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NEWS IN BRIEF

Women foil smart meter installation by PDD in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Sep 2: The installation of Smart Meters in Abi Guzar area of Srinagar city triggered a massive protest on Friday.

The women protesters foiled the bid of the Power Development Department employees to install the Smart Meters in the area. A large number of women took to the road forcing the employees to leave the area.

"We are too poor and it is difficult for us to meet both ends as inflation is on rise everywhere, how come the government can put an extra burden on us? We won't allow PDD to install these meters here," some of the protesting women said.

The protesting women raised slogans against the PDD and the government. Some of the angry women tried to break the meters. A couple of meters that were installed in the area were pulled down by the protesters.

The protesters said that they are poor and lack basic facilities in their area. "We are poor and cannot afford bills generated by these Smart Meters," said a female protester.

Police arrests man for raping minor girl

SRINAGAR, Sep 02: Police on Friday arrested a man for allegedly raping a minor girl here.

The accused was absconding after committing the crime four days ago, they said.

One accused namely Aijaz Ahmad was arrested for raping a minor girl, four days ago, Srinagar Police said in a tweet.

One accused namely Aijaz Ahmad sheikh S/o Ghulam Nabi sheikh R/o Zewan, Khunmoh arrested for raping a minor girl of Maloorra (name withheld), 4 days ago. He was absconding after the crime. A case under FIR No 24/2022 under relevant sections of IPC & POCSO act was already registered. The police said a case under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered.

COVID-19: J&K reports 152 new cases

SRINAGAR, Sep 02: Jammu and Kashmir reported 152 new cases of COVID-19 on Friday, taking the infection tally to 4,78,083, officials said. The death toll remain unchanged at 4,782 as no fresh death due virus was reported, they said.

Of the new cases, 40 were reported from Jammu and 112 from Kashmir. There are 1,039 active cases of the disease, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,72,262, officials said. There are 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis in the Union Territory, they said. PTI

Man slipped to death in Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, Sep 01: A man slipped to death while walking on a Glacier in Behak Saalnay Wangath area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, officials said on Thursday. Mohammad Aslam Khatana (57) died on spot after falling down at the high altitude of Behak Saalnay Glacier, they said.

As soon as the incident happened police and locals reached the spot and retrieved the body. They added that his body was later brought to his home for last rites.

Young cricket dies at playfield in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, Sep 02: A young cricketer died while playing cricket at Jablipora area in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday.

The victim has been identified as 23-year-old Imtiyaz Ahmed Khan son of Muhammad Sultan Khan, a resident of Naina Sangam.

Irshad, a friend of deceased said Imtiyaz after finishing the first over of his spell went to his field position where he collapsed and when other players surrounded him, he started vomiting.

"He was taken to Bijbehara Hospital where doctors declared him dead. The cause of death as per doctors was the heart attack," he said. The deceased survived by 15 days old baby girl, his parents, brother, and two sisters.

Mainly dry weather to continue in J&K: MeT

SRINAGAR, Sep 02: Dry weather is likely to continue in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours, the Meteorological (MeT) department said on Friday.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Peoples Participation; Need of the Hour to Make Our Cities & Towns Resilient, Competitive to Tackle Growing Challenges : LG Manoj Sinha

Inaugurates & lays foundation stone of 14 Jammu Smart City projects

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 02: The Lt Governor also impressed upon multi-stakeholders contribution and people's participation to make J&K UT's cities and towns resilient, competitive, and dynamic with strong social infrastructure to tackle the challenges of growing urbanization.

Sinha inaugurated and laid foundation stone of 14 projects of Jammu Smart City worth Rs 113 crore.

Dedicating the Smart City Projects to the people, the Lt Governor said these projects will create smart living by improving quality of life, better public services, opportunities for local economic development and easier accessibility to everyone.

Observing that the global framework of smart cities has undergone a paradigm shift in the last two-three years and eco-cities have been envisaged to make the urban infrastructure sustainable, the Lt Governor said that Jammu Smart City projects have ensured that maximum green space is provided to the citizens. Our aim is to transform Jammu as an eco-city for sustainable economic activities and to also nurture ecological assets. Six projects have been initiated to harness the benefit of rich ecology, enhance the well being of citizens and resource efficiency by appropriate strategic approach, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also impressed upon multi-stakeholders contribution and

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Former Minister calls on LG

JAMMU, Sep 02: Former Minister, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal today called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here. The former minister apprised

the Lt Governor about various developmental issues of District Samba, which included widening of road from Swankha (Vijaypur) to Baba Chamliyal via Baba Sidh Gorla

Dev Sthan, construction of Government Degree College at Ramgarh, construction of student hostel for girls belonging to SC category

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

J&K records almost zero infiltration this year, claims DG Police

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Sep 2: J&K police chief Dilbag Singh on Friday said despite attempts from across; the infiltration of militants has almost been zero this year.

Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh said this while talking to reporters in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir after chairing a meeting.

"The infiltration is almost zero (this year). There have been some attempts, but they were foiled," he said, adding that a couple of infiltrations were, however, successful.

"We discussed that (infiltration) with the officers of Army, CAPFs (central armed police forces) and the counter infiltration grid will be further strengthened and made more stronger," he said.

There have been a series of infiltration attempts in J&K last month. On August 25, three suspected Pakistani militants were killed close to the Line of Control in Uri sector of Baramulla district. Army has been saying that over 200

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Militants shot at injure non-local laborer in Pulwama

SRINAGAR, Sept 2: A non-local laborer was shot and injured in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir this morning, police said. The injured identified as Muneerul Islam, a laborer from West Bengal, was fired upon at

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Apni Party delegation to meet LG for formal restoration of statehood to J&K: Bukhari

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Sept 02: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari on Friday said a party delegation would call on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha soon to formally demand the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

Addressing a press conference here, Bukhari also demanded the release of the youths who were detained in Kashmir Valley.

Bukhari said when his party was formed, it had three main agendas — protection of job and land rights of Jammu and Kashmir residents and the restoration of statehood.

"We got the order of job reservation even though there is a point of domicile. But when the statehood is restored and a government is in place, we will restore the PRC (permanent resident certificate) for the citizens of J-K," he said.

There is 95 per cent protection of land as agricultural land cannot be brought by non-residents, he added.

Bukhari said a delegation of his party will call on the lieutenant governor to seek the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

J&K gets FICCI award for e-governed Vigilance Clearance System initiative

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Sep 02: The Jammu and Kashmir Government was today awarded Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Smart Policing Awards 2021 for the e-governed Vigilance Clearance System (VCS) initiative.

The smart digital initiatives by J&K, under the dynamic leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, among which the e-governance initiative i.e. Vigilance Clearance System (VCS), taken by General Administration Department (GAD), and under able guidance of worthy Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, the Information Technology landscape of Governance in J&K has witnessed transformational change and numerous government services have been made online.

The award is a great achievement for the J&K Govt, as among the 2200 nominations received from across the country under different categories for Smart Policing Awards, the e-governed VCS was awarded among 19 awards.

The GAD and Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB)

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Police admits presence of 3 splinter groups in Poonch, Rajouri

Says efforts are on neutralize them

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, Sep 02: Admitting the presence of about three splinter groups in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer on Friday said security forces are making efforts to neutralize them.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Rajouri-Poonch range, Haseeb Mughal said search and cordon operations in broader areas are taking place

security among the people and to ensure

out any fear. On August 11, two suspected mili-

tants of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed outfit launched a pre-dawn suicide attack on an Army camp in Rajouri, marking the return of fidayeen' to Jammu and Kashmir after more than three years. Both the militants were shot dead after an over four-hour gunbattle, while five soldiers were also killed in the incident. "Police and other (security) agencies have

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

SC agrees to hear plea alleging 'backdoor appointments' in judicial institutions in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, Sep 02: The Supreme Court Friday agreed to hear a plea that alleged that relatives of former judges and staff were favored in the appointments in judicial institutions and courts in Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli issued notice and sought a response from the Jammu and Kashmir High Court on its administrative side, saying it should be vetted by the Chief Justice of the High Court.

The bench said the response to the plea shall be filed within six weeks.

The PIL filed by an NGO 'Jammu and Kashmir People's Forum' has alleged that several qualified youths were not considered by the High Court in appointments for several administrative posts to various judicial institutions including the judicial academy, legal services authorities, and courts from district level to the High

Court.

The plea claimed that instead of going by the regular recruitment process, contractual workers and daily wagers who were a decade back have since been absorbed against the vacancies as regular employees without affording a chance for the general public.

It said that reservation rules were also bypassed by the High Court even though many of the posts were not sanctioned.

The plea gave names of the relatives of the judges from district to High Court level, court staff, and bar association members to canvas the argument that favour was granted in the appointment process.

It sought directions for a probe by an independent agency and to the High Court administration to not make any further "backdoor appointments" in judicial establishments like the state judicial academy, legal services authorities, and those recruited under the E-Court mission.

'Purely in executive domain': SC on rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, Sep 02: The issues relating to rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits and Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir following their exodus in 1990s is "purely in the domain of the executive", observed the Supreme Court on Friday, as it asked an NGO petitioner to first approach the union government and the union territory administration with its cluster of pleas, which included a probe into the "ethnic cleansing".

"It's purely in the domain of the executive. You approach the government. Why should we interfere?" a bench of justices BR Gavai and C.T. Ravikumar asked the counsel for NGO 'We The Citizens', while refusing to wade into the matter at first instance.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari, Hajin

&

Wahab Cultural Society, Hajin

are jointly observing

AZIZ HAJINI

DAY

on 11 September, 2022 (Sunday)

at Tagore Hall, Srinagar

We take the pleasure of inviting people with literary taste on his first Anniversary. Hope you will grace the occasion with your kind presence at 10:00 am sharp.

DR. REYAZ UL HASSAN
General Secretary (HAS)
7006267155

MAJEED MAJAZI
General Secretary (WCS)
9697376970

DIGIWAY

Swachhata Pakhwada: Education Department Kupwara carried Swachhta activities in all the institutions, DC urges to inculcate good habits among students

Dr Abdul Qayoom

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 02: As part of ongoing Swachhta Pakhwada under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Education Department in collaboration with District Administration today on second consecutive day carried out cleanliness activities in all educational institutions of district Kupwara.

The Chief Education Officer, A.H Fani informed that the swachhata activities were carried out in all the Government and private educational institutions including all the 53 Higher Secondary Schools, 102



High Schools, more than 700 Middle and Upper primary schools and dozens of primary schools besides colleges. He further said that apart from student, teachers and non teaching staff also partic-

ipated in the cleanliness drive. He said that the drive will continue for a fortnight upto 15 September and gave directions to all Heads of Institutions to implement the directions in letter and spirit.

The District Coordinator Cultural Education wing Kupwara Rayees Masroor informed that cleanliness drive witness large participation of students and teachers in all the 13 Education zones of the district including Tanghdar, Keran and Machil areas with full enthusiasm.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray expressed his gratitude towards the teaching community and urged them to inculcate the good habits including maintenance of cleanliness and hygiene among the students.

DC Bandipora distributes land passbooks among farmers Digitization a major initiative towards good Governance: Dr Owais

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 01: BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 02: The

tributed land passbooks among the farmers of Bandipora in a function



Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed today distributed land passbooks among the farmers of Bandipora in a function organised at Mini Secretariat here. The function was attended by ACR

Bandipora Parvaiz Rahim, NTs of Bandipora Tehsil and other revenue officials and landowners/ farmers.

ACR Bandipora informed that Land passbooks among more than 100 farmers were distributed to ease the process of provision of updated land records to farmers.

The DC said that the land passbook prescribed by the Revenue Department is true to the records and can be generated online by landholder without visiting a patwari or tehsildar or any revenue office.

He said this is a major initiative towards good governance and ease of convenience to the citizens.

Similar functions of distributing land passbooks were organised at all Tehsils of the district and also at SDM Office Sumbal where SDM Sumbal Dr. Bashir Lone distributed land passbooks among the land holders of the Sumbal Subdivision.

ONDC workshop in Jammu for becoming part of India's Digital Commerce Revolution J&K third in country to take the lead

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 2: A workshop for familiarising Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) was organised by JKTPO at Convention Centre, Jammu on 2nd September 2022.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative aimed at promoting open networks for all aspects related to exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. ONDC is being established as a first-of-its-kind initiative globally to pave the way for reimagining digital commerce in India and

establishing a globally replicable model for digital commerce. This will be an open network with established registries, enabling wide-scale participation by digital commerce ecosystem players in India through multiple gateways

On boarding of stakeholders also initiated with the workshop which enables J&K to take lead among other states/UT's to be part of digital revolution with access to market linkages for sellers of J&K all over India.

Managing Director, JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir said

Trade through E-Commerce is going at a rapid pace due to internet and mobile penetration and provides enormous opportunities of growth. He further said that the products of Jammu and Kashmir can reach not only national markets but even international markets, adding that as per report, "the transaction taking place on e-commerce would reach by USD \$350 Billion in India, thus for next decade opportunity lies in e-commerce. This workshop is the first step to give an exposure to the small entrepreneurs, E-Commerce Companies, Logistic Companies, Retailers, Artisans and FPOs of the Union Territory in promoting the business through e-commerce platforms. Through ONDC they will be able to expand in new markets, their products may be displayed on Network Partners of ONDC which will increase the visibility of their products.

He further added that ONDC will enable local commerce across segments like Grocery, food, Hotel booking, Mobility etc. The Platform aims to create new opportunities,

curb digital monopolies in e-commerce sector led by Flipkart, Amazon etc.

The workshop was led by Shireesh Joshi, Chief Business Officer ONDC. He said "ONDC aims to increase the number of sellers in e-commerce platform to 20 Lakhs and consumers to 20 crores in next 5 years." He explained every aspect of ONDC along with process of on boarding on the same.

The participants were given the opportunity to interact with the ONDC team and their partners during which open and frank brainstorming relating to various aspects of E-Commerce was done. The workshop was attended by women entrepreneurs, small entrepreneurs, E-Commerce Companies, Logistic Companies, Retailers, Artisans, FPOs and Industry Association of UT. ONDC network partners viz. My-store, eSamuday, GOF-RUAL Technologies, uEngage & NowFloats were also present in the workshop.

The similar workshop of ONDC will also be held in Srinagar on 5th September, 2022 for stakeholders of Kashmir Division.

DDC Chairperson reviews arrangements for Urs Qamar-ud-Din Bukhari at Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 02: The District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq today chaired a meeting to review and finalize the arrangements for Urs Mubarak Hazrat Qamar-Ud-Din Bukhari at Reshipora Saloor, here.

During the meeting, it was informed that 4-day urs mubarak shall start from 7th September and the main congregation shall be held at Hazrat Qamar-ud-Din Bukhari Reshipora Saloor. After threadbare discussion, the meeting finalized the arrangements for power supply, adequate safe drinking water supply, firefighting measures, traffic and parking plan, sanitation measures in and around the shrine, installation of stalls and other related arrangements. The DDC Chairperson directed all the departments

security and traffic regulated all the departments



to ensure all the arrangements pertaining to their departments are put in place by or before 6th September.

She Directed Municipal Council Ganderbal to ensure cleanliness in and around the shrine and executive engineer PDD was directed to ensure 24*7 power supply in the area besides availability of gen set at the main venue.

Similarly, the police and traffic officials were directed to ensure proper

lations on routes leading to the shrine where large congregations are expected.

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

The meeting also discussed clearance of obstacles for revival of the traditional water navigation route from Zero Bridge to Ziyarat Syed Qamar Din Bukhari.

The DDC Chairperson said that a massive rally

will be held of water transport consisting of boats, shikaras and water boats carrying devotees and artists from Zero Bridge to Ziyarat to exhibit cultural festivities for observance of Urs Qamar Din Bukhari.

She directed I&FC, R&B, Forest and Fisheries department to carry joint inspection of water route and clear all obstacles in water bodies including weeds, bushes for holding smooth water convoy of boats and shikaras.

The meeting was attended by President Municipal Council Ganderbal, Hilal Ahmad, ADDC Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, ADC Ganderbal, Farooq Ahmad Baba, ASP, Feroz Yehya, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, PDD and I&FC, DFO Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal, Tehsildar Ganderbal and other concerned.

Green Revelation Kashmir in Collaborations with Parvaaz international trust organises Mega Painting Computation at Babies Land Higher Secondary School Sumbal.

Green Revelation Kashmir and Parvaaz International Trust organised a Grand Drawing Competition at Babilies Land higher secondary school Sumbal Sonawari area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday.

Three school and 40 students from different Schools participated in the event. The program was jointly organised by Green Kashmir in Collaborations with Parvaaz International Trust Kashmir Concern.

Jb. Shahid khan was judge & select positions for students Dr tawseef co founder of the green Kashmir Revolution thanks principal of Babies Land mrs Rafia for providing logistic support..

Dr Gm pajoo principal Government secondry school Shadipora was Chief Guest of the program, for attending the venue and sharing his thoughts with us.

Vice Chancellors of SKUAST Jammu & IUST call on Lt Governor



SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 02: Prof. JP Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, today called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhawan. The VC briefed the Lt Governor on various ongoing outreach activities, and research programmes in the University, and the progress registered under various disciplines. While discussing various issues of academic and administrative importance, the VC informed the Lt Governor about the process of filling vacant positions, courses started under new faculties and the preparations for the upcoming events and conference. Discussion was also held on spreading awareness among the stakeholders regarding the Lumpy Skin Disease. Similarly, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) also called on the Lt Governor and briefed him about the diverse teaching and research programmes of the University. The Lt Governor advised the VCs to pursue research in important areas, and engage in activities by adopting innovative and reformative measures to find solutions to the societal issues and modern day challenges.

Land passbooks distributed among land owners in all Tehsils at Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 02: Land passbook distribution was today carried out in district Kulgam and passbooks were handed over to more than 100 landowners.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat also handed over land passbooks to land owners here at Gasren in Tehsil Pahaloo.

Present on the occasion were ACR, Tehsildar and other officers.

The DC said that issuance of Land Passbooks is a historic milestone in Revenue Department aimed to promote people's ease of access to the revenue record.

In other Tehsils concerned Tehsildars handed over Passbooks to landowners.

Inspection of medical shops conducted in Ramban

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 02: As part of Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Drug Inspector Ramban, Imtiyaz Ahmed conducted intensive inspection of medical stores to check the sale and maintenance of records of psychotropic drugs in Ramban.

Posters were pasted on medical shops to inform the common public regarding ill effects of drug addiction. The instructions were also given not to sell narcotic and psychotropic drugs without a valid prescription.

The Chemists were asked to record phone numbers of patients purchasing Narcotic/Psychotropic drugs and maintain a separate register for this purpose.

Further, directions were also issued to put the stamp of Chemists on the original prescription and keep photocopies for records.

Public Notice

It is to inform for general public that I Rafia Ajaz Shah W/O Ajaz Ahmad Shah R/O Baggarden, srinagar have applied for fresh passport and want that my name, "Rafia Ajaz Shah W/O Ajaz Ahmad Shah R/O Baggarden, which is mentioned in my Aadhaar card bearing number 5301 7334 5979" be also mentioned in my passport (Applied Fresh) instead of name "Rafia Shafi D/O Syed Mohammad Shafi" mentioned in my secondary school examination certificate issued under serial number 287771 dated 25 July, 1994 by The Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education. In this regard if anyone has any objection, he/she may approach to regional passport officer, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.
Name for passport
RAFIA AJAZ SHAH
W/O AJAZ AHAMD SHAH
R/O BAGGARDEN SRINAGAR

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P)
DEPARTMENT SRINAGAR KASHMIR

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 – email:- kashflori@rediffmail.com
Subject: - Extension No.03.

In view of no response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office e-Tender Notice No.20 of 2022 dated.07.07.2022 for **Outsourcing of entry Ticketing system of Hikers Park, Pahalgam**is hereby extended as per the details given below: -

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	01.09.2022 from 11.30 AM to 15.09.2022 up to 02:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	01.09.2022 from 12:30 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	15.09.2022 up to 02:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	19.09.2022 at 02:00 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid Tender Notice.

DIPK-9191/22

By Order
Sd/-
Accounts Officer
(Member Secretary)

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

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 230 /EEP/RNB of 2022-23/8583-93 DATED: 01/09/2022

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on an item rate basis/percentage age basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR/BG	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	AAA No:
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
01	Macadamization of town roads of tral at bus Adda incld khangund and benimgund road.	43.67	1100	2% of Adv cost	08 (Working Days)	C&T	AAY With HMPO, AAY, BEE	18-SE/PS of 2022-23 Dated: 12/08/20 22.

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of funds Available

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below: -

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01 /09/2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	01/09/2022 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	01/09/2022 from 10.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	07 /09/2022 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07 /09/2022 at 4:30 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama

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

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

4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (tender receiving authority).

5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

DIPK-9130/22

Head Draftsman

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer, R&B Division Pulwama

Land Passbooks distributed among 250 beneficiaries at Anantnag



ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 02: Under the ambit of Apki Zamin Apki Nigrani campaign, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom today distributed land pass books among beneficiaries at DC Office, here. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that digitization of revenue records is under way in mission mode. He said that the landowners can now check their land records online and do not have to visit the revenue offices. He said this will also reduce the rush in

Tehsils and Niabats and allow them to function more efficiently. The land owners appreciated the distribution of land pass books by the department. It is worth mentioning that the revenue department has been working day and night to ensure digitization of revenue records. Several digitization centres have been set up in the district across various Tehsils. Meanwhile, any landowner, whose revenue records have been digitized, can apply for the land pass book online,

Dulloo holds discussion with TWGs for submission of proposals with UT Level Apex Committee on framing a comprehensive Agriculture Policy in J&K

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 02: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo today held a meeting of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to discuss submission of proposals with Union Territory Level Apex Committee (UT-LAC), on framing a comprehensive Agriculture Policy for holistic development of Agriculture and Allied Sectors in J&K. The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor SKUAST-J&K, Secretary in Horticulture, Secretary in APD, Director Sericulture J&K, Director Horticulture Kashmir/Jammu, Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir/Jammu, Director HP&M J&K, Director Fisheries J&K, Managing

Director JKHPMC, all Technical Working Group

SKUAST-Jammu. Recently, the J&K Gov-

ture Policy for holistic development of Agriculture



members and other concerned. Jammu based officers attended the meeting via video conferencing from

ernment constituted an 8 member Apex Committee headed by ex DG ICAR, Dr Mangle Rai for framing a comprehensive Agricul-

and Allied Sectors. In this regard, the ACS held a deliberative session to receive inputs and suggestions from TWGs in

order to submit proposals with the apex committee. A threadbare discussion was held among the experts and scientists wherein all 25 proposals were discussed before submitting those with the committee. A broad outline of all the said proposals were discussed in detail for framing a proposal keeping in mind both short term and long term goals by identifying issues, analysis based data and solutions also thereof. The meeting was informed that 25 proposals are to be submitted along with name of the project to be headed by either director of the department or any expert on subject matter. Dulloo informed the par-

ticipants that the goal of the committee is to double the contribution of Agri-GDP in next five years and avail the fund of Rs 900 crore reserved by Government of India for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, skill training to 2000 youth, tripling food processing, reducing food wastage among other priority areas. The meeting also discussed terms of references of the committee and it was impressed upon the TWGs to act as subject matter specialists and accordingly work in their respective working domains. The committee is expected to submit its policy recommendations within four months.

Comm Secy Forests inaugurates Technical Workshop for preparation of APOs

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 02: Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Ecology & Environment, Sanjeev Verma today inaugurated day-long technical workshop for preparation of Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) for the financial year 2023-24 at Banquet Hall here. The workshop is being organised under the Chairmanship of Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Dr. Mohit Gera with a view to guide the implementing Agencies in preparation of scientific, output oriented and people centric APO for the next financial year. Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary complimented the Department for organizing the brain storming session on preparation of comprehensive APOs. He stressed that Compensatory Afforestation should be carried out in a manner that loss of environmental goods and services due to diversion of forest land is adequately compensated. The Commissioner Secretary also asked the forest officers to adopt landscape and water shed

approach in treatment of forest areas in a holistic manner. He

also called upon the Department to establish model centres for



laid emphasis on construction of water harvesting infrastructure and ponds to be made integral part of APO so as to improve the water and moisture regime for better habitat. Verma also stressed on major improvement in nursery infrastructure to significantly enhance plant production. He further asked them that Conservation of rare, endangered and threatened plant species (RET) should be incorporated in the conservation plan. He

farm forestry to facilitate farmers in undertaking plantation of commercial plant species on large scale. Dr. Mohit Gera, PCCF& HoFF in his address stressed on making scientific proposals in accordance with Working Plan prescriptions. He also stressed on formulation of plans in integrated manner in which upper reaches of the landscape are treated by the Soil and Water Conservation Department and the areas close

to habitation are treated by the Social Forestry Department. Dr. Gera also gave a detailed presentation on production of quality planting material using modern nursery techniques. He laid stress in preparation of special plans for prevention and control of forest fires. CEO, CAMPA, Sarvesh Rai on the occasion explained the regulatory framework works of CAMPA. He stressed on having meaningful consultation with Panchayats in formulation of APOs so that the demands of the local communities for fodder, timber and firewood and other forest produce are met. Among others, Director, Social Forestry Department, Roshan Jaggi; Chief Wildlife Warden, Suresh Kumar Gupta; Director Soil and Water Conservation Department J&K, J T.S. Ashok; Managing Director, JK Forest Development Corporation, Vasu Yadav, Director Environment and Remote Sensing Department and other senior officers of the department were also present on the occasion and gave detailed presentations.

DM Srinagar takes cognizance of Viral video regarding school children at Oasis School of Education

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 02: Taking cognizance of a video that went viral on social media regarding children of Oasis School of Education wherein school children were having lunch in shallow area below the floor of the school buses, the District Magistrate Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad constituted a team to investigate the matter.



The team is headed by SDM East and consists of Dy. CEO Education Srinagar, ZEO concerned, ARTO Srinagar. Accordingly, the team visited the school on Friday and conducted an audit of the facilities available and a thorough inspection of the facilities available in the school was undertaken. All the registration papers were scrutinised. During the inspection, the school

authorities were directed to ensure that a separate dining area with all the facilities be made available to the school children. The school authorities complied with the direction and immediately set up a separate dining area for the children. The school authorities were reprimanded for laxity in ensuring the safety of the children. The

school administration and the teachers assured the Audit team that their top most priority shall be the safety of school children henceforth. Speaking in this regard, the District Magistrate Srinagar said administration is very serious about the safety aspects of school going kids and any laxity on the part of any school shall not be tolerated.

Land Passbooks distributed among scores of land holders at Pulwama

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 02: In order to make land records available to a land holder, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama today distributed Land Passbooks among several landowners of the district, here. On the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, various senior officers of District Administration and revenue department were present besides land owners. The Land Passbooks were distributed among landowners to help them know the status and details of land under their possession so they could maintain the record of their respective land. An official said that many people have been benefited by the programme in the district till today while rest will be included in the programme in coming days to cover the entire population.

DC Bramulla condoles with Chief Education Officer

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 02: The Deputy Commissioner Bramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today expressed condolence with G.M. Lone, Chief Education Officer Bramulla on the demise of his father, who passed away after a brief illness. In this regard, a condolence meeting was held in the office of Deputy Commissioner Bramulla wherein several district officers including Additional Deputy Commissioner Bramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Joint Director Planning M. Yousuf Rather Tehsildar HQ Syed Basharat, Executive officer municipal council Baramulla Intiyaz Ahmad, District Treasury Officer Shazia Rasool and other officers paid condolence to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul. Expressing solidarity, the Deputy Commissioner extended her deepest condolences to G.M Lone and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

107 Land Passbooks distributed among farmers at DC Office Budgam

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 02: The office of the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, today distributed 107 land passbooks among the legal land owners during a function held at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, here. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid highlighted the importance of land passbooks as an initiative to strengthen the good governance system and public services delivery. He said that the District Administration is committed to bring more vibrancy in the system and provide service delivery to the public at their door steps. Terming the delivery of land passbooks as a transformative initiative, the DC said it will bring more transparency and ensure effective good governance in the district. He stressed on speedy completion of digitization of Jamabandies and other revenue records across all nine Tehsils of Budgam. Among others, ADC Budgam, Dr Nasir Ahmad, ACR Dr. Muzamil Maqbool, Tehsildars, NTs and other officers and officials were present on the occasion, besides scores of farmers also attended the function.

Atal Dulloo reviews strategy, mechanism for cultivation of Medicinal plants across J&K “Directs officers to devise a prolonged strategy for commercialization of Medicinal plants”

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 02: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the strategy and mechanism for developing and cultivation of Medicinal plants across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Secretary in APD, Shabnam Kamili; Director Agriculture Jammu/Kashmir, Director Ayush J&K, other senior officers of the department both in person and through video conferencing. During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on the role of medicinal plants that are being avail-

able in JK and its strategy to

economy. He asked them to



cultivate these plants with a commercial point of view. While deliberating on several aspects of medicinal plants sector, Atal Dulloo impressed upon the officers to devise a prolonged strategy for commercialization of Medicinal plants as they can contribute significantly in development of rural

chalk out a detailed project and include segments like establishment of Tissue culture labs, Area Expansion, marketing support as well as feasibility for Skill development of farmers. He said that every stakeholder in this process needs to be actively playing its role and contribute efforts

in developing the medicinal plant sector in the UT while assuring the officers that all the requisite support for the purpose would be provided by the government. ACS also said that the development of medicinal plants sector in JK has a great scope for providing employment to the people as there is a huge and ever increasing market for medicinal and aromatic plants and their preparations in the country. Atal Dulloo further advised the officers to maintain coordination and synergy with all line departments to promote this sector as an industry across J&K. He asked the concerned to identify different challenges so as to cultivate medicinal

plants more profitably and scientifically. On the occasion, Director Ayush J&K submitted a brief strategy paper for promotion of Medicinal Plants in J&K. He informed the meeting that three nurseries of Medicinal Plants are being developed at Gurez Bandipora, Bhaderwah Doda and Tappyal Samba. During the meeting, Nodal officer J&K medicinal Plants Board provided brief details on the action plan for promoting medicinal plants in J&K. Director Agriculture Jammu and Director Agriculture Kashmir informed the ACS that the APD is already propagating some high commercial medicinal plants in Jammu.

Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani Dr Sehrish distributes land passbooks to land owners of Baramulla

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 02: As a reform to give flip to transparency in public service delivery in the Revenue Department, the District Administration Baramulla today rolled out the process to issue Land Passbooks to the legal owners of land in Baramulla district under 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' initiative. In this connection, a function was organized at Dak Bungalow here, wherein, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar in presence of various senior officers handed over land passbooks to land owners of Baramulla district. It is worth mentioning here that Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani initiative is one of the flagship programmes launched by the Government of J&K to bring ease, transparency and convenience for citizens about land records. Under this initiative, public users can search and view copies of scanned data online on CIS portal. Speaking on the occasion, the DC termed the initiative a historical step towards transparency and good governance. She also complimented the concerned agencies and departments for making this facility a possibility in a short time. Highlighting the benefits of the Land Pass Book, the DC said the Land Pass Book prescribed by the Revenue Department is true to the Revenue record and



can be generated online without any hassle. Elaborating further, the DC said that Land Passbooks issued to every landholder contains entry from the Jamabandi in Revenue Estate, so as to enable the landholder to make its use for Credit facilities and for other matters connected therewith. The DC further stressed the concerned to extend the facility to all the landowners of the district.

DC Shopian distributes land passbooks among farmers Land Passbook generation option is now open on JK Land record Portal: DC

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 02: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today distributed land passbooks among the farmers of the district in a function organised at Mini Secretariat, here. The distribution function was attended by ACR Shopian and other revenue officials and landowners/ farmers. ACR informed that Land passbooks numbering more than 100 were distributed to the farmers of various areas of the district. The DC said that these land passbooks are true to the records and can be generated online through "JKLandrecord portal" by landholder without visiting any revenue office, at a click from the comfort of home. He said this is a major initiative towards affecting more transparency and efficiency in the revenue system and that the Revenue Department, Shopian is digitising the revenue records on a Mission Mode style and is taking efforts to complete the process expeditiously. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today distributed land passbooks among the farmers of the district in a function organised at Mini Secretariat, here. The distribution function was attended by ACR Shopian and other revenue officials and landowners/ farmers.



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Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

DC Kupwara reviews preparations for month long Abiyan

Directs officers to work in close coordination for successful conduct of Abiyan

Dr Abdul Quyyom

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 2: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the preparations for conduct of month long 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' in the district.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the officers to work in close coordination and dedication to make the 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' successful on the ground.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner said that this is a war against psychotropic drugs and every officer

directed the officers to ensure activities conducted during the Abiyan be visible



has to play his active role in effective implementation of the programme. He

on the ground.

The Deputy Commissioner di-

rected the officers to make the 'Nasha Mukht Abiyan' a sensitive programme which should touch the hearts of children especially victims so that they get motivated to come out from the menace.

To make the campaign against the drugs more explicit, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to make a pamphlet titled "Drug is Poison" and circulate among the colleges, schools and other conspicuous places.

The Deputy Commissioner passed on specific directions to each officer to perform their assigned tasks during the month long 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan'. The Deputy Commissioner nominated District Social Welfare Officer as Coordinator and Mentor for smooth conduct and control of the programme in Kupwara district.

The ARTO Kupwara was directed to conduct a big bike rally from Kupwara to Handwara involving youth clubs and officers to send a strong message

against the ill effects of drugs. Besides, ARTO Kupwara, Dy SP Traffic Kupwara/Handwara were directed to display drug abuse quotes on all public transport vehicles and bike rally.

The Principals of GDCs and CEO were directed to conduct theme based essay/ painting competitions in colleges and schools, besides, student rallies. They were also directed to conduct theme centric wall paintings/ladishah/singing/skits/Nukad-nataks/symposiums/lectures etc.

The ACD and ACP were directed to conduct Gram Sabhas on 8th of this month for constitution of Nasha Mukht Committees at Panchayat Level for identification of victims for their rehabilitation. The ACP was also directed to ensure the ill effects of drug abuse are advocated in Jumma Khutba on Fridays.

The CMO was directed for mandatory display of pamphlets/pictorial warnings on all drug/grocery/ration stores in the district.

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan

DC Kulgam inaugurates 3 days orientation/ training programme for 500 resources persons

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 02: In order to make Nasha Mukht campaign effective and result oriented, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today inaugurated three days orientation cum training programme for resources persons at mini secretariat, here.

The programme is a joint initiative of the District Administration, Rural Development Department, Social Welfare, Education, Health and other Departments.

During the training programme, the participants were briefed about various sections of NDPS and their role vis-à-vis sensitizing masses against the ill effects of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Speaking on the occasion,



DC said that 65 percent population of the district comprises youth and our ultimate goal is to proper utilization of their energies, capacities which is also vital to make a prosperous society. He stated that there is a

steep rise in use of drugs in the district and termed it unfortunate and added that collectively we have to eradicate this menace by waging war against this menace. With regard to the orientation cum training

programme, the DC said that the aim of organizing this training programme is to develop well trained and well acquainted human resources to make the campaign against drugs effective and result oriented by utilizing their services properly in ongoing month long campaigns against drugs.

He added that 500 persons will be trained in this three days training session and their services will be utilized across the district.

ADC, ACD, DSWO, Tehsildar Hq, SHO and other officers also attended the programme.

Meanwhile, awareness programmes and rallies under the month-long campaign against drugs were held in colleges, schools and other institutions of the district.

J&K felicitated by FICCI for e-governed Vigilance Clearance System initiative

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 02: The Jammu and Kashmir Government was today awarded Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Smart Policing Awards 2021 for the e-governed Vigilance Clearance System (VCS) initiative.

The smart digital initiatives by J&K, under the dynamic leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, among which the e-governance initiative i.e. Vigilance Clearance System (VCS), taken by General Administration Department (GAD), and under able guidance of worthy Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, the Information Technology landscape of Governance in J&K has witnessed transformational change and numerous government services have been made online.

The award is a great achievement for the J&K Govt, as among the 2200 nominations received from across the country under different categories for Smart Policing Awards, the e-governed VCS was awarded among 19 awards.

The GAD and Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) over these years has transformed and brought efficiency and transparency in the system.

The VCS has transformed the process of issuance of No Objection Certificates/Vigilance Clearances to the government employees within a very short span of time without requiring submitting application in person sans follow up.

The digital intervention has eased the burden of backlogs and departments have been able to conduct their DPCs, issue NOCs for obtaining Passport, sanction study leaves, deputations & foreign visits. Around 7000 promotions and regularization of employees have been done by the departments based on timely availability of Vigilance clearance.

The VCS has been designed and developed by the team of GAD (Vigilance) and Directorate of IT&SS, University of Kashmir (under consultancy mode), in tandem with ACB as a team work and is first of its kind in the country. Since its inception in July 2021, the GAD (Vigilance) has been able to issue more than 45000 Vigilance Clearances. The award was presented at FICCI Federation House, New Delhi today while as the award was received on behalf of J&K Govt by Director ACB, Anand Jain; Director IT&SS, University of Kashmir, Dr. Maroof Naieem Qadri and Deputy Secretary (Vigilance), GAD, J&K Govt, Dr Mohammad Usman Khan.

On the occasion, Director ACB, Anand Jain spoke on the use and deployment of technology in vigilance.



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DEO Shopian organises screening of film on SVEEP at IM-GDC

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 02: The District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian today held the screening of a film on Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) at Govt. Degree College Shopian for sensitisation and awareness of young and eligible voters.

The film highlighted the ways and means for the registration of the new voters through submission of various designated forms and also through the online methods.

A number of speakers who spoke on the occasion elaborated on the significance of SVEEP for the effective

participation of new eligible voters by way of conducting mass awareness programmes across the district. The half an hour film also highlighted the messages of the DEO and other senior officers of the District, wherein it has been appealed to the public to come in contact with their local booth level officers for any help required in the new registration or delegations of the voters.

It also highlighted the role and responsibilities of the civil society in strengthening the democratic processes. The function was attended by the college staff and hundreds

of young students who are also the eligible voters. As per the details provided by the District Election Officer Shopian, ground programmes on SVEEP shall be carried in every nook and corner of the District up to 25 September, 2022. As per the schedule issued by the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, the special summary revision shall start from 15 September, 2022 with the period for filing objections and claims up to 25 October, 2022. The disposal of claims and objections shall take place by 10 November, 2022 and the final draft of electoral rolls shall be published.

Progressing JK J&K Colleges to get ranking on performance, excellence; students can choose their best college

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 02: In a first in J&K, performance of the colleges will be judged through comprehensive ranking system to be launched by Higher Education Department (HED). Regarding this innovative initiative, Principal Secretary HED and Information Department, Rohit Kansal says ranking of all Higher Educational Institutions in J&K would be carried out on the basis of asset of transparent criterion and a unique index.

The Department has roped in IIT Jammu as knowledge partner to design the unique index as well as a special portal to collect the information and rank the colleges.

The MoU would be signed between the Directorate of Colleges J&K and the IIT Jammu soon. The two autonomous colleges of J&K viz. GDC Baramulla and GCW Parate would assist the Directorates of Higher Education in the unique initiative.

A core team would be drawn from Govt College Parate, GDC Baramulla and Director Colleges to help in the creation of indices and primary data would be provided by the department to the IIT team for formulation of ranking indices.

The IIT team would be responsible for creating an index of colleges based on the department's suggestions, creation of an online portal/dashboard and processing of raw data to prepare the final college rankings.

Rankings would be a useful guide for students in making a decision about whether a college is doing well in a general academic area compared with its peer institutions. Earlier the perception data was the major factor for choosing colleges in J&K by student community which was sometimes "misleading and amenable to manipulation".

Now with the initiative hard quantifiable data would provide a more reliable basis for building a ranking matrix.

The reliance on quantifiable data presents a result- or output-oriented approach in defining top colleges. The ranking is helpful in evaluating institutions based on what they have achieved over the last year.

The performance of the college in a diverse range of activities including academics, sports activities, research, placement, innovation, diversity, quality would be used to develop an index which in turn would be used to rank the colleges. The IIT Jammu management is very much happy at the opportunity of carrying out such an exercise which would be among the first such initiatives in the country.

Notably, Higher Education Department has already declared 2022 as the year of Excellence and all the colleges have been given broad guidelines for achieving excellence under five broad segments: Achievements under Academic Excellence, Enhancing Skills and Employability, Research and Innovation, My College My Pride, Rewarding Efforts and Achievement.

A student facing difficulty in choosing between the two colleges usually research the thorough breakdown of each parameter and sub-parameters to understand how the colleges stand on the individual aspects most relevant to the student. It's cumbersome to trawl through hundreds of institutions for their individual scores in each parameter, especially during the heat and hurry of the admission season. Now with the initiative the process would be easily reflective of all criterias. The proposed College Ranking System would encourage the Higher Educational Institutions to strive for excellence and would also enable the department to spot and incentivize the leaders and handhold those who needed assistance.

To improve the standard of the colleges in J&K and take them to the level of competing with best colleges across the country, the feedback system launched by the department is already operational and is providing the students an opportunity to provide feedback about the quality of learning experience. Similarly, the teachers have also been facilitated by the system to provide inputs on the infrastructure and other administrative aspects of their respective colleges.

'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan'

Student rallies, Pledge ceremonies, Debates, Painting competitions across Kupwara district marked 2nd Day of month long Abiyan

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 2: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray, various activities including student rallies, pledge ceremonies, debates and painting competitions were held in different educational institutions across the district to observe 2nd Day of 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abiyan'. On the occasion, Pledge ceremonies were held in various Colleges, Schools, Government Offices to uphold the promise for eradication of the drug menace in the society and encouraging a healthy lifestyle. At GDC Tangdar, Debates regarding Drug Abuse and its ill effects were conducted, besides, student rallies were also held by the College which saw participation of teachers and large number of students. At Government High School Kachaloo in Langate zone, a Nasha Mukht J&K rally was organized which was led by the CEO Kupwara, Abdul Hamid. Dy. CEO, Principal, teachers and hundreds of students participated in the rally and



raised different slogans including "Zindagi Se Rishta Jodo Drugs Se Nata Todo" and "Say No to Drugs Yes to Life" to disseminate awareness among the common masses about the destroying effects of drugs. Mass rallies under the banner of 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abiyan' were also conducted in various educational institutions across the district which went through streets and corners of the villages to spread information about the deadly effect of drugs on society and importance of a healthy life.

VC DDC Kupwara provides Inverter System to 3 H&WCs

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 2: Vice Chairman DDC Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir today provided Inverter System to 3 Health & Wellness Centres in Wavoor territorial constituency including Health & Wellness Centre Potshai, H&WC Wavoor and H&WC Warnow.

These Inverter Systems were provided by the Vice Chairman under his Area Development Fund to facilitate the health centres which were installed today.

Speaking at the occasion, the Vice Chairman said that health sector is very crucial part of the society which needs special attention for its augmentation. He said that the health sector will be among his top priorities. BMO Sogam, Health officials, PRIs and senior citizens were present on the occasion.

Safeena Beigh calls General Council meeting; reviews progress on developmental works

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 02: In order to take a review of the works being executed under 14th FCA, Area Development Fund and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), a general District Development Council meeting for this fiscal year was today held here at Dak Bungalow Baramulla under the chairpersonship of the Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safeena Beigh.

The meeting was attended by all the members of the District Development Council, Chairpersons of BDCs besides Additional District Development Commissioner Aijaz Abdullah Saraf, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Gulzar



Ahmad Khan and other officers of concerned departments. At the outset, the Chairperson, DDC took feedback on the action taken on the issues raised by General Council members in the previous

council meetings, and various other developmental issues were also discussed in the meeting. On the occasion, the chair was apprised about the progress made with regard to the action taken on the issues raised in the previous meetings. It was also informed in the meeting that the majority of the grievances and issues have been redressed and the works on the rest of the issues are under progress. After taking a comprehensive review of all the works, the Chairperson, DDC stressed all the officers to work in a collective and collaborative manner with the members of District Development Council to redress the grievances of people effectively.

VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

HEADLINES TODAY

EDITORIAL

Lack of infrastructure leads to dilapidation of roads

A spurt of rain inundated roads at many places in Srinagar, turning them into virtual pools and putting people to inconvenience. One cannot actually control the rain but surely infrastructure can be built to ensure proper drainage of rainwater through a robust mechanism. The successive governments and the municipal corporation in Srinagar have done very little to tackle this problem. There is actually a need for upgrading urban infrastructure to address the issue of accumulation of rainwater in Srinagar and adjoining areas. Srinagar areas, more so the commercial hub of Lal Chowk and adjoining areas, have long grappled with the problem. Lal Chowk, Rajbagh, Jawaharnagar, and Bemina among other areas are known to get inundated after a few spells of rain. People frequently face waterlogging during the rainy season. It is not the case that no attempts have been made at all by the administration to address the issues. Nevertheless the persistence of the problem highlights the need for more positive action. Srinagar Municipal Corporations had at times employed dewatering pumps to ease water logging problems. There is a need to have proper construction of drainage systems to ensure that the disruptions do not keep recurring. Obviously there must be adequate funds at the disposal of SMC and other departments' for the same. The operation and maintenance of drainages as well as sewer pipes, the repair of machinery and increasing their capacity should be done well in advance to meet any challenges. Low-lying areas in Srinagar in particular need more attention from the civic bodies and concerned departments. The administration must focus on improving the basic quality of life and there should be more efforts in this direction. The common people of Srinagar have been at the receiving end. With every major rainfall they have to navigate knee-deep water for long durations. Regular waterlogging also damages the roads. The insufficient drainage allows rainwater and snowmelt, during winter, to seep into the road surface and ultimately results in the damage to roads. It needs to be looked into and shall be addressed on priority as it would solve two problems: one that the roads would be saved and second water logging during rains would be prevented. Thus an effective and time-bound intervention from the government is the need of the hour.

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INDIA'S FY 23 Q1 GDP IMPRESSIVE BUT PITFALLS REMAIN AS INFLATION WORRYING

K R SUDHAMAN

It is a no brainer that India's economic growth would look impressive after a virtual shut down in the previous year due to Covid Pandemic. But the question to be asked is the double digit growth is good enough and to the desired level and are their worrying factors in the economy? One need not be naysayers and spread gloom all over but it is undisputable that there are worrying factors in the economy that has every chance of pulling down the growth momentum as the economy chugs along in the current financial year. The data released by the National Statistical Organisation for the first quarter of financial year 2022-23 estimated the gross domestic product at 13.5 per cent as compared to the previous year. This double-digit growth is no doubt impressive but one should not forget the fact that this is mainly due to the economic recovery that was taking place after Covid that virtually shut down the economy in the same quarter last year. This

is deceptively high level, given the base effect. April-June 2021 witnessed the second wave of the coronavirus epidemic, which raged through the entire country. In such a scenario the growth rate of 13.5 per cent is in fact a clear disappointment. Most expectations were for quarterly GDP growth in the 15-16 per cent range year on year. The National Statistical Office, which is under the Union Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, has released its estimates for gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter (Q1) of this fiscal year, 2022-23. The headline number is that GDP at constant prices in the first quarter showed 13.5 per cent growth year on year. This is a deceptively high level, given the base effect. It needs to be remembered that the equivalent quarter of the previous year, April-June 2021, was when the devastating second wave of the coronavirus epidemic was raging through the country. Even though there was no national lockdown as draconian as that observed during the first wave in 2020, activity nev-

ertheless slowed considerably as a consequence of the high mortality and sickness. Given the base effect, the growth rate of 13.5 per cent is in fact a clear disappointment. Most expectations were for quarterly GDP growth in the 15-16 per cent range year on year. Rating agency ICRA has projected 15.7 per cent. Crisil chief economist Dharmakirti Joshi has cautioned that the next few quarters will see slower growth as the base effect wanes. While the ongoing broad basing of domestic economic activity is supportive, the key risks is slowing global growth, which would curb India's exports and create uncertainty in private capex plans. These would put downward pressure on our GDP growth forecast of 7.3 per cent for the whole of current fiscal year. Joshi also said the first quarter GDP growth came in lower than expected. High net imports and weaker government consumption expenditure kept overall growth soft. Private consumption is improving, with urban demand getting support from contact-inten-

sive services. Had it not been for high inflation and subdued rural demand due to negative real rural wage growth, private consumption would have grown faster. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said that the real GDP growth for Q1 of Fiscal Year 2023-24 is projected at 6.7%. So there is no need to be gung ho about the first quarter double digit growth, which is an aberration. Also RBI had forecast a growth of 16.2 per cent in the first quarter and it turned out be much lower despite the base effect, which is not a welcome development. What is worrying is "nominal GDP or GDP at current prices in q1 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 64.95 lakh crore as against Rs 51.27 lakh crore in Q1 2021-22, a growth of 26.7 per cent". This meant WPI inflation is as high as 14.2 per cent, which is not sustainable. One often quotes consumer price Inflation which is around 7 per cent. This is what is worrying. High WPI, which reflects the real price pressure on the economy, is not good. Also because of the difficult geo-political situation and slowing global growth and high

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INFLATION IS BEING CONTROLLED AT THE EXPENSE OF WORKING CLASS

PRABHAT PATNAIK

Economists distinguish between two kinds of inflation: "demand-pull" and "cost-push". Demand-pull inflation is said to occur when there is excess demand in a situation where supply cannot be augmented, because full capacity output has been reached in one or more crucial sectors. War-time inflation is a classic example. In India during the pre-neoliberal, dirigiste period, inflation was often the result of insufficient foodgrain output relative to demand, arising from a poor harvest. Cost-push inflation on the other hand occurs when supplies can be augmented, as the economy is nowhere near full capacity in key sectors, but one of the classes tries to raise its share of output, by demanding a higher price for the input it provides, while other classes are unwilling to lower their shares, giving rise to a tug-of-war, which manifests itself through inflation. But no matter what kind of inflation we are talking about, it can always be controlled at the expense of the working class; and, what is more, under capitalism it is invariably controlled at the expense of the working class. If it is demand-pull inflation, then the excess demand when supplies cannot be augmented is eliminated by squeezing the consumption demand of the working class, that is, by ensuring that money wages do not rise in tandem with prices. And if it is cost-push, then reducing the share of wages, by taking steps to reduce the bargain-

ing power of the workers, again provides a means of ending the tug-of-war. Thus, not allowing wages to rise in tandem with prices is capitalism's cure for any inflationary upsurge. To be sure, inflation control can be achieved exactly in the same way by squeezing the share of the primary commodity producers, mostly located in the third world; and historically it has been the most commonly used method of inflation-control in the metropolis. But precisely because of its rampant use, by now the share of the primary commodity producers in the global gross value of output has shrunk to such a low level (not because primary commodities have become any less important), that any further shrinking of it will not be particularly effective in controlling inflation. Under mature capitalism therefore inflation control cannot be achieved except at the expense of the working class (apart no doubt from primary commodity producers). The fact that inflation is sought to be controlled by squeezing the share of the working class, does not mean that the working class was responsible for starting the inflationary process. In fact the two phenomena have nothing to do with one another. Even when the cost-push gets started with an autonomous increase in the profit margin, as is the case with the current inflation in the US, this process can be, and is sought to be, ended by squeezing the share of wages, that is, by ensuring that money wages do not rise in tandem with

prices. In the US the share of wages has clearly gone down because of inflation, as the inflation is profit-margin-push, but everybody from the Federal Reserve Board to even liberal economists, sees a further squeeze in the wage-share as the solution for inflation. What is called "anti-inflationary policy" under capitalism is simply a way of ensuring that the share of wages goes down appropriately. Take for instance the rise in interest rates. It is supposed to reduce excess demand by discouraging borrowing from banks; but its effects are scarcely confined to reducing demand alone and not reducing capacity utilisation and employment. A rise in interest rates in short has an anti-inflationary effect even in a situation of shortages, including self-inflicted shortages as is the case now because of the sanctions against Russia, substantially through a reduction in the bargaining power of the workers by causing larger unemployment; and when there are no shortages but only cost-push causing inflation, the effect of a rise in interest rates is exclusively through the generation of unemployment and recession. This however is not an easy process: there is no automaticity about the reduction in workers' wage claims as unemployment increases. The resilience of the workers does get adversely affected by unemployment; but it also depends on a host of other factors. This means that their resistance to a reduction in their share may continue even when there is an

increase in unemployment. In any case, the point to note here is that inflation invariably generates an upsurge in working class militancy and struggles. This is exactly what we find today in many of the advanced capitalist countries, especially in Europe. Britain of course is the classic example. The inflation rate in Britain in the month of July reached 10.1 per cent compared to July the previous year, which is a 40-year high; and Britain is currently afflicted by a spate of strikes, by railway workers, postal workers and dock workers, demanding higher wages to offset the erosion of purchasing power because of inflation. Even lawyers and teachers are demanding higher pay as inflation soars and is expected to reach 13 percent later this year. Likewise in Spain, Greece, and Belgium, workers are demanding higher wages to offset inflation, which in the Eurozone reached 8.9 per cent in July. Even Germany which has been less afflicted by strike action in the past compared to other European economies, is witnessing strikes demanding higher wages. Workers in the transport sector in both the Netherlands and in Germany have been on strike, the railways in the case of Netherlands and the airlines in Germany. This situation is going to become worse as winter approaches, since sanctions against Russia that reduce the flow of oil and natural gas to Europe will have their most devastating impact then. Strikes by workers affect supplies of various goods and services, so that even if inflation originally was not caused by supply shortages, such shortages inevitably appear because of the strikes and carry forward the inflationary process. Strikes on this scale had not appeared in the advanced capitalist world for decades. With the global adoption of the neoliberal regime, capital had appeared supremely dominant; and even though the share of wages had declined over this period in most countries, workers' resistance had dwindled because of greater competition among them induced by the free mobility of capital across the world. If European workers for instance went on strike demanding higher wages, then capital which was already relocating to the low-wage Asian economies, simply hastened this process of relocation, which moderated wage demands in the metropolis. After the financial crisis of 2008, since the recovery in the advanced capitalist countries, especially in Europe, was slow and at best partial, a further constraint was introduced on workers' militancy; unemployment greatly reduced the bargaining strength of the workers. Likewise, after the collapse of Eastern European socialism, cheaper labour became available in the Western part of the continent because of migration from the east to the west, which acted as a further stimulus to competition among workers and kept down wages in the European Union. The current inflation therefore marks a sea-change in this scenario. Since inflation affects all

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COURTESY: PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

SHARAD PAWAR BATS FOR UNITED OPPOSITION AS NITISH EYES BID FOR 2024

POLITICAL DELICACIES
RAHIL NORA CHOPRA

After the exit of Nitish Kumar and Uddhav Thackeray from NDA, the Mahaghatbandhan is hopeful of gaining an edge over BJP in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Karnataka in the next general elections. NCP chief Sharad Pawar has advocated and suggested for the unity of Opposition parties for the 2024 elections. Pawar said: "Can consider contesting elections together under the Common Minimum Program." Pawar also urged the opposition parties to keep aside differences and unite on an anti-BJP platform for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. On the other hand-made (U) will hold its national executive and national council meetings in Patna on September 3 and 4 to discuss the political developments in Bihar and back Nitish Kumar as the Prime Ministerial candidate in 2024. Nitish may soon start visiting other states to explore the chances of a broader national coalition to take on BJP in the 2024 elections.

BJP TO JOIN HANDS WITH TDP TO TAKE OUT JAGAN IN ANDHRA PRADESH
The BJP is all set and aspire to join hands

with the TDP since it has fallen out with Andhra Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy. Recently TDP's Chandrababu Naidu interacted PM Narendra Modi to revive his political alliance with BJP. An announcement that TDP joining NDA may be done soon. While Jana Sena founder K. Pawan Kalyan has already shown interest in the alliance between the three parties.

UDDHAV THACKERAY BRINGS SAMBHAJI BRIGADE UNDER MVA BANNER

To woo and attract the Maratha community which account for 33 percent voters in

Maharashtra and to signal that it was accommodative towards smaller parties, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena formed an alliance with the pro-Maratha Sambhaji Brigade. Announcing the new tie-up, the former chief minister of Maharashtra said that the alliance was ideological and forged to uphold the Constitution and regional pride. Whether their alliance will boost the Thackeray led Sena's flagging prospects is to be seen. Maha Vikas Aghadi will fight the 2024 Lok Sabha and assembly elections together.

MULAYAM MAY SIT OUT IN 2024, CHOOSE

DIMPLE FOR MAINPURI SEAT

SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav might not fight the Lok Sabha elections in 2024 owing to the health reasons. The party may plan to give ticket to Dimple Yadav from Mainpuri where she is visiting regularly to nursing the constituency. Other Yadav family members are also eyeing at the same seat.

GHULAM NABI AZAD TO FORM OWN PARTY BEFORE J&K POLLS

The veteran J&K politician Ghulam Nabi Azad has announced that he will now form his own political party in J&K with an eye clearly set on J&K polls which could take place early next year. Whether it will be a regional outfit or a pan-India party is still unclear. Political observers claim that his party will divide anti BJP votes in the state. Just like Asaduddin Owaisi, whose party AIMIM has been levelled by many as a vote-cutter. The only beneficiary of his move as of now seems to be the BJP which is desperately making moves to install a chief minister who is either a Hindu or someone from the majority Muslim community who could be pliable to the Narendra Modi government in Delhi.

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MOVIE REVIEW: COBRA

Decent action entertainer, impressive in parts



Director Ajay Gnanamuthu's 'Cobra' is an intense but lengthy action entertainer that manages to impress you in parts. The first half

of the film is more of an action entertainer while the next half has equal doses of action, drama and family sentiment to offer.

The story begins with Rishi (Roshan Mathew) a ruthless business tycoon who fears no one, having a stand off with the Chief Minister of a state. Drunk on the power his business empire provides him, he orders the assassination of the Chief Minister who was looking to thwart his plans of business expansion.

Rishi's most potent weapon is a person nicknamed the Cobra (Vikram), a brilliant mathematician whose identity even Rishi does not know.

Rishi's instructions are communicated to the Cobra, whose real name we get to know is Mathi, through a journalist (K. S. Ravikumar) and they are carried out with precision every single time.

The Chief Minister's assassination is soon followed by the assassination of the Prince of Switzerland and the Defence Minister of Russia.

The only common factor in all the assassinations is the usage of mathematics, that is cleverly employed by the assassin. Hot on the trail of this assassin is not just the state police but also the Interpol, of which Aslan Ilmaz (Irfan Pathan) is a part.

Feeding secret information to the Inter-

pol about the assassin is an anonymous computer genius, who delivers clues about who the next target of the Cobra is.

As the Interpol arrives in the country to gather additional information from the state investigating agencies, the hunt for Cobra intensifies.

Do the law enforcement agencies succeed in their mission of nabbing the Cobra? Why did the Cobra turn an assassin? What happens to Rishi on whose behest the assassinations are carried out? Cobra answers all these questions and more...

A lot of thought has gone in to the film's story and its making. But unfortunately, that is exactly what works against it.

The plot of the film is so intricate and so complex that viewers have to keenly watch and pay attention to every development on screen, including the dialogues. One small miss and there's every chance that the plot may well go over your head.

The first half of the film is fast and action-oriented and one is able to relish it. The second half is actually where the problem lies. It is distinctly different from the first and focuses on the introduction of a new character called Kathiravan (Vikram) that makes it exceedingly difficult for audiences to follow the developments.

Nevertheless, Vikram dazzles as both Mathi and as Kathiravan. He gives us a glimpse of that magnificent acting which he displayed in 'Anniyan'.

One sequence in the film in particular is simply outstanding. In it, Vikram imitates the actions of the characters that

appear in his hallucinations.

Anandraj, who comes as one of the characters in his hallucination, is just equally brilliant in these sequences.

Both Anandraj and Vikram perform the very same body movements without looking at each other, even as they deliver the very same lines. Their actions are perfectly in sync with one another and leave you stunned.

Mrinalini Ravi's chemistry with Sarjano Khalid, who plays the younger Mathi, works big time. Both actors deliver commendable performances and their portions add strength to the film.

Srinidhi Shetty, K.S. Ravikumar, Roshan Mathew and Robo Shankar too play their roles neatly and convincingly.

The background score is sometimes so loud that it overpowers the dialogues being spoken, making it difficult for audiences to follow proceedings. Harish Kannan's visuals are stunning and a delight to watch. One wishes the editing was a bit tighter as the run time of the film is a whopping three hours and three minutes. On the whole, 'Cobra' is a decent action entertainer which is impressive in parts.



Cast: Vikram, Srinidhi Shetty, Mrinalini Ravi, K.S. Ravikumar, Meenakshi Govindarajan, Irfan Pathan, Roshan Mathew, Miya George and Robo Shankar.
Director: Ajay Gnanamuthu.

Indian postal service to release a Kiccha Sudeepa envelope



The Indian Postal Service Department is bringing out a special 'Postal Envelope' of Superstar Kiccha Sudeepa.

The Department of Posts, Government of India, has been issuing a 'Special Postal Envelope' to record the country's special events, awards or

achievements of individuals for hundreds of years.

This time, the Indian Postal Department is recording the achievement of national star Kiccha Sudeepa who has completed 25 years in the film industry. On this occasion, a representative from the postal department Madhesh visited Kiccha Sudeepa's residence and cordially invited him for the launch event. The launch of this special envelope will be held soon.

Kannada cinema and Kiccha Sudeepa's fans have heartily appreciated this move of the Postal Department on social media.

Actor Santhanam's next film titled 'Kick'

Actor Santhanam's upcoming film which is being directed by well-known Kannada director Prasanthraj has been titled 'Kick', its makers announced on Wednesday.

Taking to Twitter, actor Santhanam, revealed the first look and title of the film. The film, the shooting of which began in Bangalore a few months back, continued in full swing in Chennai. The final schedule, which happened in Bangkok for 15 days, was wrapped up recently.

Produced by Naveen Raj under his banner Fortune Films, the film will mark the directorial debut of Prasanthraj in Tamil. Actress Tanya Hope, who acted in the hit film 'Dharala Prabhu', has played the female lead in this film, which also features Thambi Ramaiah, Brahmanandam, Senthil, Kovai Sarala, Mansoor Ali Khan, Manobala, Y.G. Mahendran and Mottai Rajendran among others. Sources say that



Santhanam plays a person who works in an advertising firm and that he expects to get a 'kick' out of everything he does. The story revolves around the hero and the heroine who work in rival advertising companies and the cat and mouse fight that takes place between them due to the rivalry.

Sources also add that the director has made this film as a full-length comedy. Interestingly, as many as 12 different kinds of sets were erected to shoot just two songs in the film.



Big B tests Covid negative, goes back to work

Big B Amitabh Bachchan is going back to work as he has tested negative for Covid. Amitabh took to his blog on Wednesday night and shared that his nine days in isolation got over and that he has tested nega-

tive. "Back at work, your prayers gratitude, negative last night and 9 days isolation over, mandatory is 7 days," he wrote on his blog. The thespian paid gratitude to his fans, whom he fondly calls his extended

family or EF.

"My love as ever to all, you are kind and concerned throughout .. the family Ef so full of care have only my folded hands for you."

It was on August 24, when Amitabh shared that he

Every character I play may not please the viewer: Aakash Dahiya

Actor Aakash Dahiya, who plays Devinder, a quintessential Indian male who doesn't understand the demands of his wife's job as a crucial member of the Delhi police investigating a gruesome crime in 'Delhi Crime' Season 2, said that every role he plays on screen may not please viewers.

Aakash's character Devinder, is an army man and even though his wife is part of the Delhi police, he refuses to understand why her work is equally important as his.

Talking about playing a character who might be disliked for his on screen persona, Aakash said: "As an actor, I am constantly looking to play parts which challenge me. In fact, Devinder's character is very true to life. The patriarchal mindset that dominates the thinking process makes men un-

determine the profession that their spouses are part of."

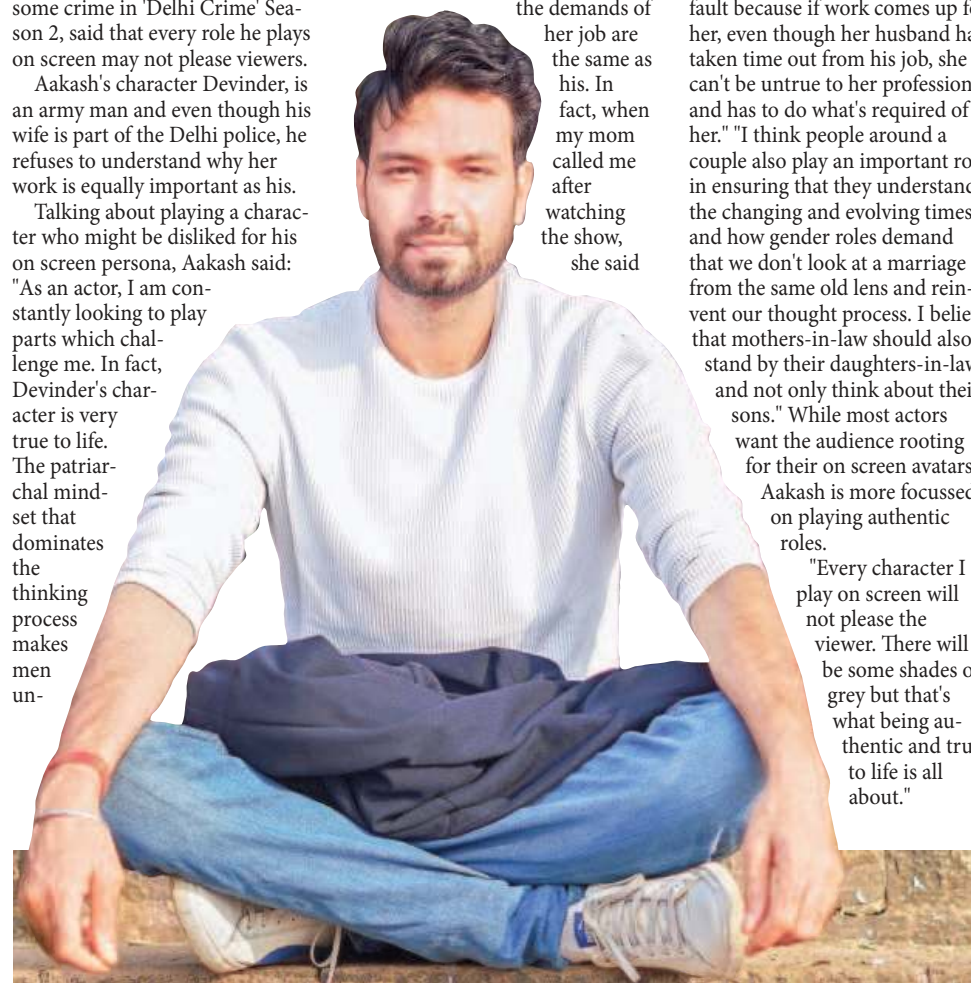
He said that his character is not a bad person.

"He loves his wife but is unable to understand that the demands of her job are the same as his. In fact, when my mom called me after watching the show, she said

that it was the woman's fault that she is not making time for her husband."

"But after reflecting on the plot point, she called me again and said that it wasn't the woman's fault because if work comes up for her, even though her husband has taken time out from his job, she can't be untrue to her profession and has to do what's required of her." "I think people around a couple also play an important role in ensuring that they understand the changing and evolving times and how gender roles demand that we don't look at a marriage from the same old lens and reinvent our thought process. I believe that mothers-in-law should also stand by their daughters-in-law and not only think about their sons." While most actors want the audience rooting for their on screen avatars, Aakash is more focussed on playing authentic roles.

"Every character I play on screen will not please the viewer. There will be some shades of grey but that's what being authentic and true to life is all about."



Kiara Advani learns the finesse of staying in frame from Kareena Kapoor

Bollywood actress Kiara Advani shared how she learned from Kareena Kapoor to be cautious during the shoot while facing the camera so that there is no chance of going out of the frame.

Calling it "amazing", she shared her working experience with Kareena in 2019 film 'Good Newwz': "There is so much to learn from her. I have learned how to face the camera from her."

"During the shoot, I used to be so much involved in a particular sequence that many times I forgot to concentrate on the angle of the camera and lost focus. But it never happened with her and she would know where the camera is, even if it's behind her."

During a live show, the 'Bhool



Bhulaiyaa 2' actress revealed her interest in family entertainers and why she prefers to do them.

"Of late there has been a conscious drive to do films which are more family entertainers. What is cinema ultimately? You go and you want to forget everything for three hours and rejoice. That's what I wanted to do."

Moving ahead in the conversation, she explained her technique of doing emotional scenes: "Do it honestly, don't fake it. Because, I have noticed and this is for my own performances, the times when I have actually felt it and done it, honestly in that scene, it has clicked with the audience. And I think the camera catches it, so that's why just be very honest."

DC Rajouri reviews performances of banks at DLRC meeting

Stress laid on motivating public to avail benefits of loan schemes; speedy disbursement of sanctioned cases

ADDC Doda reviews preparedness for Swachhata Abhiyan

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 02: To review the performance of Banks and line Departments for the quarter ended June of the current financial year, a meeting of the District Level Review Committee / District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) was today held here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal.

The meeting was attended by GM DIC, Ashwini Sharma, Chief planning Officer, Mohd Khurshid; LDM, Jyoti Parkash Sharma; DSHO, Dr Sarfraz Naseem Choudhary; DDM NABARD, Kanav Sharma; Regional Manager JK Gramreen Bank, Nisar Malik; Ashwani Sharma from JK Lead Bank, officers and other Bankers.

Detailed discussion was held on various points including CD ratio, training of candidates to manage a business, performance

of Banks concerning the flow of credit under the

joint liability groups, self-help groups, etc was held

stand at Rs 56160500 Crore as on 30 June 2022, Ad-



Annual plan, progress made under special credit facility for street vendors (PM SVANIDHI), PMEGP, progress under government-sponsored schemes, progress under KCC,

threadbare in the meeting. At the outset, Lead District manager, Jyoti Parkash Sharma welcomed the members and revealed that deposits of Banks

vances stand at Rs.2726.96 cr; while the Credit Deposit Ratio was recorded at 48.55 percent. The DC directed the bankers with low CD ratio to meet the target fixed by

the higher authorities. While reviewing the performance of banks related to the flow of Credit under the Annual Credit plan, the meeting was informed that against the target of Rs 962.67 crore, the achievement as on June 30, 2022 is Rs 197.25 crore. Under the KCC crop scheme, it was informed that Rs 546.04 crore amount stands disbursed and the number of KCC stand at 79083. The DC, while reviewing sector-wise achievements, advised the Banks to improve credit dispensations in Agriculture, MSME, and lay special focus on covering housing and education sectors. He also reviewed the progress made under employment generation schemes including PMEGP, JKREGP, Artisans/Weavers Credit Card, PM Weavers Mudra Scheme, etc.

DODA, SEPTEMBER 02: To review implementation of SBM Scheme of RDD and take stock of preparedness for the Swachhata Abhiyan, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Doda, Pran Singh today chaired a meeting of all BDOs of the District. Directions were given for saturation of IHHL and updation of data on jkpanchayat.in portal in a time bound manner. Earlier, the Additional District Development Commissioner reviewed progress achieved under different schemes including SBM, PMAY, NREGA, Amritsavors and Capex in each block. The ADCD exhorted on the BDOs to complete work of the soakage and composite pits under MGNREGA as per the directions issued by the administrative department well before 2nd October 2022. He said the soakage and composite pits are being constructed to ensure solid waste management and liquid waste management under Swachh Bharat Mission and providing wage employment to the job card holders. He also laid stress on timely estimation and completion of Capex works particularly in the snow bound areas. To review implementation of SBM Scheme of RDD and take stock of preparedness for the



Swachhata Abhiyan, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Doda, Pran Singh today chaired a meeting of all BDOs of the District. Directions were given for saturation of IHHL and updation of data on jkpanchayat.in portal in a time bound manner. Earlier, the Additional District Development Commissioner reviewed progress achieved under different schemes including SBM, PMAY, NREGA, Amritsavors and Capex in each block. The ADCD exhorted on the BDOs to complete work of the soakage and composite pits under MGNREGA as per the directions issued by the administrative department well before 2nd October 2022. He said the soakage and composite pits are being constructed to ensure solid waste.

DMO Jammu seizes 1250 MT Sand, 3000 MT stocked Sand restored in Bajalta area

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER Chowki Officer Sidra con-



02: The Geology and Mining Department teams on Friday raided different locations at Sidra, Chalni, Sardhan and Anthem areas, early in the morning and seized 1250 MT illegally stocked/dumped Sand. On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa, District Mineral Officer, Dr. Gulshan Kumar along with staff members and

ducted the raids in the wee hours. The DMO informed that the office of Deputy Commissioner Jammu and DMO office received complaints regarding illegal stocking of minor minerals in the area. "Acting against the violators the operation was conducted and 250 MT of Sand was seized and 1000 MT was restored to Chelni Nallah with the help of JCB " he

added. In another raid, the DMO Jammu along with a team of Geology and Mining and police, visited Sardan and Athem area and seized 1000 MT of Sand and restored 2000MT of Sand in nearby Nallah with the help of an excavator. The custody of 1250 MT seized material was handed over to Chowki officer Sidra and general public was advised not to lift the same otherwise strict action shall be taken against the violators. The DMO also advised the general public and transporters to transport the minor minerals with valid challan/Form A and not to visit khad for illegal mining otherwise strict action would be taken against the violators. He said that the drive against illegal mining will continue in future also to curb the menace.

2484 MT illegally excavated sand seized in Billawar area

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 02: The team of Geology and Mining department and police officials on Friday seized dumps of 2484 MT sand illegally excavated from Ujh River during several raids conducted in different places in Billawar area. As many as 13 dumps of sand were stocked at Pongat, Leir, Guda Kalyal, Thada Kalyal, Peiya and Dharmani areas of Billawar were seized under relevant sections of SRO-105 of 2016 and MM&DR Act of 1957 and kept in the custody of police till further action. The sand dumps were excavated from the Ujh River in Tehsil Ramkot by the miners by using light machinery and transported on tractor trolleys for further sale at exorbitant and willful rates in violation of rules and norms of the department."As per rules, no person can ex-

cavate or dump minor or crushed mineral beyond personal use and for legal dumping, Mineral Dealer Licence (MDL) is required from the Geology and Mining department after following a due procedure in vogue and submitting requisite documents along with application", informed DMO Kathua. During the day-long exercise, awareness was also spread among the local people about the prevalent rules for excavation, transportation and dumping of minor and crushed minerals and rates of minerals along with legally demarcated and identified locations for purchase of material. It is pertinent to mention here that a total of 09 minor mineral blocks have been e-auctioned and allotted to contractors in Bhini and Naj Nallahs from where minerals can be purchased.

Training-cum-SVEEP programme held at Ramban

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 02: District Election department, Ramban today conducted a day-long Training-cum-SVEEP programme to sensitize the BLOs about election related activities for Special Summary Revision (SSR) 2022, here at Conference Hall, Maitra. The training programme was presided over by District Election Officer, Mussarat Islam. Deputy District Election Officer, Lal Chand, ACR, Gias-Ul-Haq, Tehsildar, Rafiq Ahmed, besides Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were present on the occasion. In his address, the DEO exhorted the BLOs to focus on the registration of new eligible voters in the areas of their respective Polling Stations. He informed that during the Special Summary Revision, special camps would be organized on Septem-



ber 24 & 25 and October 1, 2, 15 & 16 for enrollment of new eligible voters. The BLOs were asked to remain present at their respective Polling Stations with the availability of an adequate number of registration forms during the special camps. Asking the BLOs to update themselves on ER-ONET, the DC advised them to diligently upload Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) on GARUDA Apps. The BLOs can play a vital role in preparation of healthy e-Rolls, he added.

Explaining in detail the role and responsibilities of BLO, the master trainer briefed about election related activities to be conducted during Special Summary Revision. He also briefed about the introduction and use of new forms including form no. 6, 6b, 7 and 8 during the Special Summary Revision which is being started from September 15. An interactive session was also conducted at the end of training to clarify the doubts and queries of the participants.

Career Counselling on Civil Services Exam conducted in PSPS-PGGCW

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 02: Department of Political Science, Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government (PG) College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu on Friday organised a career counselling session on the competitive civil services examination here in the college auditorium. The session was held under the patronage of Prof. Minu Mahajan, Principal of the college. She motivated the students to achieve success in the civil services examination. She expounded that the civil services examination is considered as one of the challenging exams in the country because it tests perseverance, dedication, discipline and determination. Around 750 Students participated in the session and gave a patient hearing. Prof. Paramjeet Singh, Convenor of the session, welcomed the principal, students and resource person. Gautam Kumar of SR College of Competitions, Jammu was the resource person. He briefed comprehensively about the pattern of examination i.e. Prelims, Mains and Interview being conducted by UPSC.

Land Passbook distribution functions held across Jammu division districts

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 02: Consequent upon comprehensive digitization and streamlining of land records, Land Passbooks were distributed among farmers at special functions organised by district administrations across Jammu Division, on Friday. The main function was held at Convention centre, Jammu which was presided over by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Besides, the land passbooks distribution functions were organized in each district headquarters. The Land Pass Book entries carry the evidentiary value of the record-of-rights and other public record for all intents and purposes before the courts and the financial institutions including Banks. AT KATHUA: The revenue record distribution ceremony was held in Kathua at the VC room of DC Office Complex wherein Deputy

Commissioner, Rahul Pandey gave away land passbooks to 100 beneficiaries. During the event, 50 beneficiaries from Tehsil Kathua, 20 from Tehsil Marheen, 15 from Tehsil Hiranagar and 15 from Tehsil Nagri were handed over land passbooks. The DC termed the initiative as a remarkable step towards ensuring transparency and Good Governance. He described the initiative as a milestone to improve Public Services delivery and to make the system easily accessible and accountable. The Deputy Commissioner said that Land Passbooks issued to the landholder contains entries which will enable the landholder to make its use for Credit facilities and for other matters connected therewith. AT UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Krittika Jyotsna handed over land passbooks to land

owners at a function held at Mini Conference Hall DC Of-



office Complex. The DC also interacted with the landowners and handed and highlighted the benefits of land passbooks. She said that the passbook is true to the land records and can be generated online. The DC complimented the officers and staff of Revenue De-

partment and concerned for making this facility a possi-

Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral and oth-



bility in a very short time. The DC stressed them to extend the facility to all the landowners of Udhampur District. Similar, function was also held in the ACR office wherein Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mohamad Syed Khan, Assistant

er officers interacted with landowners and issued land passbooks to the legal land owners. AT SAMBA: Under the initiative of J&K Government to establish transparency and accountability in the functioning of Revenue department, Deputy Commis-

sioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta distributed land passbooks among beneficiaries at Conference Hall DC office Samba. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Suram Chand Sharma, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Manu Hansa, Tehsildar Samba Rampal, besides other revenue field officials were also present at the function. In all 100 passbooks were distributed in district Samba, including 04 beneficiaries who received Land Passbooks from Lt Governor of UT, J&K while attending the main function at convention center Jammu. Similar land pass-book distribution camps were also organized at Sub Divisional level in Vijaypur and Ghagwal where SDM Vinay Sharma and Ramkesh Sharma distributed passbooks among beneficiaries, respectively.

Wellness Workshop CANCER & REALITIES organized at Kissan Kendra Jammu

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 02: Wellness Workshop on CANCER & REALITIES was organized today for the awareness of officers and Staff of Directorate of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu here at Baba Jitto Kisan Kendra. Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), A. S. Reen chaired the workshop. The programme was organized under the instructions and guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu, K. K. Sharma. Aashnaa Oncology Association in collaboration with Sahyog India organized the wellness workshop. The experts included renowned Oncologists Dr Paras Khanna First & Only M. Ch Surgical Oncologist in JKUT & Dr Gurpreet Kaur - Head & Neck Cancer and Micro vascular Reconstructive Surgeon. Both the Experts Belong to AOA-Aashnaa On-

cology Association. In his keynote address, JD (Extension) said that the major goal of the workshop was to facilitate discussion and



encourage the participant to interact with experts to improve their knowledge regarding cancer prevention by early detection and further educating the farmers and other fellow people in this respect. Dr Paras Khanna deliber-

ated in detail on the topic 'perception and realities about cancer' and asked the participants to improve their understanding of causes, prevention and cure of cancer. He said that alcohol and tobacco are the major causes of cancer besides heredity, UV radiation, chemicals and exposure to smoke. He informed the participant about key cancer prevention, early detection and regular screen-

ing after the age of 50. It was also informed that HPV vaccine is also available in the market for cervical cancer. Dr Gurpreet Kaur talked about causes and prevention of mouth, throat and nose cancer and explained the risk involved at different stages focusing on the fact that early detection is the key to survival. A healthy interactive session was also held on the occasion. Welcome address and vote of Thanks was presented by Ashwani Kumar Jotra, ADO Udhampur. Joint Director (Agriculture & Mushroom), R. K. Hitaishi, Deputy Director (Trainings), Alok Pandotra, Spiritual Guide, Th. Jagdev Singh, President SAHYOG INDIA, Esther William besides other senior officers and officials of Department of Agriculture were also present on the occasion.

Teachers' Day celebration begins at PSPS Govt PG College for Women Gandhi Nagar

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 02: To commemorate the birth Anniversary of Dr S. Radha Krishnan, PSPS Govt P. G. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, on Friday started a special series of activities to mark the beginning of Teachers' Day Celebrations. The Presidium of the College organised FLIP THE CLASS Activity, wherein the students impersonated their teachers and interacted with the classmates as teachers. Principal of the College, Prof. Minu Mahajan appreciated the efforts and initiative taken by the students. She also applauded them for this creative beginning. She extended her greetings and congratulations to all the teachers on occasion of Teachers' Day, the birthday of the Teacher-turned-First Citizen of our great Motherland, the former President of India, and a great teacher, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. She added that a true teacher is one who always remains a keen student. Sarvepalli ji used to say, "When we think we know, we cease to learn". Teachers are the real builders of a strong society and

a strong nation. Therefore, it is our utmost responsibility to continue to work in the right earnest to build a strong nation" she said. Students also expressed gratitude towards their teachers. The pandemic times from last more than a year have necessitated adopting innovative methods for resilient teaching-learning processes. The students thanked the teachers for converting the challenges of pandemic into opportunities by radically integrating digital technology into teaching-learning, evaluation-examination and admissions. The programme was devised, organised and conducted by the Cultural Committee and presidium of the college. Students also expressed gratitude towards their teachers. The pandemic times from last more than a year have necessitated adopting innovative methods for resilient teaching-learning processes. The students thanked the teachers for converting the challenges of pandemic into opportunities by radically integrating digital technology into teaching-learning.

DDC Chairperson Udhampur reviews functioning of Jal Shakti Department

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 02: Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur, Lal Chand today reviewed the functioning of Jal Shakti Department at a meeting of concerned officers. The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer, DDC (Addl. Distt. Dev. Commissioner) Udhampur, Chairperson Block Development Councils; DDC Councilors, Superintendent Engineer Jal Shakti, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (Civil), Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (Mechanical), Executive Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control, Assistant Executive Engineer Ground Water Division and other officers/officials. In the meeting, overall functioning of the Jal Shakti Department was reviewed including the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), installation of handpumps and status of works of the Department taken up under Area Development Plan 2022-23 including.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG

people's participation to make J&K UT's cities and towns resilient, competitive, and dynamic with strong social infrastructure to tackle the challenges of growing urbanization.

The Lt Governor further observed that the concept of Smart City without Smart Citizen is meaningless. From developing Smart City to maintaining its systems and infrastructure, the participation of every citizen at every level is vital. It is the responsibility of the community to preserve and protect the amenities, he added.

The Lt Governor directed the officials to ensure the completion of the projects within a set time frame and called for adopting a realistic approach to make public services and urban infrastructure efficient with equal participation of all citizens, making cities smart with use of technology, to facilitate rapid socio-economic development and better quality of life.

Highlighting the impact of the Smart City projects inaugurated today, the Lt Governor said that the Facade Lighting of Mubarak Mandi, the priceless heritage of Dogra Dynasty, will add aesthetics to the heritage building, and boost the local economy by attracting more tourist influx.

The 10 new digital panels and advertisement panels at 110 locations apart from generating revenue for Jammu Municipal Corporation will also provide employment opportunities to locals, he added.

The Lt Governor observed that the project of street development from Mubarak Mandi to Raghunath Bazar, will provide a new experience of smart urban mobility to the citizens while preserving the cultural richness of the old market and locality of about five and a half kilometer road and its adjoining city. He expressed hope that once the project is completed in June 2023, Raghunath Bazar, Jain Bazar, Kanak Mandi, Moti Bazar will emerge as a smart commercial hub and will also provide new opportunities for economic growth to the existing businesses.

Another street development project from Canal Road to Talab Tillo Chowk costing Rs 20 crore has been planned to be completed with an integrated approach, keeping in mind the urban design process, urban management, mobility and local economic development, it was informed.

Speaking on the achievements of the revenue department, the Lt Governor said, under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi, major revenue reforms were introduced by the government in the last two years. Initiatives like 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' and institutionalization of 1553 Patwarkhanas has empowered the common citizens. Through digitization and land pass books, land disputes will be substantially reduced and it will be easier to check fraudulent transactions.

The land passbooks that have been distributed today are valid documents and to ensure its security, a unique number and QR code have been arranged in the passbook given to the land owners, he added.

The work of digitization of land records is going on in all 20 districts and out of 6912 villages, the process of digitization has been completed in 3049 villages i.e. land records of about 44.11% villages have been digitized, it was informed. Referring to the several issues projected by various quarters, the Lt Governor directed the officials to examine the issue of dilapidated condition of Bahu fort road leading to Bawe Wali Mata Temple and take necessary action at the earliest so that the local people and devotees do not face difficulties.

He further instructed for the execution of allied work of entry gate and approach road of Bawe Wali Mata and approach road of Har Ki Pauri at a rapid pace.

The Lt Governor also took note of the slow and unorganized progress of various Smart city works going on in the Gandhi Nagar area, and directed the concerned officials to ensure that works are not executed in a piecemeal manner on any stretch.

He called upon Engineers and Project Managers to draw project strategies that are simple, realistic and utilitarian. Our basic intent about the Smart City projects should be to make Public Services and Urban Infrastructure Efficient. On the occasion, the Lt Governor also directed all Deputy Commissioners to complete the modalities for the disbursement of next installment under PM Kisan to all the beneficiaries of Jammu Kashmir.

The projects inaugurated by the Lt Governor include- Façade lighting Illumination Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex at a cost of Rs 3.32 Cr; Digital Ad Panels at multiple locations across Jammu City costing Rs 3.48 Cr and Static Ad Panels at multiple locations across Jammu City worth Rs 4.95 Cr.

DELEGATION

in GDC Samba, besides other demands.

Meanwhile, political activist from Rajouri, Advocate Guftar Ahmed Chowdhary also called on the Lt Governor. He submitted a memorandum of demands for Kotranka Budhal Khawas area in particular & Peer Panjal region in general, which included, starting the work of GDC Kotranka, opening of new offices at Kotranka, Budhal and other areas, 400KVgrid station at Rajouri & 132KV grid station at Kotranka, besides establishing bank branches in far flung areas, outdoor stadium at Kotranka & Budhal, proper functioning of PHC's in remote areas and better roads in rural areas, among other issues.

The Lt Governor gave a patience hearing to the demands projected by the former minister and the Political activist, and assured them that the genuine issues put forth would be looked into for early redressal on merit.

DG POLICE

militants are waiting at the LoC across Kashmir to sneak into the valley.

The DGP said the numbers of militants have decreased to one-third of what they were three years before.

"The credit for the wiping of militancy goes to the people. Today, people are with peace.... They want end of terror and I congratulate the people, the youth for giving up the path of terror. I think the time has come to wipe the remaining one-third of the militancy which is remaining and I seek the support of the people for that," he said

DGP termed the presence of more pistols in the valley a tactical move by militants.

"It becomes easy to run militantly with a pistol when you can fire upon an innocent person after hiding the pistol. . We have seized a large amount of pistols as well as AK 47 rifles and ammunition which came from Pakistan. The shift from AK 47 to a pistol is a tactical shift as it is easy to hide it and fire it," Singh said .

DGP said the drug smuggling has increased more than before and Pakistan was using it for funding the militancy.

"The people have to fight it strongly as many youth are falling prey to drugs which will destroy our society. .. I want to alert the elders, socio-religious leaders, and religious preachers to make the youth aware about its effects and keep away from it," he said.

DGP said there was zero militancy in Kupwara and he wants it to be kept at zero only.

PULWAMA

Ugergund Newa. His condition is said to be stable.

"Militants fired upon one outside laborer Muneerul Islam son of Abdul Karim of West Bengal at Ugergund Newa in Pulwama. He has been shifted to district hospital Pulwama where his condition is stated to be stable," a police spokesman said.He said the area has been cordoned off to trace the attackers.

This year militants have carried out a series of attacks on non-locals and minorities in Kashmir.

CRIME

in custody.

Two cases of voyeurism and 26 cases of stalking were also reported during the last year, the report said.

It said 501 cases of cruelty by husband or his relatives, one case of acid attack, two attempted acid attacks came to light during the year.

There were 1,013 cases of abduction of women. Of these, in 447 cases, women were kidnapped for marriage.

Nine cases related to women-centric cybercrimes such as publishing or transmitting sexually explicit material and blackmailing or morphing/fake profiles were registered, 20 cases related to miscarriage, infanticide and feticide and three cases of human trafficking were registered, the report said.

It said 7,109 people, including 648 women, were arrested and 6,994 of them were charged.

Ninety five people, including five women, were convicted, while 1,056 were discharged and 1,175 acquitted by the courts.

The report said 1,135 cases ended up as false, four were labeled a mistake of fact or of law or civil dispute, 57 cases were found to be true but there was insufficient evidence, the report said.

In all, 4,343 cases were disposed of by police, it said.

The report said chargesheet was filed in 2,346 cases– 1,196 cases from 2020 and 801 cases of 2021.

The NCRB also said 12 cases were registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes-related acts and another nine were related to the prevention of damage to public property.

SC

It asked the NGO's lawyer Barun Sinha whether the petitioner has approached the competent authorities, to which Sinha replied in negative.

The lawyer also agreed to approach the Centre and UT administration.

The bench then proceeded to record in its order that the petitioner has chosen to withdraw the petition and is thus given the liberty to file representations before appropriate authorities.

The petition sought a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits and Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir between 1990 and 2003, which forced their exodus from the valley. It further prayed for conducting a census of Hindus and Sikhs who were compelled to migrate out of the valley and rehabilitate them again.

The police and other state machinery, the petition claimed, were so influenced at the relevant time by the leadership of the ruling political parties that no legal action was taken against the perpetrators and masterminds of the religious killings and exodus.

"The Government and State machinery failed to act to protect the life of Hindus and Sikhs and allowed anti-national, terrorists and anti-social elements to take control of the whole of Kashmir", the petition contended, adding a large number of first information reports (FIRs) registered at that time were never taken to their logical conclusion even as it has been over 30 years since the "ethnic cleansing",

"The dastardly Genocide and Exodus of Kashmiri Hindus and Sikhs which happened in 1989-90 in the Kashmir valley is a glaring example of complete failure of Constitutional Machinery in preventing the genocide and protecting the life, property of the Kashmiri Hindu and Sikh in the Kashmir valley. Therefore, the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under Article 14, 19 & 21 of the Constitution of India were openly violated," the petition added.

The plea also seeks a direction to declare as null and void the sale of properties, including religious, residential, agricultural, commercial, institutional, educational post exodus in January 1990.

In July 2017, the Supreme Court had turned down a separate plea for an investigation into the "mass murders and genocide of Kashmiri Pandits during 1989-90 and subsequent years" and the "reasons for non-prosecution of FIRs" of the incidents.

The plea by 'Roots in Kashmir' had then alleged that 215 first information reports (FIRs) had been lodged relating to the murder of over 700 Kashmiri Pandits and none of the cases have reached a logical conclusion.

The apex court, however, rejected the petition at that time on the ground that more than 27 years had elapsed in the matter and evidence are unlikely to be available.

Later, the review and the curative petitions against the July 2017 dismissal order were also not entertained.

BUKHARI

"We held a meeting today where everyone unanimously decided that a delegation of Apni Party will meet the LG and demand the restoration of statehood formally," he said.

He said during his public meetings in the last three months, people have been advocating the demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

"We will also submit memorandums to the LG through Deputy Commissioners in all the 20 districts across J-K. We want to register and achieve the statehood which was taken away from us on August 5, 2019," he said.

He said the prime minister and the Union home minister had promised in Parliament that Jammu and Kashmir's statehood would be restored. The former state minister also demanded the release of the youths detained in Kashmir Valley in the past few months.

"Preventive detentions have taken place in the last few months. First they (authorities) said it was to maintain law and order. Then they said it was for the smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra. Now that the Yatra is over and it concluded smoothly, we demand that all the youths in jails be released," he said.

He said there was a "draconian system" of detaining people for some faults of their relatives.

They are not given employment. Some are told the verification of their credentials is awaited. "Should we then hang our youths in Lal Chowk as there is no future for them," he said.

Asked about the apprehensions of outsiders being added to the electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir, Bukhari said the government had given assurances that there would be no wrongdoing.

"When this exercise will culminate by the end of September, we will pick up the first rolls to check if there are outsiders," he said.

On a question about former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad announcing floating a new party in Jammu and Kashmir, Bukhari said the former Rajya Sabha MP might have defended Article 370 in Parliament and even tore his shirt, "but let me tell the truth that Azad sahab voted for the abrogation of Article 370".

RAJOURI

prior information about movement of militants who took advantage of the natural camouflage in the shape of wild growth and vegetation, a normal phenomenon during monsoon...After that attack (on August 11), security was further heightened and an alert was sounded in view of the presence of two to three more splinter groups in the Pir Panjal region," the police officer said during an interaction on social networking site Facebook.

He said the militant groups are on the radar of security agencies and are being regularly followed to neutralize them as soon as possible.

"A contact was established with one such group (within a week of the first attack) but they slipped away taking advantage of inclement weather and darkness coupled with dense forest," Mughal said.

He said the security forces are jointly carrying out cordon and search operations in broader areas on a regular basis to provide a sense of security to the people so that they

continue their normal activities like farming without any fear.

"The support structure for militants in both Rajouri and Poonch is almost negligible. People helped security forces to bust a number of modules in the recent past," Mughal said, appealing to the people to help security forces maintain peace in the region.

"Peace is prosperity...Whenever you find any suspicious movement or a suspicious object, immediately report to the concerned police station, control room or security establishment. We will ensure an immediate response," he said.

The senior police officer asserted that peace is not possible without the support of the people.

"They are stakeholders of peace and we can play our part, but they too have to play their active role," he said, adding police and security forces are always ready to extend their support to the people.

The DIG, also said police have set up an online grievance redressal system for public and police personnel to ensure that their problems are resolved on time.

"The major agenda of the government is to reach out to the people and mitigate their sufferings. We have taken this initiative as part of the agenda," he said, adding while the issues pertaining to police will be addressed by the department, those concerning the civil administration will be forwarded to the departments concerned.

FICCI

over these years has transformed and brought efficiency and transparency in the system.

The VCS has transformed the process of issuance of No Objection Certificates/Vigilance Clearances to the government employees within a very short span of time without requiring submitting application in person sans follow up. The digital intervention has eased the burden of backlogs and departments have been able to conduct their DPCs, issue NOCs for obtaining Passport, sanction study leaves, deputations & foreign visits. Around 7000 promotions and regularization of employees have been done by the departments based on timely availability of Vigilance clearance.

The VCS has been designed and developed by the team of GAD (Vigilance) and Directorate of IT&SS, University of Kashmir (under consultancy mode), in tandem with ACB as a team work and is first of its kind in the country. Since its inception in July 2021, the GAD (Vigilance) has been able to issue more than 45000 Vigilance Clearances. The award was presented at FICCI Federation House, New Delhi today while as the award was received on behalf of J&K Govt by Director ACB, Anand Jain; Director IT&SS, University of Kashmir, Dr. Maroof Naeem Qadri and Deputy Secretary (Vigilance), GAD, J&K Govt, Dr Mohammad Usman Khan.

On the occasion, Director ACB, Anand Jain spoke on the use and deployment of technology in vigilance.

WEATHER

"Weather is likely to remain dry in J&K during the next 24 hours", an official of the MeT office said. Srinagar recorded 17.2 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 11.8 and Gulmarg 10.5 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature this morning.

Doda: 30 females benefited under TEJASWINI scheme, 25 unemployed get Mini Goods Carriers

DODA, SEPTEMBER 02: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan on Monday handed over Keys of Mini- Goods Carriers among 25 unemployed youth under MUMKIN Scheme and loan sanction letters to 30 female beneficiaries under TEJASWINI here at a simple function held in District Employment and Counselling Centre Akram Abad .

The DDC also interacted with the beneficiaries and urged them to work with full dedication and enthusiasm which shall eventually lead to their socio-economic uplift. He congratulated the beneficiaries and wished them success in their chosen venture.

Deputy Director Employment Idrees Lone, AD Employment Dr Sushant Mahajan, besides other officials were also present.

JKTF Baramulla felicitates Mohmmad Amin Khan on taking the reigns as Chairman Jammu KashmirTeachers Forum.



In a statement issued to it's media wing District President JKTF Baramulla Ishfaq Ahmad Shah along with its rank and file has extended felicitations to the Veteran Trade Union leader Mr.Mohammad Amin Khan on taking the reigns as Chairman JKTF.Shah said Mohd Amin Khan is a versatile trade union leader who has served the organization in various capacities has been elected as Chairman JKTF in a grand function which was held at Nirmaan complex auditorium hall on 1st day of September 2022 in which his predecessor renowned trade union leader Mr Mohd Rafique Rather was given affectionate send-off. Shah while hoping that Mohd Amin Khan will play a vital role in strengthening and making the organization a vibrant force to reckon with.He said Khan will left no stone unturned to safeguard the honor and rights of students and teachers.The organization will surely touch new heights under the leadership of Mohd Amin Khan, Shah added.Shah while extending the support and cooperation of it's entire cadre urged Chairman Mohd Amin Khan to strongly raise all the pending issues with higher authorities including the issue of Transfer Policy in favor of Grade2, Grade 3 teachers who are stagnant from decades.

377 Vaccinated, 741 samples collected in Ramban

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 02: As per District Immunization Officer Ramban, Dr. Suresh, the Health Department today administered covid vaccination precaution doses to 377 persons in the district.Continuing the enforcement drive to implement Covid protocol, the Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking Covid vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, the Health Department has collected 741 samples including 170 RT-PCR and 571 RAT.

NEWS HEADLINES TODAY

Food Safety Department Carries Intensive Inspection Of Markets In Gandoh, Assar

Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhadarwah, Sept 2:While intensifying the market checking, Food Safety Department DFCO Doda launched intensive drive in Gandoh and Assar Sub Divisions of district Doda today. Apart from resorting to routinely checking, the Food Business Operators were made aware about the Standard maintenance of essential items and for this, a special drive has been started in far flung areas of district Doda.

The Enforcement Officer Gondoh carried a drive in the outskirts of Bhallessa.

On this occasion, special lecturers were conducted by the enforcement team which is a way to spread the message to each individual to ensure availability of Safe food, Hygienic & wholesome essential commodities to the Consumers & public .

So as to ascertain the standards of the available products, 04 samples were lifted for analysis under FSSA.

During this exercise, the public on the whole were apprised of Food Fortification, RUCO & General awareness especially to maintain hygienic practices & to follow packing & Labelling norms under FSSA. The team instructed the Food Business Operators not to make sale or exhibition of loose food items which are not covered under the Act.

Meanwhile, the Enforcement Officer at Ganota Assar carried an extensive inspection of the Langars for Machail yatra.

"The Department is committed to grapple with the notorious practices of the Adulterations & bring down the lump of surge of the menace, for taking adequate steps for which the Enforcement Officers have been equipped with latest instruments ,Magic Boxes & online set ups which pave a methodic way to mitigate the human sufferings," disclosed Taraq Ahmad Butt- Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Doda.

NC committed to protect J&K's cultural diversity: Sagar Address party functionaries in SK Bhawan Jammu

Jammu, 02 Sep: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar on Friday said that the party is committed to country's secularist tradition and unity in diversity.

This he said while presiding over a meeting of Party functionaries of Jammu Urban, Jammu Rural A, Jammu Rural B, Samba, Reasi and Kathua districts at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu. Among others Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta, senior leader AG Malik, District presidents were also present on the occasion.

While addressing the functionaries Sagar said that the defining characteristics of NC has been that it has been able to sustain democratic governance and equitable development of all ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups in J&K. Kashmiris, Dogras, Gujjars, Paharis have all remained deeply attached to their sense of collective history and to their identity. Efforts that are being made to break this bond will be resisted and its JKNC under the able leadership of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah is spearheading this movement once again," he said adding, "People of J&K are fed-up with the hollow promises made over the period last four years. Its time that we tell the people in power that enough is enough. Nobody can take people of J&K for granted."

Among others Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Abdul Gani Malik former minister and Zone President Udhampur Reasi, Brij Mohan Sharma Provincial Vice President, Surinder Singh Bunty Provincial Vice President, Jagjeevan Lal former minister and District President Reasi, Jugal Mahajan, Bushan Lal Bhat Ex-MLC, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat Ex-MLA, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Vijay Lochan P.P SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli P.P OBC Cell, Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Mohinder Singh, Pardeep Bali,Satwant Kour Dogra P.P Women Wing Jammu Province, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Raghvir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Naresh Bhattu District President Jammu Rural B, Sudagar Chand Gupta District President Samba, Ajeet Kumar Sharma District President Kathua Urban, Sham Narian Mehta District President Kathua Rural,Vijay Laxmi Dutta, Ch. Rehmat Ali BDC Chairman, Shahmim Begum DDC Dansal,Zeeshan Rana Addl. Spokesperson Jammu,Ashok Kumar Attri,Reeta Gupta,Tariq Butt, G.H Malik, Ashok Dogra,Ravi Dogra, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rashida Begum,Daljeet Sharma, K.K Bakashi, S. Gurnam Singh, Mohinder Kumar Rana, S. Parvinder Singh, Waris Gill,Devinder Mehta, Shabir Sambyal, Sain Dass, Harsh vardhan, Reyaz Ahmed Hakala, Madan Lal, Mohinder Singh, Thoru Ram, Farooq Mughal, S. Tejinder Singh, Nitish Gowsami, Munzamil Malik and others.

Sagar said that there is no scope communal politics in J&K, saying the people of the region, particularly Jammu have long been living in amity and brotherhood. "Jammu has whole heartedly welcomed distressed groups from all the corners of the region. Communal harmony has long been the harmony of the people of Jammu, Pir Panjal and Chenab. It is high time that we join our efforts to protect this prized heirloom of ours," he said. On the occasion he asked the party cadre to gear up for the upcoming observance of Sher e Kashmir's death anniversary.

In his address Rattan Lal Gupta said, "NC has always been a great advocate of secularism and will continue to do so. We don't need lessons of secularism from others. Our party has withstood all the vestibules of time. It was in our efforts that father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi saw a ray of hope

He further added, "The youth of Jammu are hankering for basic rights. Unemployment has reached to its crescendo. In the forthcoming elections, people of Jammu have made up their minds to teach the BJP and its cronies a lesson of their life."

Police facilitates PCPG meeting in Kulgam

Farooq Rather



September 02: As a part of Public outreach programme, Police in Kulgam facilitated a Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG)meeting at Police Station Qazigund. The meeting was chaired by SDPO Qazigund besides SHO PS Qazigund was also present. The meeting was attended by ward members of municipal committee Qazigund, Auqaf committees, Chowkidars, Traders federations, various market associations, representatives and prominent respectables of Qazigund area.

During the meeting, several issues of public importance were discussed. The chairing officers assured time bound redressal of grievances pertaining to Police. Chairing officers also laid focus on Community Policing, and requested people to provide factual information in identifying anti-national elements who always try to disrupt the peaceful environment. He also sought cooperation of people in eradicating the social evils prevailing in the society particularly menace of drugs.

The participants in the meeting assured their full co-operation to Police in tackling social evils and also appreciated the efforts of Police in facilitating community interaction meets where participants express their opinions freely.

Our security concerns Indian Ocean, Indo-Pacific: PM

Kochi, Sep 2 (UNI) Commissioning the first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared India's security interests to the world and hailed the momentous occasion as the country did away with yet another mark of her colonial past with the Navy unveiling a "bharatiya nishaan".

"The global environment is changing. It has made the world multi-polar. In approaching times, it becomes very important to see which will be the center of activities in future," the Prime Minister said commenting on the changing geo-strategic situation.

"For example, security concerns in the Indo-Pacific region and the Indian Ocean have been ignored for a long time in the past.

"But, today this region is a major priority for us. So we are working in every direction, from increasing the budget for the Navy to increasing its capacity," he added.

He said that the commissioning of aircraft carrier INS Vikrant is analogous to a sunrise in New India.

This aircraft carrier is testament to our strong resolve for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. INS Vikrant is the symbol of New India's potential, hardwork and commitment... It's an example of government's thrust to making India's defence sector self-reliant," he said.

The event being held on INS Vikrant is a reflection of India's



growing spirits on the world horizon, the Prime Minister added.

Unveiling the new Naval Ensign (Nishaan), inspired by Maratha warrior king, Modi said the nation is also finally "doing away with the colonial past" as the "Nishaan" is befitting the rich Indian maritime heritage.

"Today on the historic date of September 2, 2022, another history-changing act has happened. India has taken off a trace of slavery, a burden of slavery. Indian Navy has got a new flag from today. The identity of slavery remained on the flag of Indian Navy for decades.

"But from today onwards, in-

spired by Chhatrapati Shivaji, the new Navy flag will fly in the sea



and in the sky," he said. Today, India has joined those countries in the world, which manufacture such a huge aircraft carrier with indigenous technology, he said.

"Every part of INS Vikrant has its own merits, a strength, a development journey of its own. It is a symbol of indigenous potential, indigenous resources and indigenous skills. The steel installed in its airbase is also indigenous, developed by DRDO scientists and produced by Indian companies," he said.

Explaining the massive proportions of the Carrier, the Prime Minister said it is like a floating

city, it produces electricity that is sufficient to power 5,000 households and the wiring used will reach Kashi from Kochi.

He said that INS Vikrant is a living embodiment of the Spirit of the Panch Prans that he proclaimed from the ramparts of Red Fort on August 15.

The Prime Minister spoke about the Indian Maritime tradition and naval capabilities. Chhatrapati Veer Shivaji Maharaj, he said, had built such a navy that it kept the enemies on their toes.

"When the British came to India, they used to be intimidated by the power of Indian ships and trade through them. So they decided to break the back of India's maritime power.

"History is witness to how strict restrictions were imposed on Indian ships and merchants by enacting a law in the British Parliament at that time," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister remarked that when Vikrant descends to protect our maritime zone, many women soldiers of the Navy will also be stationed there.

"With the immense power of the ocean, boundless female power, it is becoming the identity of the new India.

"Now the Indian Navy has decided to open all its branches for women. The restrictions that were there are now being removed.

AAP To Meet President Next Week To Complain About BJP's "Operation Lotus"

New Delhi: With a complaint against the BJP over alleged "buying" attempts, Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi legislators led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will meet President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday. The party says the BJP has been misusing central government's agencies and offering "Rs 20 crore each" to some of its MLAs to switch sides. It cites the liquor policy probe against Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia as an example of "the attempts to intimidate".

The appointment granted by the President on AAP's request is its next step after a session of the Delhi assembly, where it proved its numbers again in a display of unity and heft. The trust vote, it stressed, had underlined the failure of "Operation Lotus", a term derived from the BJP's poll symbol, often used by Opposition parties to refer to "poaching" of MLAs by the Centre's ruling party.

The BJP has denied the allegations, and said the AAP is trying to divert attention from corruption cases.

But AAP's Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha today said to NDTV in an interview, "The more Arvind Kejriwal's popularity rises at the national level, the more they will attack our leaders."

In the assembly yesterday, during a discussion on the trust vote, Mr Kejriwal said that CBI's searches at Manish Sisodia's home and bank would increase the AAP's appeal in Gujarat. He claimed the party's vote share in Gujarat had increased "by four per cent" and it would rise "by another six per cent" if his second-in-command



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Taiwan tycoon to train three million 'civilian warriors'

TAIPEI: A colourful Taiwanese tycoon unveiled plans on Thursday to train more than three million "civilian warriors" to help defend the democratic island in the event of a Chinese invasion, donating \$33 million of his own money. Robert Tsao, 75, is one of Taiwan's most successful businessmen and founded major microchip maker United Microelectronics Corp (UMC).

He has been increasingly outspoken against Beijing, and his donation comes after China's military put on a huge show of force to protest US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei last month. Taiwan lives under constant threat of invasion by China, which claims the self-ruled island as part of its territory to be seized one day — by force if necessary. For a week after Pelosi's visit, China sent warships, missiles and fighter jets into the waters and skies around Taiwan, its largest and most aggressive exercises since the mid-1990s. Tsao, who donned body armour for his announcement, warned it would be "an intentional slaughter and vicious war crime and crime against humanity" if China were to use force against Taiwan. The tycoon said he would put TW\$600 million towards training three million "black bear warriors" in the next three years who could work alongside the military. Another TW\$400 million will be used to train 300,000 "marksmen" with shooting skills. Tsao, who no longer holds any position or title with UMC, portrayed the risk posed by China as existential.

Bankrupt Sri Lanka's deposed president 'to return home'

Bankrupt Sri Lanka's deposed former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa is expected to end his self-imposed exile in Thailand and return home on Saturday, a top defence official told AFP. The 73-year-old fled the island under military guard in July after a huge crowd stormed his official residence, following months of angry public protests blaming him for the island nation's unprecedented economic crisis. Read more: How Sri Lanka spiralled into crisis. He issued his resignation from Singapore before flying onward to Bangkok, where he has been petitioning his successor to facilitate his return. "He has been living in a Thai hotel as a virtual prisoner and was keen to return," the defence official, who asked not to be named, told AFP on Friday.

On PM Ambitions, Nitish Kumar Says "Leave It" While Party Posters Say A Lot

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, "Pradesh mein dikha, desh mein dikhega" (It's been



Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments — that "action on the corrupt is creating a new polarisation in politics" — but avoided direct answers about his own national ambitions. Yet, posters at his party office have been saying a lot in one-liners.

Millions locked down in China's Chengdu over Covid outbreak

Millions were stuck at home in China's Chengdu on Friday after a handful of Covid-19 cases brought the megacity to a standstill. Supermarket shelves were stripped bare this week as locals in the city — a powerhouse economic hub in China's southwest that is home to 21 million people — feared a repeat of the months-long lockdown in the eastern megalopolis of Shanghai earlier this year. Long lines of residents queued for mandatory testing, while videos verified by AFP showed supermarket shelves cleared of produce. One local, who asked to remain anonymous, told AFP he believed "everyone was crazily stocking up for goods" because of the experience of Shanghai, which was hit by food shortages during its lockdown. The 25-year-

promises. Nitish Kumar's likely national role as an Opposition candidate for the PM's post is a matter of much speculation since his breakup with the BJP last month.

About the PM's remark that came a day after Kumar's much publicised meeting with his Telangana counterpart K Chandrababhan Rao, the Bihar leader said, "I have had an opportunity to work under respected Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I do not care much for what those ruling the Centre now have to say." The statement is being construed as an assertion that he'd been in national politics, even a union minister, since the late 1990s, before Narendra Modi's rise.

Mr Kumar also sought to remind the PM that in many states the BJP has ended up aligning with those whom it previously.

Sack Delhi Lt Governor For Illegal Award Of Contract To Daughter: AAP To PM Modi

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party or AAP today alleged that Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena misused his position and awarded a contract for interior designing of a Khadi lounge in Mumbai to his daughter when he was the KVIC chairman and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "immediately" sack him. Addressing a press conference, AAP national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh also demanded that legal proceedings be initiated against Mr Saxena for allegedly awarding the contract to his daughter Shwanti Saxena in violation of the law. "LG VK Saxena, during his term as KVIC chairman, misused his position and awarded a contract for interior designing of a Khadi lounge in Mumbai to his daughter. In awarding the contract, he violated the provisions of the KVIC Act 1961," Mr Singh charged. He said the Prime Minister should immediately sack Mr Saxena as the Delhi LG and legal action should be taken against him for illegally award-

ing the contract to his daughter.

The AAP is holding consultations with its senior lawyers and preparing to approach the court in the matter, Mr Singh said. "Delhi LG can't escape his misdeeds. We will soon be approaching court in the matter because the due process of awarding the contract was not followed," he said, asking "how can the KVIC chairman give a contract to his relative?" Taking to Twitter, Mr Singh had on Thursday asked Mr Saxena if he had awarded a contract to his daughter without floating any tender when he was the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) chief. Reacting to the AAP MP's allegation, the LG's office had tweeted that Mr Saxena, as KVIC chairman, had got the design of the Khadi Lounge, Mumbai made by his daughter, who is a designer, free of cost. "It should be known that the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, as KVIC president, had got the design of Khadi Lounge, Mumbai made free of cost (pro bono) requesting his daughter.



old said he had been in the eastern city during its shutdown and had since been "habitually stocking up" before Chengdu's latest measures were announced. Under the rules, in force until Sunday, each household will be allowed to send one person out to buy groceries and es-

sential goods per day, provided they have tested negative for Covid-19 in the previous 24 hours, an official notice said.

It added that all residents would be tested for the virus, urging them not to leave the city unless "absolutely necessary".

The mood appeared calmer on social media on Friday, with some residents saying they were able to order food to be delivered to their apartment gates and to go out to buy groceries.

Others said they had resorted to sleeping at their offices in order not to miss work. Authorities had initially sought to quash talk of a looming lockdown, with police saying they had detained a man for "creating panic" after he warned that the city could shut down.

Afghanistan mosque blast kills 18, including top cleric

A huge bomb blast on Friday at one of the biggest mosques in western Afghanistan killed at least 18 people, including an influential cleric who earlier this year called for those who commit "the smallest act" against the government to be beheaded.

Images posted on Twitter showed what appeared to be blood-stained bodies scattered around the compound of Gazargah Mosque in Herat city.

Violence has largely declined since the Taliban returned to power last year, but several bomb blasts — some targeting minority communities — have rocked the country in recent months, many claimed by the militant Islamic State (IS) group.

At least 18 people were killed and 23 wounded in Friday's blast, said Hameedullah Motawakel, spokesman for the governor of Herat province, in a text message to media.

Government spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid confirmed Mujib ur Rahman Ansari, the imam of the mosque, was among the dead.

"A strong and courageous re-

ligious scholar of this country was martyred in a brutal attack," he said on Twitter.



Ansari was an influential cleric known for his fiery speeches. In July, during a religious gathering in Kabul, he strongly defended Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers.

"Whoever commits the smallest act against our Islamic government should be beheaded," he had said.

"This (Taliban) flag has not been raised easily, and it will not be lowered easily."

Before the Taliban returned to power in August last year, Ansari was known for his ti-



rades against the previous US-backed governments.

Ansari is the second pro-Taliban cleric to be killed in a blast in less than a month, after an earlier suicide attack targeted Rahimullah Haqqani at his madrassa in Kabul.

Haqqani was known for angry speeches against IS, who later claimed responsibility for his death. He had also spoken in favour of girls being allowed

to attend secondary school, despite the government banning them from attending classes in most provinces.

Several mosques across the country have been targeted this year, some in attacks claimed by IS.

At least 21 people were killed and dozens more wounded on August 17 when a blast ripped through a mosque packed with worshippers in Kabul.

Government officials claim that IS has been defeated but experts say the group is the main security challenge for the country's current rulers. Ansari was an influential cleric known for his fiery speeches. In July, during a religious gathering in Kabul, he strongly defended Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers.

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Clashes in Basra kill four as crisis flares in Iraq's south

BAGHDAD: Clashes among rival Shia militants in the Iraqi city of Basra have killed at least four people, security officials said on Thursday, as violence from a worsening political crisis hit the south of the country.

The unrest began with two days of intense street fighting in Baghdad earlier in the week, the worst the Iraqi capital has seen for years. The crisis amounts to a power struggle between the powerful cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and mostly Iran-aligned parties and paramilitary groups. Both sides have tried to exert their control over formation of a new government since an election in October. The struggle began with political moves in parliament and the judiciary, went to the streets as Sadr withdrew from the political process and staged protests during the summer, and then degenerated into violence at the end of August.

It has left Iraq, which is reeling from years of war, sanctions, civil strife and corruption, without a government for the longest period since the 2003 US invasion which toppled dictator Saddam Hussein.

The violence has centred on Baghdad and the south, areas dominated by Iraq's Shia majority which has ruled the country since Saddam's regime was swept away. "The security situation in Basra is really bad, and could escalate," one of the security officials said. Both security officials in Basra, Iraq's main oil-producing hub, said the deadliest clashes took place overnight in the centre of the city. Two of those killed were members of Sadr's Peace Brigades militia, they said. On Thursday morning, gunmen attacked government buildings in Basra where security forces and paramilitary groups with links to Iran are stationed.

LG's Rolling trophy selection trials continue in Zone Nagam



BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 02: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Nagam Budgam today on day 2nd continued to conduct selection trials for LG's Rolling Trophy at Open Ground Nopora for Boys in the age group of 19 to 35 years in the discipline of cricket. District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Gurmukh Singh Datta inaugurated the selection trials and highlighted the importance of sports. He said through the LG cup, the Department of YSS provides an excellent platform to young players and sports brings all-round development and success in future. A large number of participants from various panchayat Halgas of Zone Nagam participated in the said selection trials with great enthusiasm.

DC inaugurates Inter Zonal District level U/14 and U/17 Girls Netball tournament

Farooq Rather



KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 02: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today inaugurated Inter Zonal District level U/14 and U/17 and U/19 Girls Netball tournament at Sports Stadium, here. Present on the occasion were President Municipal Council Kulgam, besides ADC, ACR, DYS&SO and other officers. The tournament was organized by Department of Youth Services and Sports Kulgam under the banner of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abiyaan and was participated by more than 180 participants of the District. The DC said that District Administration has taken concerted efforts to develop sports infrastructure across the district and has developed near about 200 playfields in the district. He added that efforts are afoot for further improvement and augmentation of sports infrastructure to provide best possible sports infrastructure to Youth and sports lovers of the district. Dr. Bilal on the occasion interacted with the participants of ongoing cricket League which has been organized by District police, Municipality Council Kulgam in collaboration with Department of District Youth services and sports Kulgam. He also interacted with girls who are participating in Women Cricket League. He added that efforts are afoot for further improvement and augmentation of sports infrastructure to provide best possible sports infrastructure to Youth and sports.

Sports enthusiasts & clubs throng J&K Sports Council to tie up for "My Youth My Pride" Events under Ice-Stock championship continue on day-2

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 02: The special initiative for inclusive sports of all, My Youth My Pride is gaining popularity among the masses with dozens of clubs and sports organizations rushing to the J&K Sports Council's head office to tie up with organizers for the programme. Moreover, Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul received scores of such delegations over many days, she assured all genuine demands are in active consideration and after proper examination, shall be addressed on merit.

Meanwhile, the Ice-Stock championship organized jointly by J&K Sports Council and J&K Ice Stock Association in the Gindun Sports Complex Rajbagh, Srinagar entered its second day, today. On the day one of the championship, Kupwara men comprising Aadil Manzoor Peer and Navaid Nabi bagged the top slots in the individual target men while Srinagar's Ashiq Sultan and Shopian's Burhan Qayoom jointly shared the third place. Srinagar eves compensated for the men in individual target women by bagging all the three positions with Simran Mehraj bagging the gold, Azhar fatima clinching Silver and Basira

Amreen Khan getting hold of bronze but she had to share the third slot with



her counterpart Mehwish Rashid from Budgam.

Events in the individual target for boys and girls were also held later in the day, yesterday in which Srinagar district dominated the proceedings in both the categories clinching top two positions in both categories. Simran Mehraj and Azhar Fatima clinched Gold and Silver medals respectively in girl's category while Kiraan-ul-Khair Wani and Ibaad-u-Lone bagged top

two positions in the Boys category. The third position in both the categories



was shared by Basira Amreen Khan from Budgam and Mehwish Rashid Srinagar for girls and Huzaifa Farooq from Pulwama and Sozan Nazir from Kupwara. On the day-2 of the championship, team target events in women, men, girls and boys categories were held. The target men's team gold went into the kitty of Kupwara while Srinagar A bagged the gold and Srinagar B and Pulwama settled for bronze. Similar-

ly in women team target Scarlet Queens of Srinagar pocketed gold while team 4-Musketeers bagged silver and teams of district Baramulla and Bandipora jointly shared bronze medal. In boys team target category Extreme Srinagar and Growth Sports Kupwara bagged gold and silver medals respectively while Anantnag and Ganderbal shared third spot. Similarly in the girls team target category T.F Sports and Fantastic Team from Pulwama bagged gold and silver medals while Growth Sports Kupwara and Srinagar jointly shared third place.

My Youth My Pride events in the discipline of Yoga were also held in Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium Bandipora today which witnessed a massive participation of athletes from different areas. Moreover, special football coaching classes for toddlers and seniors were also in progress in Gindun Sports Complex Rajbagh Srinagar which mostly remains abuzz with the sports activities from dawn to dusk.

Sports activities under My Youth My Pride and regular coaching and training classes in many other districts of the union territory were also in progress.

Football Fever Grips Bandipora town; Thousands attend Tribute Match played under floodlights at SK Stadium

Suhail Rather



Bandipora, 01 Sep: Football fever has gripped Bandipora where Night Football Match between Downton FC and SFA Bandipora in memory of Irshad Ahmad (Shada) played on Thursday under lights in Sheri Kashmir Sports Stadium Bandipora.

The Match which started at around 7:30Pm and ended at 9:30 and saw lines outside stadium flooded with people coming all around the Town. As the news of match which was scheduled to be played under floodlights went viral on social media, huge rush of people left the cosy atmosphere at their home moved towards the ground.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed along Chief planning officer Bandipora Imtiyaz Ahmad & DySP Hqr Bandipora Mohd. Shafat attended the match and expressed gratitude of Teams and spectators for coming in large number to watch the tribute match organised by Football Community Bandipora in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora. While interacting with players, Dr. Owais appreciated the youth for participating in the various sports activities and staying away from Drugs. He urged all the participants, organisers and spectators to spread the message of drug free Bandipora and motivate youth to participate in sports and developmental activities.

He said the Administration is committed to promote sports in the district and urged youth to come forward on different platforms to showcase their talent. Officers lauded the efforts of organizers for providing a platform to youth and engage them in sports activities. Earlier, SFA Bandipora dominated the match scored two goals in First half and one more in second half while Downton FC could only manage to score maiden goal in second half.

The match was witnessed by thousands of people who thronged stadium from every nook and corner of the district.

Australia pick Tim David for T20 World Cup

SYDNEY: Singapore-born batting powerhouse Tim David was on Thursday called up by Australia for this year's Twenty20 World Cup on home soil, the only change to the squad that won the tournament last year. David's stunning elevation comes at the expense of leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson, with the 26-year-old earning his chance after a series of headline-grabbing individual performances

across domestic cricket. "Tim continues to establish himself with some quality performances in leagues around the world, earning a place in the squad," said chairman of selectors George Bailey of the giant Western Australia-raised middle-order hitter. "He is a highly gifted, natural ball striker who will add extra batting depth to the group which has had a lot of success in T20 cricket. "We expect him to play

a similar role to that he has been playing in the past few years." Right-hander David played 14 T20s for Singapore but is eligible to switch allegiance because he has Australian parents. He burst into the spotlight in the Pakistan Super League last season and has become hot property as a finishing batsman in global leagues including the Indian Premier League and Australia's Big Bash

League. Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting is a big fan. "He's the sort of player that could actually win you a World Cup," Ponting said recently of David, who was signed by the Mumbai Indians at the 2022 IPL auction. "I know there are some other great world-quality players in the middle order for Australia, but probably none of them boasts the resume as good as Tim's over the last two years."

Pakistan set up match with India after crushing Hong Kong by 158 runs

Pakistan bowlers demolished a fledgling Hong Kong batting line-up and delivered a 158-run victory in the Asia Cup fixture at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Friday, securing a spot in the Super Four and a rematch with India this Sunday. The bowling attack, led by spinners Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz, took full advantage of the sticky pitch. The pair shared seven wickets between them with four bagged by Khan and three claimed by the

left-arm spinner. The foundation for the big victory was laid by pacers Naseem Shah and Shahnawaz Dahani who grabbed two wickets and one wicket, respectively. And, the batters who set a mammoth target for the relatively inexperienced team. Earlier, Hong Kong skipper Nizakat Khan won the toss and elected to field first against Pakistan. Since then, the Men in Green started cracking shots left and right, losing



only two wickets. Noteworthy performances were of Mohammad Rizwan, who

was not out at 78 (in 57 balls) and Fakhar Zaman, who hit a knock of 53 out

of 41 balls before getting caught out. But the star of the innings was Khushdil Shah, whose 15-ball 35 was rapid and furious. He hit five sixers, four in the last over, completely dismantling the hard work the Hong Kong bowlers put in during the first ten overs. The winner will seal the last remaining spot of the Super Four stage while the loser goes out of the six-nation tournament that acts as a tune-up to the T20 World Cup in October-November in Australia.

Pakistan and Hong Kong had lost their respective opening match to India, who made the next round from Group A. Hong Kong, an associate cricket nation who made a respectable 152-5 while chasing 193 against India in their previous match, come in unchanged at Sharjah. "We are very good at chasing. We are going to make sure today that we stick to our plans and execute them," the Pakistan-born Nizakat said at the toss.

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