opener Imam-ul-Haq and the middle-order would be expected to step up. The good thing for Pakistan, however, was that spin-bowling all-rounder Shadab Khan was among the runs in the first game and he would be expected to maintain consistency.

The Dutch, on the other hand, were poor with the ball in hand in the series-opener as they conceded a total well in excess of 300. Nonetheless, the batters showcased valiant performances with three half-centurions Vikramjit Singh, Tom Cooper, and Scott Edwards nearly doing the unthinkable.

Skipper Edwards remained at the crease right till the very end and scored an unbeaten 71 runs off 60 balls. He waded a lone war with hardly any support from the other end. His knock went in vain as the hosts were restricted to 298-8. "We feel like more and more we are getting ourselves within reach of winning a few games but today we dropped two or three catches. We let ourselves down," said Edwards after the match.

Kashmir Womens Premier League Srinagar and Baramulla Reds Win

HT Correspondent

Baramulla, 18th Aug.:- In the ongoing Kashmir Womens Premiere League Cricket tournament played at Showkat Ali Stadium Baramulla. In the first match of the day Srinagar defeated Ganderbal by 8 Wickets. Batting first Ganderbal put the total of 91/6 runs in allotted 15 overs in which Shaqfta remain highest run-getter with 22 runs off 26 balls. Aqsa took 2 wickets while Saba and Rafiya took 2 Wickets each for Srinagar. In reply Srinagar Chased the target in 12.2 overs for



the loss of 2 wickets allotted 10 overs and won the match by 8 wickets. Shaheena made 28 runs while Rafiya added 23 runs for Srinagar. Rafiya was

declared Player of the match for his brilliant all-round performances. In the second match of the day Baramulla Reds beat Kupwara by 68 runs.

Batting first Baramulla Reds Set 135/2 runs in the allotted 15 overs on the board. Mir Bgani played a splendid knock of 69 runs off 48 balls while Wahida added 24 runs for aramulla Reds. In response Kupwara failed to chase the target and were able to score only 67/8 runs thus lost the match. Bilquees and Nuzhat took 2 wickets each for Baramulla Reds. Mir Bgani was adjudged player of the match for his splendid all-round show. The tournament is being Conducted by 59 medium regiment under the aegis of dagger gunners.

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