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Voice To The Voiceless

LG Sinha visits Baltal, reviews status of preparedness of Amarnath Yatra

Overall arrangements for Yatra have been upgraded. All possible steps to be taken for pilgrimage to be convenient, safe and hassle-free: LG Sinha

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JUN 14: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha visited Baltal today and reviewed the status of preparedness of Shri Amarnath Ji annual pilgrimage through Baltal route.

Before on-site inspection, a review meeting was held at Sonamarg that was attended by Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Ms. Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Sh Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Sh Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and senior officials of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Civil Administration, Police, CAPFs and Army.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



LG addresses J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides UT-level Camporee at Sonamarg

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JUN 14: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides UT-level Camporee at International Youth Hostel, Sonamarg, today.

He called upon the youth to join the campaign against drug addiction and help the administration to eradicate this menace from society.

"Youth power is infinite source of energy that is always ready to serve, always ready to make a difference, always ready to embark on adventurous pursuits, always ready to innovate, invent and always ready to transform the society for greater good," said the Lt Governor.

Young Scouts and Guides through community services, Scout movement can assist PRIs and ULBs in making J&K UT drug-free, he added.

Highlighting the key initiatives of the government for empowerment of youth, the Lt Governor said, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the youth are being provided with countless opportunities

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Pulwama Youth, Working As Painter, Clears NEET

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: As the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate or NEET UG 2023 results were announced, on June 13, one among the successful candidates was Umar Ahmad Ganie of Zaggigam village of Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The 20-year-old Umar, who works as a painter to support his family, cracked the difficult medical entrance exam NEET-UG by securing 601 marks out of 700.

Umer Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Zaggigam village of the south

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Man arrested for sexual assault on minor boy in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday arrested a man for allegedly sexually assaulting a six-year-old boy in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Police said a complaint was received from a parent on Tuesday in Police Station Kreeri wherein he stated that on June 12, his minor son aged about six years old was sexually molested by someone and had threatened the victim for not disclosing the incident to anyone due to which the family did not report to Police Station.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Slain militant among 3 chargesheeted by Srinagar SIU

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: SIU Srinagar presented chargesheet before the Court of NIA Srinagar in case FIR No 50/2022 under sections 307, 302 IPC /7/27 IA Act 13, 16, 18, 20 & 38 UA (P) Act of Police Station Soura against two active terrorists and a killed terrorist.

"On 24th of May, 2022, unknown terrorists fired upon one police personnel namely Saifullah Qadri son of Muhammad Syed Qadri and his minor daughter Safa Qadri resident of Malik Shab Soura Srinagar, in which police personnel got martyred and his minor daughter was injured," said a police spokesperson in a statement issued to Kashmir News Service (KNS).

"During the course of

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Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai Assumes Command Of Chinar Corps In Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai on Wednesday assumed command of the strategic Kashmir-



based Chinar Corps.

A Defence Ministry statement said, "On taking over the command, he paid homage at the Chinar Corps Memorial at Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar.

"The Lieutenant General addressed and interacted with the troops of Chinar Corps and exhorted them to continue to work with unflinching dedication and perseverance in pursuit of peace and stability in Kashmir.

"He encouraged all ranks to take additional steps required to connect

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

AIIMS Awantipora continues to be headless

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Kashmir Valley continues to be headless as Lt. General, Dr. Anup Banerji, a retired top medico from Army, didn't join after being appointed as its first executive director by the Government of India.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Around 53 Lakh Tourists Explore Jammu Region In First 4 Months This Year



HT News Network

JAMMU, JUN 14: Emerging as most favourable destinations, the pictur-

esque hot-spots of Jammu region witnessed huge footfall of the tourists not only from all over the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

MeT Predicts More Rains In J&K

HT News Network

JAMMU, JUNE 14: The Meteorological Office on Wednesday predicted more rain and advised farmers that weather will not be favourable for carrying out farming operations for the next four-five days.

The MeT predicted that a brief spell of rain or



thunderstorm may occur on Wednesday at scattered places of Jammu and Kashmir towards afternoon or evening.

Rain lashed several parts of Kashmir in the early hours on Wednesday.

"From 15-17th, light to moderate rain or thunderstorm is likely at scattered places of Jammu and Kashmir. Some places in Jammu

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NASA satellite reveals shrinking Dal, Wular lakes

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), in a recent announcement, has drawn

attention to the worrying state of Wular and Dal lakes.

The satellite imagery has uncovered a disconcerting trend of decline in these vital water bodies over the past few years.

The tweet from NASA featured a captivating image, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) urging viewers to closely examine the photo and differentiate between land and water.

"The lakes, once thriving reservoirs, now face significant challenges

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Emerging As NEET '23 Topper In J&K

Pulwama Native Abdul Basit Is An Inspiration To Many Aspiring Medical Students



HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: With an exceptional achievement in securing All India Rank (AIR) 113 in the UGC National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), Abdul Basit, a native of Pulwama has emerged as the topper from the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

TWIN DAUGHTERS OF IMAM IN KULGAM CRACK NEET

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: The twin daughters



of an imam in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district have brought cheer to the family by qualifying in the undergraduate National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Remembering

Dr Syed Shujaat Bukhari (Shaheed-e-Sahafat)

This day of June reminds us of your departure from this World to the eternal World. You will continue to live in our hearts as a Journalist par excellence, Who laid down his life to upheld the Journalistic ethics and Standards... May Allah grant Magfirat and place your soul in Jannat-ul-firdous ... Aameen.

Jahangir Bukhari
Editor Headlines Today



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG Sinha visits.....

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the arrangements put in place for healthcare, electricity, communication, water supply and sanitation, weather forecasting, disaster management, security grid and all other basic necessities for the pilgrims.

He directed the officials to ensure Yatra Base Camp has adequate number of doctors, staff, equipment, medicines and oxygen cylinders. BRO was instructed to mobilize resources and finish all works before commencement of Yatra.

Since Yatra is in difficult terrain at an altitude where the oxygen levels are low, healthcare facilities, care around the clock must be ensured, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor impressed upon the officials to ensure communication services on yatra route and night air services. He further directed for fitting tented accommodations with fire extinguishing equipment.

Overall arrangements for Yatra have been upgraded. All the concerned departments to take necessary steps for making the pilgrimage convenient, safe and hassle-free.

At Yatra Base Camp in Baltal, the Lt Governor inspected the ongoing work at DRDO's Hospital and other facilities for the pilgrims.

It was informed that the hospital will be made functional by 17th June.

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary Tourism Department; Dr Raghav Langer, Secretary Planning, Development and Monitoring Department and Sh Shyambir, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal were also present.

LG addresses.....

in various sectors to fulfil their dreams and become responsible citizens.

"Our Youth, Scouts and Guides are always aspiring to give birth to new consciousness to the society so that no one is left behind in the journey of development and prosperity," observed the Lt Governor.

The century old rich legacy of Scouts and Guides has become the symbol of discipline, selfless service, social harmony, courage and duty. By following the ideals of Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya ji, they are shaping the future of the country, the Lt Governor said.

Youth is the energy that is creating new path for development of a modern society with ecological and economic sustainability. Industry 4.0 technologies, new tools of artificial intelligence are empowering the younger generation and enabling them to contribute in nation building, he added.

At the Camporee, the Lt Governor lauded the Scout and Guides for displaying exemplary courage during Covid Pandemic. He also acknowledged their contribution in the smooth conduct of Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela.

With the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', Scouts and Guides are playing a stellar role during community service and social empowerment in far flung areas, he added.

The Lt Governor appreciated the Bharat Scouts and Guides for providing a unique platform for the youth to learn the priceless values of life through experience, field work and selfless service of the society.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated Scouts and Guides, and encouraged them to connect more youth with Scout movement.

He assured every assistance and cooperation from the UT Administration in their endeavours of community service.

Ms Gulshan Ara, Commissioner J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides presented a detailed report on the UT-level Camporee.

Scouts and Guides also shared their learning and experience in the camp.

Senior Officials, Guide Captains, Instructors, Scouts and Guides besides Principals, teachers and students from various schools were present.

Lt Gen Rajiv.....

with the citizens in order to jointly work towards peace and development.

According to the statement, Lieutenant General Ghai, an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, was commissioned in December 1989 into the Kumaon Regiment and has had an illustrious military career spanning 33 years during which he has held varied prestigious command, staff and instructional appointments.

"As Colonel General Staff, he has served in the Division deployed for Counter Insurgency Operations in J&K and Brigadier at Military Operations Directorate in Army Headquarters. In his command tenures, he has commanded a Battalion in the Western Sector followed by command of a Brigade and a Division on the Northern Borders.

"He is a postgraduate from the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington (Tamil Nadu), and has done Higher Command Course, Army War College, Mhow, and National Defence College, New Delhi. Prior to this appointment, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai held an important appointment in Northern Command as Major General General Staff," the statement said.

On assuming command, Lt Gen Ghai conveyed his greetings to the citizens of

Kashmir.

"He reiterated his commitment to closely work with various instruments of civil administration and society to further the cause of peace and prosperity in Kashmir. He expressed hope at the improved security parameters in the Valley and is optimistic that even the ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control will further enable improvement of the overall security situation.

"He called for the civil society to come forward and jointly work with the security forces to address the scourge of terrorism.

"Lieutenant General Ghai said that, together with the support of all community members, Kashmir will move a step closer to its glorious past while leaping forward in the development barometers," the statement said. (Agencies)

MeT Predicts.....

region like Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Samba etc. are likely to receive moderate to heavy thundershower during 15-16th (60% chance)," the MeT spokesperson said.

The weather department advised farmers that weather will not be favourable for carrying out farming operations for the next four-five days.

The weather is likely to improve from June 17.

Kashmir has been witnessing erratic weather this year and the temperature mostly has been hovering several degrees below normal. Even in June, people here are seen wearing woollen clothes.

Last night, Srinagar recorded 15.2 degree Celsius.

The night temperature in Pahalgam, a popular tourist destination, was 9.8 degree Celsius and the ski resort of Gulmarg registered 7.5 degree Celsius.

Jammu recorded a minimum temperature of 25.9 degree Celsius.

AIIMS Awantipora.....

In June 2022, the Government of India appointed Banerji, who had served as director general, Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) before attaining superannuation, as first executive director of the AIIMS, Awantipora.

However, Banerji didn't join as its executive director AIIMS, Awantipora and the coveted position was still lying vacant, sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

With the position lying vacant, the Government of India started the selection process afresh for appointment of executive director AIIMS in February this year.

The Government of India issued an advertisement notice on February 28, 2023 for filling the post of executive director- who acts as chief executive officer of the Institute in AIIMS Awantipora, AIIMS Raipur and AIIMS Nagpur.

As per procedure governing these appointments, the Government of India will now shortlist eligible candidates for these positions. "Based on information provided as part of the proforma, screening of applications will be carried out. Only the short-listed candidates will be called for interview," reads official documents.

The interview will be conducted by the search-cum-selection committee comprising officials from different central ministers.

In November 2022, J&K LG Manoj Sinha had said that AIIMS Awantipora would be made functional next year.

Around 53 Lakh.....

country but also from abroad as around 53 lakh tourists have visited in the first four months of this year.

The visitors explored the famous as well as virgin destinations of Jammu region among which Bhaderwah, Patnitop, Sanasar, Mansar, Surinsar were among the most favorites.

Official sources said that from January to April this year, a record 52.69 lakh tourists visited parts of Jammu region.

"Tourists influx has increased manifold in Jammu region with the highest number of tourists visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Cave Shrine," official sources added.

They said that this year in the first five months, 38.47 lakh pilgrims visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, adding, "Jammu region is popular for pilgrimage tourism but apart from that people also explore other destinations famous for leisure tourism, adventure tourism, health and wellness tourism, border tourism and much more."

Sources said in total in the first four months, 52,69,473 domestic and 43 foreign tourists/pilgrims visited the Jammu region out of which, highest were in the month of April.

Sharing figures, official sources said that in January, 9,32,890 domestic tourists, three foreigners,

in February 7,37,954 domestic tourists, five foreigners, in March 16,45,231 domestic tourists, 23 foreigners and in April 16,57,399 domestic and seven foreigner tourists visited parts of Jammu region.

To woo tourists to the Jammu region, Directorate of Jammu Tourism will be boosting the adventure sports including paragliding for which the applications have

also been invited from the aspirants for professional training in handling the adventure sports activities.

Administrative Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah on June 5 at a function in Basohli, had said that the Department of Tourism is committed to promoting Basohli as a major Tourist Destination of J&K and the Department shall make all endeavours to bring it to the global tourist map with modern-day State of the art facilities and infrastructure.

All critical gaps that need to be worked upon, shall be addressed by the Tourism Department, especially under the aegis of 'Swadesh Darshan' and other similar schemes of the Union Tourism Ministry, Dr Shah had said. (AGENCIES)

NASA satellite.....

that threaten their sustainability and the communities that rely on them."

"Look closely. Can you tell what's land and what's water? Lakes Wular and Dal, surrounded by the high Himalaya Mountains, supply water for drinking and irrigation in northern India, but the lakes have been declining in recent years," tweeted NASA.

Presently, Wular Lake is the largest freshwater lake in India. The lake is situated in Bandipora.

Similarly, Dal Lake is a picturesque body of water nestled in Srinagar, the esteemed summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. As an urban lake, it boasts the distinction of being the second largest lake in the region while holding the title of the most frequent destination in Srinagar among both tourists and locals alike.

Pulwama Native.....

union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Basit, a young and talented student hailing from the picturesque Chewakalan area of Pulwama in southern Kashmir, has become a source of pride and inspiration for the entire region.

In an interview, Basit expressed his surprise and delight at his remarkable feat. "I wasn't expecting that I'll be the topper from J&K. It's totally amazing for me," he exclaimed with a smile that reflected his humility and genuine gratitude.

Basit attributed his success to his focused approach towards his studies. Unlike many of his peers, he had consciously avoided the distractions of social media platforms, devoting most of his time to his studies.

"Most of the time, I was spending with my books, with no use of social media except WhatsApp," he revealed, emphasizing the importance of discipline and self-control in achieving one's goals.

While acknowledging his own efforts, Basit was quick to recognize the invaluable support and guidance he received from his family and his uncle. He humbly stated, "For achieving this, there is much more contribution of my family and my uncle."

The COVID-19 pandemic posed its own set of challenges, with schools and coaching centres shut down for extended periods. Basit, however, showed remarkable resilience and adaptability by attending online classes during these tough times. He demonstrated that determination and a strong work ethic can prevail even in the face of adversity.

Basit's educational journey began in Pulwama, where he received his elementary schooling before moving on to NIT Pulwama. Additionally, he joined Aakash classes for a comprehensive four-year course that laid a strong foundation for his success.

"Today, I received the wonderful news from the Aakash Institute. Despite continuously checking my results online, I was unable to access them due to the high website traffic. However, I finally received a call from the Aakash coaching centre," he narrated with a twinkle in his eyes, cherishing the memory of that life-changing phone call.

Living with his parents in the scenic Rajbagh area of Srinagar, Basit's dedication and hard work had paid off. He attributed his success not only to his teachers but also to the significant role played by his uncle. Their guidance and mentorship had been instrumental in shaping his academic journey and moulding him into the person he had become.

For Basit, achieving success in life goes beyond academic accomplishments. It requires unwavering focus, consistency, and a strong connection with the Almighty. He firmly believed that with the right mindset and determination, anyone can overcome obstacles and achieve their dreams.

Speaking about the importance of proper guidance and a structured study routine, Basit emphasized that all aspiring students should have access to the necessary resources and support.

"There should be proper guidance for everyone. There should be a total routine plan for their study, and with the help of the Almighty, they will be successful," he asserted with conviction.

As news of Basit's extraordinary achievement spread across the valley, people praised his dedication and perseverance. His story served as a beacon of hope for countless

aspiring students, inspiring them to strive for excellence and reminding them that with hard work and the right support, their dreams could become a reality.

"He is an epitome of hard work and determination," remarked one of Basit's teachers, who had witnessed his relentless pursuit of knowledge and growth. (Agencies)

Twin Daughters.....

(NEET), the results of which were declared on Tuesday.

The girls cracked the test in their first attempt.

Syed Sabiya and Syed Bismah, residents of Watoo village in the Noorabad area of the south Kashmir district, secured 625 and 570 marks respectively in the entrance examination for medical colleges.

Their house has come to life after the results were announced as relatives, neighbours and well-wishers are turning up to congratulate the family on the feat of the twins.

The girls acknowledged the role of their family members, teachers and supportive neighbours behind their success.

"Our parents supported us a lot since our childhood. The people in our area also boosted our morale. Everyone had a role to play in my success," Sabiya said.

Sabiya, who studied in a local Islamic model school till Class 3 before joining a private school, said throughout her school days, her teachers gave her the confidence that she can do something big in life.

"Thanks to my teachers, I nurtured the dream of becoming a doctor or an IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer and do something big in life," she said.

Bismah said both the sisters were nervous ahead of the declaration of the NEET results. "We are very happy that the results are good. We thank god for it. Our entire family is happy," she said.

Bismah said they used to help each other a lot during their studies. "We might have encountered many more difficulties had any of us been alone. We supported each other throughout this journey to achieve this success," she said.

Sabiya said the sisters were overwhelmed that both of them have qualified in the NEET.

"I want both of us to become good doctors and serve our people," she said. Their father, Sajad Hussain, the imam (priest) at the local Jamia Masjid, said he considers both religious and worldly education important for children.

"I thank god. I am extremely pleased with their achievement. Both religious teachings and worldly education are important. I taught my daughters about Islam, prayers, the Quran and gave them school education as well," he said.

The siblings said one needs to be extremely focused to qualify in the NEET.

"Identify your weaknesses and then take help to overcome those," they said. (Agencies)

Pulwama Youth.....

Kashmir district, belongs to a poor family, and his achievements have made the whole area proud.

"For the past two years, I have been working as a labourer during the day and then studying in the night. I also work as a painter. I vowed to study hard and qualify NEET and by the grace of God, I have achieved success," Ganie said.

He said he mostly relied on self-study for the undergraduate National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (NEET), but also took some online classes as well.

Ganie said students need not worry about lack of resources and should focus on working hard.

"Even if you do not have money, a lot of study material is available online. I want to tell everyone to work hard," he added.

Ganie's home has become a centre of celebrations as jubilant relatives and neighbours were making a beeline to congratulate the family for the accomplishment.

Ganie's neighbour, Abdul Ahad, said it is a matter of immense happiness and pride that he cleared the prestigious exam.

Man arrested.....

Police later registered an FIR under sections of IPC and POSCO Act and started investigation.

Police said during investigation and after strenuous efforts, the accused was identified as Hashim Tariq Zargar a resident of Sultanpora Kandil at present Kreeri.

Acting swiftly, the Police team arrested the accused involved in the crime and he was taken into custody immediately, police said.

"Further investigation is in process," they added.

Slain militant.....

investigation, 03 terrorists identified as Basit Ahmed Dar son of Abdul Rashid Dar resident of Redwani Qaimou Kulgam, Momin Gulzar Mir son of Gulzar Ahmed Mir resident of Firdous Colony Eidgah Srinagar and Adil Ahmed Parray son of Habibullah Parray resident of Badergund Ganderbal were found involved in the terror crime case.

Besides, a scooter bearing registration number JKO2CB-1268 used in the terrorist attack was also seized," he said. "One of the accused terrorists namely Adil Ahmed Parray was killed in an encounter with Police Srinagar at Sangam area of Srinagar on 12/06/2022. While as, the other two involved terrorists are still active and linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT/TRF," the police added.

"However, the investigation shall continue under section 173 (8) CrPC," the police said.

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Advisor Bhatnagar inaugurates blood donation camp

Terms the gesture as symbol of compassion, solidarity

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today inaugurated a blood donation camp at GB Pant Hospital here to mark 'World Blood Donors Day' celebration.

"Donating blood is essentially a gesture, an act of compassion and solidarity which can be the most precious gift which a person can give to another person saving numerous lives on earth", maintained the Advisor.

The camp, which was organised by the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir in collaboration with Badami Bagh Cantonment (BBC), was aimed to foster a culture of voluntary blood donation while addressing the critical need for blood supply in entire Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar; CEO BBC, senior officers of health department, doctors, paramedical staff and large number of blood donors were present on the occa-

sion. Addressing the gathering, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted the humanitarian aspect of blood donation saying that it symbolizes compassion and unity within society. He encouraged the participants to actively participate in similar initiatives to meet the increasing demand for blood transfusions, especially during emergencies and medical procedures.

Advisor further said that this year's theme "Give Blood, Give Plasma, Share Life, Share Often" is very unique and this theme depicts the significance of this important service for the mankind. He added that it also focuses on life long transfusion support and underlines the role every single person can play, by giving the valuable gift of blood or plasma.

Advisor Bhatnagar remarked that every single donation is a precious lifesaving gift and



repeated donation is key to building a safe and sustainable blood supply. He emphasized the importance of voluntary blood

donation while explaining how it plays a vital role in ensuring timely medical care for patients in need.

While speaking on establishment of health related infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that in the last few years medical infrastructure of world class level has been established in J&K besides universal health coverage to all residents is being provided under SEHAT scheme. He added that 28 blood banks, 30 blood storage units, seven blood separation component units and other related medical infrastructure has been established in the UT.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhupinder Kumar said that this day is very important as it covers the significant aspect of mankind. He also spoke in length about importance of voluntary blood donation and its significance in critical medical care.

During the event, Advisor Bhatnagar also interacted with several blood donors and distributed appreciation certificates among them.

DC Srinagar holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Theed Harwan

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: Continuing its endeavour to bring administration at the doorsteps of people and to listen to their developmental demands and ensure on spot resolution of their issues, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday held the Block Diwas programme at New Theed Harwan under weekly public outreach programme.

DDC Member, Theed, Haji Ali, BDC Member Dara, Mohammad Shabaan, other PRI members and people from various areas of Harwan Block including New Theed, Dara, Mulnar, Fakir Gujri were part of the Public Grievance Redressal Camp.

While, General Manager, DIC, Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Chief Agriculture Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Tehsildar North, BDO Harwan, Executive Engineer R&B, Lead District Manager and other District Officers were also present on the occasion.

On the occasion, local DDC and BDC members, PRI representatives projected various issues and development related demands before the Deputy Commissioner including issues regarding damages caused to Horticulture/Agriculture crops, correction in Revenue records, establishment of SFC Depot in the area, Social Welfare & irrigation related matters, protection from Wild Animals and other development related matters.

The DC interacted with the local people and received first hand appraisal about the public issues and demands.

He gave patient hearing to the people and passed on the spot instructions to the concerned Departments for time-bound redressal of public grievances.

The DC said the District Administration is taking all possible measures to ensure better civic facilities to the people particularly living in remote areas of the District.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned for holding Medical camp at Harwan to facilitate the people particularly the physically challenged at their doorsteps for providing different kinds of Medical certificates. He also asked for providing solar lights to the local farmers so that lights are installed to protect crops from damages caused due to wild animals.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner visited various developmental sites including 220*33 KVA GIS Substation at Harwan.

While inspecting the GIS Substation Station being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 76 crore, the DC directed the concerned to accelerate the pace on the prestigious power project to ensure its completion by July, 2023. He said by commissioning the power Grid Station people of adjoining hamlets including Harwan, Tailbal, Burzuhama, Zukura will be benefited by way of improvised power supply.

The DC also visited inspected the Irrigation canal (Mahdev Kul) theed and inspected the works taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 30 lakh for its upgradation.

During the visit, the DC also inspected the works being carried out on Rs 16 crore project being executed on redevelopment and beautification of Shalimar Canal. He also took stock of the parking spaces being established at the Shalimar Garden.

On the occasion, he asked the concerned executing agency to speed up the project and complete the same by August, 2023.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also inspected the ongoing Redevelopment/Beautification works being executed on Shalimar Canal and road adjoining Shalimar Garden. The DC was informed that project in being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs 16 crore and is targeted to be completed by August.

District Hospital Shopian Becomes First In Kashmir Division To Introduce AI In Radio Diagnosis

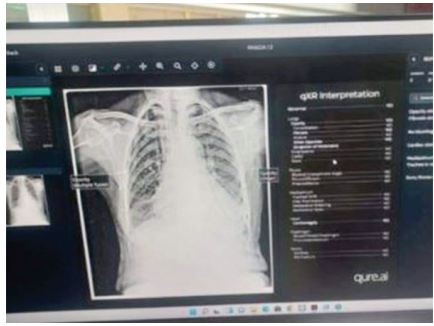
SRINAGAR, JUN 14: District Hospital Shopian has become the first hospital in Kashmir Division to implement artificial intelligence (AI) technology in its radiology department.

Under the guidance of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, the hospital has initiated a pilot project for Quick X-ray (Qxr), utilizing AI tools for more efficient diagnoses. This innovative approach allows for the instant identification of abnormal areas in X-rays with an accuracy of over 90 per cent, greatly facilitating the final diagnosis process for radiologists.

Artificial intelligence has been revolutionizing the field of healthcare by providing intelligent computing solutions to practical medical challenges. Deep learning techniques, in particular, have significantly amplified the impact of technology in healthcare, especially in radiology, which employs radiation to generate medical imaging, such as X-rays, for the detection of abnormalities.

By leveraging artificial intelligence algorithms, complex anomalous patterns in medical image data can be automatically identified, enabling assistive diagnoses for patients. Radiology produces a vast amount of clinical image data, necessitating radiologists to spend hours sifting through these images, crafting analyses, and finalizing diagnoses. However, computer vision (CV), a specialized field of artificial intelligence, can process and analyze medical images to accurately predict diseases.

The implementation of artificial intelligence at District Hospital Shopian brings numerous benefits to radiologists, stream-



lining their work processes. These advantages include more accurate classification of abnormalities, enhanced analysis capabilities, and faster delivery of results.

Artificial intelligence in healthcare encompasses machine-learning algorithms and software that mimic human cognition, enabling the analysis, presentation, and comprehension of complex medical and healthcare data. It surpasses human capabilities by providing novel methods of diagnosing, treating, and preventing diseases.

The patients have commended the Jammu and Kashmir administration for taking such progressive steps and expressed gratitude to the Administrative Secretary, Bhupinder Kumar, the Deputy Commissioner of Shopian, the Director of Health Services Kashmir, the Chief Medical Officer of Shopian, and the Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Shopian.

These state-of-the-art medical facilities are expected to enhance healthcare services in the district, bringing District Hospital Shopian on par with other leading healthcare institutions in the Union Territory. (Agencies)

NIA Court Rejects Plea By Waheed Para For Permission To Travel Abroad To Pursue YALE Peace Fellowship 2023

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: A special court designated under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, Srinagar has dismissed an application filed by People Democratic Party (PDP) youth leader, Waheed Ur Rehman Para seeking permission to travel to United States of America (USA) to pursue a 3-month Yale Peace Fellowship Programme at Yale University, Barandbench reported.

The Court noted that Para has been accused of having close links with foreign and local terrorists, as well as of funding, aiding, and supporting terrorist activities and organizations.

For these alleged offences, Para has been charged with various provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which are punishable with death and imprisonment for life, it was observed.

Hence, special judge, Sandeep Gandra held that there are genuine apprehensions that Para may flee India and disrupt the collection of evidence against him.

"Not only the trial of the case will get hampered which is at evidence stage but there are genuine apprehensions of the applicant fleeing from the country and him trying to disrupt the collection of evidence in the USA for which MLAT request has been sent through government of India," the order said.

On May 25, 2022, Para was granted bail by the High Court of Jammu and

Kashmir and Ladakh subject to various conditions. These conditions included that he cannot leave Jammu and Kashmir without the prior permission of the trial court. Further, he was also ordered to surrender his passport before the investigating officer.

In light of these conditions, Para moved the NIA court for permission to travel abroad and the release of his passport citing his selection as Inaugural Peace Fellow of the YALE Peace Fellowship, 2023, which is slated to start in September and end in November this year.

The Public Prosecutor (PP) objected to the application, contending that the Fellowship was a means to impede the ongoing investigation and trial against Para.

The PP also asserted that there was a statutory bar under Section 51 of the UAPA on granting Para permission to travel since his passport is deemed to have been impounded.

The special court rejected the PP's contention with respect to Section 51, UAPA opining that, as per this provision, the trial court has the discretion to decide how long a passport ought to be impounded for and even to release it, depending on the particular facts and circumstances of the case.

However, the Court proceeded to reject Para's application in light of concerns that the investigation and trial, which is at the evidence stage, against him would get hampered if he were allowed to travel abroad.



World Blood Donation Day: Al-Iman group helps Kashmir's needy people in times of emergency

Arranging blood almost every day to save lives: Group members

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: A group of youth in Kashmir have started an initiative to arrange blood for needy persons and have arranged hundreds of pints of blood so far.

Al-Iman youth foundation is an initiative of a group of youth headed by Chairman Farooq Ahmad Malik and vice Chairman Peer Shamsudin who started it nine months ago to help people in need of blood.

Umar Haasan, one of the senior members of the group who is from Reban Sopore told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that they started this initiative nine months with an aim to help needy people in arranging blood free.

"Almost every day we have been

receiving calls from every corner of Kashmir about the requirement of blood from needy people," he said. "Once we receive a call about the requirement of blood in any hospital, we contact the hospital authorities about time to confirm the status of blood group and the requirement following which the group members having the same blood group are contacted and sent there to donate blood." Umar, who has donated 10 pints of blood and platelets several times, said that sometimes, the donor has no fare to reach the hospital and we first arrange the fare on our own so that he reaches the hospital on time for donation.

He said that donation of blood



gives us satisfaction and peace of mind because every religion teaches us humanity and humanity is above everything.

"Almost every day we are receiving calls about blood and we have been very successful so far in arranging blood in minutes as members from all corners of Kashmir have been associated with us," he said.

Another group member also echoed the same voice and said that they have been arranging blood and platelets for needy patients free just for the sake of Allah. Notably, regular blood donation is linked to lower blood pressure and a lower risk for heart attacks besides that it helps to reduce cardiovascular risk factors.

BJP ready for J&K polls; ECI to take final call: Darakshan Andrabi

KUPWARA, JUN 14: Stating that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is conducive, J&K Wafq Board chairperson Darakshan Andrabi Wednesday said that the BJP is ready for the elections and that there is an excitement among the workers. She, however, said that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has to take a final call on polls.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), she was speaking to media men on the sidelines of a party function in north Kashmir's Kupwara. Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) is organizing youth engagement programs across Jammu and Kashmir mainly in the valley as part of the 9 Saal Bemisaal campaign of BJP to mark the completion of nine years of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government. A motorbike rally was organised in north Kashmir today from Baramulla to Kupwara. This was part of the continuous youth engagement program.

Andrabi said that their aim is not to organize

events across the Kashmir valley only but also to appreciate the work done in the past nine years under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi led government.

"Every central government scheme, benefit, and other things reached deserving individuals and families on the ground level," she said. "Schemes have reached the ground level and the same was verified from the administration and party affiliates as well." On holding elections in J&K and whether BJP was ready for the same, Andrabi said that "It depends on Election Commission of India. ECI has to take a final call on polls in J&K. BJP is ready for the elections. We are waiting for the announcements. Whenever elections take place BJP is ready to contest."

She said that "We have put a report card of nine years of progress achieved by the Modi-led central government before the people. We have successfully achieved the target of reaching out to the poorest individuals across Jammu and Kashmir".

Weekly Block Diwas programme held at Hewan Narway Baramulla

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JUNE 14: To listen to the issues and grievances of people at their door steps, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today visited Panchayat Hewan Narway Block and chaired weekly Block Diwas Camp, listening to various issues and demands of people meant for the overall welfare and development of the area.



Different stakeholders including PRIs, Officers of all line departments among other prominent citizens of Malpora, Kalaiban, Khudpora, Fatehgarh, Sheeri besides other adjoining areas of Narway Block participated in the programme.

During the Grievance Redressal Camp, various Public delegations and scores of individuals projected various developmental issues before the DC and sought the timely resolution of their grievances and demands.

On the occasion, the people put forth several demands including establishment of road from Sheeri to Babarshi, augmentation of health institutions besides sanctioning

of Primary Health Centre for the area and providing of Digital X-ray plant for the hospital.

Repairs of power lines, macadamization, widening and renovation of inner links and construction of toilet points at Echo parks were also among the major demands projected by the members of PRIs.

After giving a patient

hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the DC assured that the District Administration will provide active support for development of the area and also assured them that all their issues and demands shall be taken with the concerned authorities for their timely redressal.

She directed the concerned authorities to resolve the issue of irrigation besides exhorted upon the concerned for establishment of sheep rearing units for employment generation.

Meanwhile, the DC resolved various grievances of immediate nature and said that the administration is keen to streamline public service delivery and added that other developmental works are being identified and subsequently approved for their execution.

Block Diwas held at Sangarwani, Pulwama District Administration committed to boost tourism potential of the area: DDC

HT News Network

PULWAMA, JUNE 14: The District Administration Pulwama today conducted a weekly Block Diwas programme at Govt High School Sangerwani under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom.



Local PRIs, respected elders and local youth delegations from village Sangerwani and other adjacent villages participated in the programme and raised their demands.

The DDC gave them patient hearing and assured that all their genuine demands shall be taken up with the relevant quarters for early redressal.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC praised the picturesque beauty of the area and said that the area has huge tourism potential. He said the District Administration shall focus to give a boost to the tourism potential of the area. The DDC sought commitment from the officers for fulfilling the genuine demands of the people with-

in stipulated time. He emphasised concerned officers to ensure speedy public service delivery and carry out improvement works under various sectors to facilitate the general public. He asked the concerned departments to raise awareness about different schemes and public welfare initiatives for the convenience of the public. Stressing on robust development of the area, the DDC instructed concerned to ensure speedy work completion on all ongoing developmental projects including the water supply scheme which is long pending demand

of the locals. He further said the demand regarding roads and bridges is under pipeline and proposals have been submitted to Govt.

Later, the DC inspected the under construction water supply scheme and Ayush Health centre.

Similarly, Block Diwas was also held at Pulwama and Tral blocks of the district, and were presided over by ADDC Dr Ab. Aziz and ADC Sajid Yehya Naqash respectively. The Block Diwas witnessed massive participation of people to seek redressal of their grievances from the officials present.

DHEW, Sakhi OSC Budgam organize Awareness programme at GHSS Narbal

HT News Network

BUDGAM, JUNE 14: The District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), Sakhi One Stop Centre (OSC), and Women Helpline 181 today jointly organized an awareness program at GHSS Narbal showcasing an unwavering commitment towards women's empowerment and societal transformation.

The event held as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, aimed to enlighten students about the government's invaluable initiatives, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), and Nasha Mukht Bharat, which promote gender equality and combat substance abuse.

Under the guidance of DSWO Budgam, the DHEW played a pivotal role in raising awareness among attendees, igniting a spirit of action, and ensuring the resounding success of these programs.

Recognizing the transformative potential of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Nasha Mukht Bharat, the DHEW team tirelessly conveyed their message thereby fostering positive social change, and striving to build an equitable society free from substance abuse.

DC Budgam chairs Block Diwas at Panchayat Halqa Ichgam

HT News Network

BUDGAM, JUNE 14: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today said that as many as 70 major works have been approved under district Capex for Panchayat Halqa of Block Budgam.



DC said this while chairing a Block Diwas program at Panchayat Halqa Ichgam.

He said that major works approved include development of playground, construction of 63 KV Sub-Station including HT and LT lines near PHC, development of graveyard at Ganai Mohallah, tile works on around 20 number of inner lanes, protection works besides lane and drain works.

The DC said work on these projects shall be carried out in a swift and timely manner

and shall be completed within the stipulated time frame for the convenience of the general public.

During Block Diwas, local PRIs including BDC Chairman Budgam, Gulam Hassan Khan, respected elders and local youth delegations from villages Ichgam, Naroo, Qazibagh and other adjacent villages who participated, raised their demands with the DC.

The DC said that all other genuine demands shall be taken up and discussed with all the concerned departments and speedy disposal

will be ensured for those demands too.

Labroo urged local PRIs and others to cooperate with the District Administration for the speedy completion of these approved projects for public benefit.

He reiterated that the District Administration is committed to ensure robust development and better facility creation in all rural as well as urban areas of the district.

He called for prompt redressal of public issues to ensure better service delivery to people.

Block Diwas: DC Bandipora tours far flung areas of Block Aloosa

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JUNE 14: In a move to enhance community engagement, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Wednesday toured far flung areas of Block Aloosa, including Malangam and other adjacent areas.



The tour as part of Block Diwas was aimed to bring the administration closer to the people, actively listening to their concerns and implementing transformative solutions to address their needs.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that direct interaction with citizens serves as a unique platform for citizens to voice their opinions, share their aspirations, and actively participate in shaping the future of their communities besides allowing administration to gather valuable insights to ensure that policies and initiatives are tailored to meet the specific needs of the area.

During the visit, Dr Owais inspected various ongoing developmental works and also took on site inspection of recently damaged Malanagam Bala road.

The DC directed Ex. Engineer PMGSY to immediately put up the necessary measures for repairing the damaged road.

He also visited Middle school Malangam Bala and interacted with students and teachers besides taking feedback from students.

On the way to different areas, the DC interacted with PRIs and the general public and listened to their issues.

Block Diwas: DC presides over Grievance Redressal camp at D.H.Pora

Farooq Rafter

KULGAM, JUNE 14: Continuing the initiative of special public outreach programme of LG's Administration under weekly Block Diwas, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a public grievance camp at Block D.H.Pora and listened to issues and demands of the people for early redressal. On the occasion PRIs and delegations of people from Nagam, Boh, Chimmer, Ahmadabad,



D.K.Marg, Kounsarbal and other areas participated in this grievance redressal camp and apprised the DC about their issues and developmental requirements of their areas. During the proceedings, the DC gave a patient hearing to all the grievances and

demands that were put forth by the PRIs and concerned stakeholders and redressed various issues of emergent nature on the spot. Officers from various departments who were also present responded to the queries and issues raised by the people. The DC instructed the concerned to start Macademiastion of approved road length in the area at an earliest. The concerned from Jal Shakti Department were instructed to ensure achievement of a set target of 75 percent up to ending June 2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SPECIAL SUB DIVISION GUREZ
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NIT No. 05/REW/2023-24/EE/SSDG/1563-72/E-tendering/Dated:-13-06-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T.Doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Gulshanpora	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
2	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Kanzalwan	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
3	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Badwan	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
4	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Wanpora	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
5	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Khandiyal	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
6	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Dawar A	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
7	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Dawar B	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
8	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Markoot	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
9	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Shahpora Payeen	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
10	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Shahpora Bala	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
11	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Zadigy A	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
12	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Zadigy B	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE
13	Construction of liquid waste Management (LWM) unit in Panchayat Halqa Juniyal A	3.18	200	15 days	6360	SBM (G)	DEE

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez Major Head 0515-Rev:Misc)[Tender Inviting Authority](Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dtd 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan/CDR/FDR should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date)]pledged to Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez (Tender receiving Authority).

2. All bidders have to pay 2% of advertised cost of the work as earnest money deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez at the time of uploading of tender.

3. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract value as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/pledged to Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP.

4. Instruction to bidder (ITB)

14.1 All Bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualifying criteria/qualification information with the bids.
a. All bidders shall upload Copies of Original Documents defining constitution/Legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with.
b. Cell No. and Correspondence Address.
c. All Bidders shall upload Treasury Challan/2% of Adv Cost. in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez
d. All Bidders shall upload PAN CARD.
e. All Bidders shall upload Registration Card with latest renewal on JKPWOMS Portal.

f. NIT issued in the month of June 2023 the bidder has to upload the latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the latest quarter i.e. January - March 2023/ latest month i.e. May 2023.
g. All bidders shall upload verification certificate from concerned Chief Engineer/ Superintendent Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card. Letter No:- Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Kashmir's :-18484-516 Dated:-21-11-2020 and No:- BS/812-44 Dated 06-04-2021.
5. The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement a/s laid down in NIT
6. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-3466/23
Date, Jun 14, 2023
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Special Sub Division Gurez

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that my Son's name Wrongly mentioned is MOHAMMAD ANSRASUL HAQ MIR instead of MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM MIR Now I am applying of its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his /her objection in (BDO) office WAGORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

ALTAF AHMAD MIR
F/O ...MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM MIR
R/O... CHOORA
Distt ...BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Shiraz Ahmed Ahanger wants to inform public through this news paper that my name has wrongly written as Sheeraz ahmed ahanger S/o: habib ullah ahanger in RTO Srinagar records. But original spelling of my name is shiraz ahmed ahanger S/o: habib ullah ahanger. So want to correct the same in records of Rto srinagar. If anybody have any objection in this regard, please contact Rto srinagar for same within seven working days. After seven days no objection will be entertained.

SHIRAZ AHMED AHANGER
S/O: HABIB ULLAH AHANGER
PH NO: 7006322988
Licence no: JK-0120130085108
R/o: KHONMOH SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Muzafar Ahmed Bhat wants to inform public through this news paper that my name has wrongly written as Muzafar Ahmad bhat S/o. GH Mohammad bhat in RTO Srinagar records. But original spelling of my name is Muzafar Ahmed bhat S/o: GH Mohd bhat. So want to correct the same in records of Rto srinagar. If anybody have any objection in this regard, please contact Rto srinagar for same within seven working days. After seven days no objection will be entertained.

MUZAFAR AHMED BHAT
S/O: GH MOHD BHAT
PH NO: 9797176216
Licence no JK-0120100024398
R/o: Khonmoh srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mothers Name in my Army Service Records wrongly mentioned as Fatema Bano instead of Fatima Banoo. Now I am applying of its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact with Concerned Authority within a period seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.....MOHD ALI
S/OMOHD EISAQ
Mother's name.... FATIMA BANOO
R/OSAMRAH
SERVICE NO..... P9921633L
RANK....NK UNIT LADAKH SCOUT

Div Com reviews progress on Jammu City beautification works

Asks stakeholder departments to expedite major projects

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JUNE 14: Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting today in his office chamber to discuss and review the execution of Jammu City beautification Plan.

One of the major focuses of the meeting was the completion of mural painting, particularly along the Jammu Airport road. The Divisional Commissioner emphasised the need to expedite the wall painting artwork to create an appealing visual experience for the

residents and visitors alike.

The other prominent topic of the discussion was the identification of suitable garbage dumping sites within the city. The Divisional Commissioner stressed on the importance of maintaining cleanliness and ensuring timely lifting of waste to enhance the overall aesthetics of Jammu city.

Recognising the significance of certain landmarks in Jammu city, the Div Com instructed the concerned authorities to focus on the beautification of the road leading to Jammu University and Bagh-e-Bahu temple.



The cleaning of roads, flyovers and clearing of side drains also received attention during the meeting.

The Divisional Commissioner

underlined the importance of maintaining the infrastructure and ensuring that the city's thoroughfares are free from obstructions. Additionally, he high-

lighted the necessity of proper pruning of trees along the roads, followed by their immediate disposal, to prevent traffic congestion. Recognising the impor-

tance of smooth traffic movement, especially during the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, the Divisional Commissioner directed the officers from the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to expedite their ongoing projects. He stressed the need to ensure that the road infrastructure is in optimal condition to accommodate the increased influx of pilgrims during the Yatra. Furthermore, the Divisional Commissioner called for immediate removal of construction waste that accumulates on the roads during and

after the execution of infrastructure projects. The directive aimed to prevent any public inconvenience or obstructions caused by the debris and maintain the cleanliness of the city.

Calling for smooth movement of traffic, the Div Com instructed the responsible officers to address any infrastructure and maintenance-related issues pertaining to the fourth Jammu Tawi bridge. Among other instructions, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining rotaries, footpaths, and other pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.

World Blood Donor Day: District Red Cross Society organises Blood Donation Camp at GMC Kathua

■ M S Nazki

KATHUA, JUNE 14: To mark World Blood Donor Day, District Red Cross Society (IRCS) Kathua, in collaboration with the Blood Transfusion Department, Government Medical College Kathua, organised a Blood Donation Camp here today. Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas, who is also the Chairman of DRCS inaugurated the Camp in presence of Principal GMC, Dr Surinder Kumar Attri, Secretary DRCS Kathua O.P Sharma and other officers.

Over 50 units of blood were donated by volunteers from Nehru Yuva Kendra, Police department and Red Cross Society. The Doctors and Para-medical staff of GMC Kathua facilitated the blood donation. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas said that donating blood is a noble cause and selfless act which helps in maintaining availability of different blood groups in the blood bank to cater emergencies and saving lives.

24 Hajj pilgrims leave from Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 14: Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Joginder Singh Jasrotia, today flagged off 24 Hajj pilgrims here from DC Office Complex.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral and team of police and civil officers, besides a large number of people were present to see off the pilgrims.

While interacting with the pilgrims, the ADC congratulated them for getting the opportunity to perform holy Hajj. He also wished them safe and secure pilgrimage and appealed to them to pray for peace and prosperity of the UT as well as district Udhampur.

The group of pilgrims left in one JKRTC Bus from DC office Complex Udhampur to Srinagar from where they will board international flight for Saudi Arabia.

World Blood Donor Day observed at ANMT School Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, JUNE 14: World Blood Donors Day 2023 was observed by the District Health Society by organizing an awareness programme at ANMT School Doda.

The programme was held under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer and under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The programme was attended by Dr N D Dar, Dr Javed Ahmed Parry, Mohammad Shafi Attu, Mohammad Faheem Butt, Zaheer Gattu, Mohd Umar Mughal, Altaf Hussain, besides staff of ANMT School Naveeda Anjum & Rubina Ishtiaq and students.

8th round of "Kisan Sampark Abhiyan" concludes in Ramban

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, JUNE 14: The 8th round of ongoing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (Farmers Orientation programme-HADP) under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the theme Atmanirbhar Bharat was held successfully in the blocks of district Ramban.

The campaign ended today at a positive note as an overwhelming response was received from the farming community in all ten blocks of the district. Audio-visuals (AVs) aids were used to disseminate the information about different government sponsored schemes meant for the welfare of the farmers associated with Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Pisciculture, Sericulture etc.

The resource persons from different departments

educated the farmers regarding the agro bases schemes. Informative booklets, in 03 (three) languages, regarding the HADP schemes were distributed among the participants. Moreover, farmers were also made aware about Daksh Kisan (online learning portal for skill development) and Kisan Sathi (IT Dashboard) portals offering online services/ schemes.

The resource persons urged farmers to participate in 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan' to avail orientation and skilling courses for all interventions, latest techniques, explore new possibilities, and make the farming more accessible and profitable. During the program, farmers also raised various queries, which resolved the concerned resource persons amicably. The event witnessed a huge participation of farmers.

Earthquake Aftermath, DC, SSP Doda tour Gandoh area to ascertain situation

■ HT News Network

DODA, JUNE 14: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan and SSP, Abdul Qayoom today toured Sub Division Gandoh to ascertain the situation after the 5.4 magnitude earthquake that shook the district the previous day.

They interacted with the people, inspected buildings/ houses, which have developed cracks due to the earthquake, and also took stock of preparedness by the sub divisional administration to face any challenge which may arise.

They visited Sinoo, Gujar Basti, Kilothran, Kahara, and Sub Divisional Hospital Gandoh.

Concerned authorities have been directed to assess the damages in the private houses and shift the fami-



Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan and SSP, Abdul Qayoom today toured Sub Division Gandoh to ascertain the situation after the 5.4 magnitude earthquake that shook the district the previous day.

lies if required to the safer places. On the cracks developed in the SDH Gandoh and other Government buildings including some schools, The DC directed the Sub Divisional authorities to conduct a safety audit of all the buildings and submit the same for taking a further call in this regard.

It was reported that there is no loss to life in any part of the district. However, some houses/ buildings have developed cracks due to the heavy jolt of the earthquake. It was further reported that the infra-

structure for essential services like PHE, Electricity etc is intact. The departments have been asked to synchronise their efforts, remain in their jurisdiction, and provide adequate and quality services to the public. DC and SSP were accompanied by SDM Gandoh, SDM Thathri, SEPWD Doda, Xens, SDPO Gandoh and other officers. Concerned authorities have been directed to assess the damages in the private houses and shift the families if required to the safer places. On the cracks developed in the SDH Gandoh and other Government buildings including some schools, The DC directed the Sub Divisional authorities to conduct a safety audit of all the buildings and submit the same for taking a further call in this regard.

Commissioner Secretary inaugurates Rs 1.20 cr Public Park at Baba Sunara, Jhajjar Kotli

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JUNE 14: Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, today inaugurated a Public Park at Baba Sunara, Jhajjar Kotli, Jammu.

Director General, Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, S Jatinder Singh was also present on the occasion.

The public park expanded over an area of 16 kanal has been developed by the department with an expenditure of Rs.1.20 crore. It has various features like chain link/grill fencing, viewpoint, mesmerizing landscaping, ornamental plants, flowering beds, turfing, tile path/walk way, illumination system, sprinklers, benches and other basic facilities. While addressing the public, Commissioner Secretary informed that 11 new parks are being constructed during the current financial year 2023-24. The aim of the government is to focus on providing all requisite facilities to individuals at their door steps, especially to senior citizens and children. He also took a detailed review of



maintenance and development of existing parks and gardens of the said area. He directed the officers to maintain quality of works and emphasized the need for overall beautification of all parks.

Meanwhile, he also interacted with the PRIs and listened to their grievances and demands.

Commissioner Secretary assured the local representatives and the public that all their genuine demands will be considered and action shall be taken for redressal in a time bound manner.

On the occasion, Director Finance Floriculture, Hemkant Prashar, Deputy Secretary Floriculture Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhary,

Weekly Block Diwas: Udhampur Administration listens to public grievances at CFC Chennai

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 14: A Public Outreach camp, under weekly Block Diwas program, was held today at Community Facility Centre (CFC) Tehsil Headquarter Chenani, where Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya listened to the public demands and aspirations.

District Development Council Chairperson, Lal Chand; Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Shyam Singh; BDC Chairman, Parkash Chand; CEO PDA, Sher Singh; ACD, Dr Ranjeet Kotwal and other District and Sectoral officers of the District, besides PRI representatives and a large number of people from adjoining



panchayats attended the camp. During the camp, the public and their representatives raised a number of issues and demands of their areas. They demanded compensation of land acquired for Bupp to Barkunda and Barkunda to Kharwa PMGSY road, Separate Ration cards, Repair of hand pumps, Opening of new ration sale depot, construction of motorable bridge over Tawi river at Panchayat Bupp and Matlowa, Provision of JKRTC bus service on Udhampur, Chennai, Mantalai, Latti and Dudu routes, Construction of road under PMGSY from Nagulta to Rajjar Block Chenani, Blacktopping of different roads, meeting shortage of staff in Nagulta Government High School.

Central Nodal Officer JSA concludes 4 day tour to Ramban

Holds interactive sessions with various stakeholders, inspects Water Supply Schemes

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RAMBAN, JUNE 14: Director (Law & Order), Internal Security-I Division, Union Ministry of Home Affairs, and Central Nodal Officer (CNO) for Jal Shakti Abhiyaan (JSA), Catch the Rain (CTR), Nishtha Tiwari, along with Scientist Central Ground water, Chandreyee De, concludes her four day visit to the district.

During their visit, they held exhaustive interactive sessions with students and teachers, BDC Chairpersons,



DDC Councillors, Sarpanchs, Panchs, Pani Simitis, common masses besides officers and officials of the district administration

regarding development and welfare of the region.

On final day of their visit, they inspected GSRs, FHTCs, gravity lines, filter plants,

Water Supply Schemes and other infrastructure under Jal Jeevan Mission. They met panchayat people at Batote and also toured Sanasar on the last day of their visit.

CNO conducted a detailed assessment of various crucial aspects of the program in the district. She reviewed the financial and physical progress achieved, so far, in the district and appreciated the efforts of the district administration and other stakeholders in effectively implementing the Jal Shakti Abhiyan in the district.

ADDC Doda discusses measures for improving board results in low performing schools

■ HT News Network

Doda, June 14: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Doda, Pran Singh, today chaired a significant meeting aimed at addressing the issue of low performance and disappointing board results in some Government Schools.

The ADCD Singh interacted with over 30 principals and asked for explanation for the poor performance in the recently declared board examination results for 12th class.

One of the concerns raised by the ADCD Singh



was the surplus teaching staff in many schools across the district. Expressing displeasure, he emphasized the need for efficient utilization of human resources and the reallocation of surplus teachers to schools facing a shortage. This

would ensure that students receive quality education and benefit from the expertise of dedicated teachers.

To address the surplus teaching staff issue, the ADCD directed the principals to take action against underperforming teachers.

Those teachers who failed to deliver satisfactory their salary or increment would be withheld.

The meeting also shed light on the shortcomings of childcare leave, availed by female teaching staff. The ADCD Singh stressed the importance of granting child care leave judiciously to avoid the shortage of teaching staff in the schools. This would ensure uninterrupted education and maintain the quality of teaching throughout the academic year.

The meeting was attended by Chief Education Officer, Parshuram Gorla and heads of Institutions.

EDITORIAL

The Alarming Health Consequences of Adulterated Food: A Case Study in Srinagar

The recent case registered against a Srinagar-based departmental store for selling substandard baby milk raises concerns about the grave health consequences of adulterated food. This incident sheds light on the pervasive issue of food adulteration and emphasizes the urgent need for stricter regulations and rigorous enforcement to safeguard public health.

Adulteration refers to the addition of inferior or harmful substances to food products, compromising their quality and safety. Consumption of adulterated food can have severe health consequences. In the case of substandard baby milk, infants are particularly vulnerable, as their immune systems are still developing. Adulterants such as synthetic compounds, toxins, or contaminated ingredients can lead to various health issues, including gastrointestinal disorders, food poisoning, developmental problems, and even long-term complications. This incident underscores the need for immediate action to protect consumers from the perils of adulterated food.

The availability of adulterated food in markets poses significant risks to public health. Substandard food products not only deprive consumers of essential nutrients but also introduce harmful substances into their bodies. This can result in a range of health problems, from acute illnesses to chronic conditions. The consequences are particularly dire for vulnerable populations, such as infants, pregnant women, and the elderly, who may experience more severe health complications due to compromised immune systems.

Apart from immediate health risks, long-term exposure to adulterated food can contribute to the rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and cancer. Adulterants like preservatives, artificial flavors, and pesticides can accumulate in the body over time, triggering adverse health effects. This not only burdens individuals but also strains healthcare systems and has broader socioeconomic implications.

To combat the rampant issue of adulterated food, it is crucial to establish and enforce stringent regulations. Government bodies responsible for food safety must collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including manufacturers, retailers, and consumer advocacy groups, to develop comprehensive guidelines that encompass production, packaging, storage, and distribution. These regulations should be regularly updated to keep pace with emerging adulteration techniques and novel risks.

Effective enforcement is equally essential. Authorities should conduct regular inspections, carry out surprise checks, and impose stringent penalties on those found guilty of adulteration. Increasing the frequency and rigor of sampling and testing food products is vital to ensure compliance and hold accountable those who compromise public health for personal gain.

Furthermore, public awareness campaigns should educate consumers about the signs of adulteration and promote informed choices. Empowering individuals to identify adulterated products and report suspicious cases can serve as an additional safeguard against unscrupulous practices.

The case of the well-known Srinagar-based departmental store selling substandard baby milk serves as a stark reminder of the alarming health consequences of adulterated food. It is imperative for governments, regulatory bodies and citizens to join forces in combating this menace.

Only through strict regulations, rigorous enforcement, and increased awareness can we safeguard public health and protect future generations from the dangers of adulterated food.

An Outing to Yousmarg



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

Valley of Kashmir often referred to as the paradise on earth is famous for its enchanting beauty, pleasant and favourable climate. The world famous tourist places like Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Mughal gardens and Dodpathri is seeing a heavy rush of local and national visitors these days. Few weeks back Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan also shot a film Dunki here alongside Taapsee Manu. Due to abundance of snow clad mountains, lofty hills, vast green meadows and fresh water lakes and streams, Kashmir is the first choice of majority of national and foreign tourists intending to spend the summer vacations in order to have some relaxing days post heavy and hectic busy days of their life. To refresh mind and soul and to explore the unexplored natural beauty of our valley, our school Govt BHS Anderwan Ganderbal went for a days outing to world famous Yousmarg of district Budgam. Students were anxious and craved for a picnic to a health resort few weeks ago but the erratic weather conditions didn't permit to go for an excursion and finally it was set on 10th of June after reviewing the climatic conditions. The weather was kind enough to let us enjoy the day. A day before on Friday students were let free after Friday prayers to make some preparations for the outing and were directed to report school campus at 7:30am sharp next morning. However to our utter astonishment and surprise most of them had arrived an hour before. They were overjoyous and excitement was apparent from their faces. It reminded me of my own student-ship days when I would rarely have a sound sleep the night following which I had to go for an excursion. I would even keep my shoes and uniform close to my bed so that the following day there were least chances of time waste. I would like any other guy wake up early in the morning and prepare for the outing. After assembling in the school campus, two local teachers

namely Rafiq sahib and Mushtaq sahib lead them to the bus stop where they boarded the respective buses and started their journey exactly at 7:45 am. Four teachers of Arhama village were waiting them at Arhama and other four including me at Dursuma. Headmaster sahib of the institution joined us at Ganderbal since he is hailing from historically important Tullamula village of district. From Chanpora Srinagar onwards students got newer experiences of travel, architecture and roadways. Prior to this they seldom had travelled through such adorable and densely populated areas. While traveling from Ganderbal to Srinagar they chanted varied prayers and occasionally sang some melodious Hindi and Gojri songs. Some even were so excited that they danced to tunes of soulful songs in the bus. Many talented guys of artistic abilities were discovered during the trip. From Nagam chadoora the road leading to Chararishareef has signboards on both sides painted by the poetry of Sheikh Noor Din Noorani ra. Amid apple and cherry orchards finally we reached Chararishareef, the town of Sheikh Noor Din Noorani ra. Before entering the shrine of Sheikh we took a cup of fresh warm Lipton tea in a local hotel. Children too were busy in purchasing the items of their choice. We had to wait for some time at the main gate of shrine as the honorable Chief Justice of JK was there at that time and security agencies didn't let common people to enter the shrine premises. They were allowed only after he came out. We spent an hour or two there, praying and seeking blessings. Chararishareef is the last resting place of revered spiritual saint of valley Sheikh Noor Din Noorani ra. He has visited every corner of valley preaching the noble teachings of God and through his poetry in native language made people understand the principles and message of Quran. Dried pear slices, firepots and many other things of Chararishareef are famous all over valley. From Chararishareef we straight away moved to Yousmarg the meadow of Jesus according to some legends. 53 kilometres from summer capital Srinagar, Yousmarg provides space for beautiful landscapes, young pine nurseries, green pastures and heart touching lotic and lentic water bodies. Nilnag, Doodhganga and a nascently created artificial dam Sudri Mouj Dam adds more to the beauty of the meadows. Nature has bestowed Yousmarg with pleasant flora and fauna.

Yousmarg is often referred to as a trekkers paradise. The vast green meadows of Yousmarg is adding to it's enchanting beauty and cool climate. Both students and the teaching faculty after spending an hour in the green meadows went for the lunch. There was a prediction of erratic weather but later it was kind enough for us and didn't irritate us in any way. We enjoyed a lot at Yousmarg, students were overjoyed to move in vast green meadows and were busy in taking selfies amid woods because after a pretty long busy classwork they felt somewhat free to enjoy in the lap of nature. In Yousmarg the Doodhganga Nalla is famous for it's crystal clear and pollution free ice-cold water. Every visitor enjoys the trekking from Yousmarg meadows to Doodhganga Nalla to get mesmerized by it's natural beauty. I along with my Headmaster took an opportunity to visit the site. We both enjoyed the trip and were encountered both by local and national visitors during our to and fro journey. After reaching the Doodhganga Nalla site we spent some memorable moments on the banks of Doodhganga Nalla. Glimpse of the dense woods freshened our mind and soul. We felt relaxed and realised the value of serene atmosphere. Seeing others we too took out our cellphones and clicked some photos. Along the track some temporary hotels erected by some unemployed youth compel every passersby to taste the famous Kashmiri pink salt tea along with the bread made from corn flour by woman on traditional chullahs. It was 5:30pm the moment we reached back Yousmarg main stop. Then we called all the students and directed them to board the buses to move towards Pakharpora where the famous shrine of Syed Ali Aali Balkhira is a must visited place. Whosoever visits Chararishareef and Yousmarg definitely visits this shrine also. We prayed Asar prayers there and bought Halwa puratha and other items for home. After spending an hour there we finally turned back to our homes. While returning back, students didn't feel exhausted and tired but were pleased after a days trip to Yousmarg. They enjoyed in the buses even during back journey and sang different songs. Their parents were eagerly waiting them at Anderwan main stop when we reached back at 10:35pm.

Writer hails from Qazigund Kashmir

There is a time when a Nation arises!



M S NAZKI

The democratic giant of the world is the G-20 President!
I do not want to reflect on who the giant is!
There is a time when a Nation arises!
Now this is no exaggeration: India's thousands of years old culture has taught us one thing. When we strive for our progress, we also envision global progress. Today India is such a rich and living democracy of the world. In actuality this starts from a common village or street neighborhood! In both the cases we are prepared to help the neighbors, in times of celebrations or in times of distress! This is in our blood and India itself is a universal of learning like Greeks were in the past ages! The same translates into society, then to community, then to Nation as a whole and further on across the oceans, lands and skies! India was, is and will be the torch bearer of peace, progress and enlightenment to the world! This is also having the values of democracy, and a proud tradition in the form of the mother of democracy. India has as much diversity as it has uniqueness. This democracy, this diversity, this indigenous approach, this inclusive thinking, this local lifestyle, and these global thoughts, today the world is looking at solutions to all its challenges in these ideas. And, the G-20 can come in handy as a big opportunity for this.
Every Nation has its own problems, some acute and some obtuse! If the world stands united then each and every issue of humanity can be solved! Wasting time and more importantly money in bigger quantities is nothing but absurdity, apathy and idiocy! India has a couple of neighbors who believe in that. One will be there at the G-20 Summit, the other is far leagues behind and trust me it can never revive! This one is not a difficult question to answer as to who in two would be at the G-20 Summit!
Some FAQs!
The G20 was upgraded to the level of Heads of State/ Government in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis of 2007, and, in 2009, was designated the premier forum for international economic cooperation!
The G20 Summit is held annually, under the leadership of a rotating Presidency. The G20 initially focused largely on broad macroeconomic issues, but it has since expanded its agenda to include trade, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption!
Now since India is holding the presidency, the Indian culture, traditions and flavors have to be at the forefront!
Notion of universal brotherhood is being reflected via the G-20 logo. The lotus in the logo of G-20 is a symbol of hope in these tough times. G20 Presidency

Take our digital public infrastructure, for instance. It has enabled the government to deliver the benefits of development directly to citizens in all parts of the country in a transparent, smooth and corruption-free manner. Another example of India's commitment towards inclusive development is that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, about 110 million rural households have been provided access to drinking water at their homes. More than 110 million sanitation facilities have been created across the country!

and multilateralism, India's G20 Presidency would be a watershed moment in her history as it seeks to play an important role by finding itself at the world stage!
Mind you kids of the future, this will be asked in future exams as to when the first G-20 Summit was held in India and where it was?
India's G20 presidency is coming at a time of crisis and chaos in the world. The world is going through the after-effects of a disruptive once-in-a-century pandemic, conflicts and a lot of economic uncertainty.
The symbol of the lotus in the G20 logo is a representation of hope in these times. No matter how adverse the circumstances, the lotus still blooms. Even if the world is in a deep crisis, we can still progress and make the world a better place. In Indian culture, both the Goddess of knowledge (Saraswati) and prosperity (Laxmi) are seated on a lotus. This is what the world needs most today.
Providing every citizen with the basic necessities of life is the highest priority for the government and it has consistently ensured that there is enough social security support for all citizens. I think I talked about the local village and street level neighborhood! We Indians share food as neighbors, monetary help is of ill importance but whatever we have we are prepared to give! This is what is taught to our kids ever since they enter Kindergarten!
Take our digital public infrastructure, for instance. It has enabled the government to deliver the benefits of development directly to citizens in all parts of the country in a transparent, smooth and corruption-free manner. Another example of India's commitment towards inclusive development is that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, about 110 million rural households have been provided access to drinking water at their homes. More than 110 million sanitation facilities have been created across the country!
The thematic under current is that we (citizens) have to change our ideas! We simply cannot live in the past! Though about the future, anyone and everyone is uncertain but one day it does arrive! For India it has!
India firmly believes in inclusivity and taking everyone on board the path to growth and prosperity. At a time when multiple crises of global magnitude affect us all, the importance of keeping Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam's sentiment alive has never been more critical.
India's achievements in many areas are such that they can also be useful to other countries of the world. For example, the way India has used digital technologies for development, for inclusion, to eradicate corruption, to increase ease of doing business, ease of doing governance and ease of living, all these are models and templates for developing countries. Similarly, today India is progressing in women empowerment and women-led development. Our schemes like Jan Dhan accounts and Mudra have ensured financial inclusion of women. Our experience in various such fields can be of great help to the world. And India's G-20 Presidency is coming as an important medium to take all these successful campaigns to the world! I have time and again told this is just the beginning! Think of the future not of today! Indus Valley Civilization taught us that!



DR. GYAN PATHAK

After Doubling Of Bank Frauds, Swindlers To Get Second Chance

RBI ALLOWS COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT AND FRESH LOANS IN PUBLIC INTEREST

In the first eight years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India witnessed more than double the number of bank frauds. The first half of the ninth year, number of frauds rose even more sharply compared to the corresponding months of the eighth year. Now in the tenth year, when Lok Sabha elections are only 10 months away, the fraudsters are being allowed compromise settlement and even fresh loans in the 'interest of public' rather than such desired actions against the swindlers of bank moneys and conniving bank officials.

Let us place the matter direct - from 4306 in 2013-14, the number of bank frauds rose to 9,103 in 2021-22. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data released just about six months ago by the end of the year 2022 showed that the number of financial frauds were even on the rise in 2022-23. During the first six months of the financial year 2022-23, the number of financial frauds cases were 5406 in number, while a year earlier in 2021-22 during the corresponding months, the number of frauds were 4069. Now the RBI, in its June 8, 2023 circular, has allowed the wilful defaulters and fraudsters to go for compromise settlement, and they would be allowed ever fresh loans after 12 months.

All these are happening under a government that claims of doing everything in national interest. Moreover, the present RBI direction is even contrary to its own 'Prudential Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets' issued on June 7, 2019, which had made clear that the borrowers who committed frauds/malfeasance/wilful default would remain ineligible for restructuring.

"While negotiating compromise settlements, it should be appreciated that the bank is a public sector entity and the stakeholders are taxpaying general public. Therefore, more than the interest of the Borrowers, the interest of public at large should be kept in mind," the RBI note has said. As per circular of the RBI, the wilful defaulters and companies involved in frauds can go for a compro-

mise settlement or technical write-offs by banks and finance companies.

It is worth recalling that that Union Ministry of Finance had informed the Parliament of India in December 2022 that banks had written off Rs11.7 lakh crore bad loans from their books in the last six year ending with the financial year 2021-22. It means Rs11.7 lakh crore had just vanished from the banking system. In the written reply, the Ministry of Finance had said that banks write off NPAs as part of their regular exercise to clean up their balance sheet, to avail tax benefit and optimise capital. Now, the latest information from RBI reveals that NPAs have been reduced to Rs 13,22,309 crore in the last ten years through such write-offs.

It goes without saying that the banks are being systemically fleeced, both through legal and illegal means, by big borrowers in connivance with bank officials, for which no responsibility is shouldered by both the Modi government and the RBI. Rather than taking prompt actions against such criminal incidents, it is surprising that RBI is now allowing them compromise settlements - that just amount to protecting the culprits against criminal proceedings.

The RBI has even said that banks can undertake compromise settlements or technical write-offs without prejudice to the criminal proceedings against such



wilful defaulters or fraudsters, who the RBI note loved to call 'debtors'.

Public sector banks are directed by the RBI to fix a minimum cooling period of at least 12 months before giving them fresh loans after the compromise settlements. RBI has said that the cooling period for exposures other than farm credit should be subject to a floor of 12 months, and regulated entities like banks and finance companies are free to stipulate higher cooling periods in term of their board-approved policies.

It is a common knowledge that banks in the country have been in the practice of approving compromise settlements running into hundreds of crores even with cut in the outstanding payments of loans not to be repaid by the borrowers. The logic for such compromise settlements are that these save banks

legal expenses on recovery cases and facilitates early recovery of bad loans. However, reality is otherwise, leading huge losses to banks.

Such restructuring of bad bank loans is known as "evergreening" which is done in connivance with bank officials and big borrowers. Even the enactment of the bankruptcy code did not help much in recovery of bad loans. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has more than once warned about continuing "evergreening". Banks often go for structuring of bad loans even without informing or taking consent of judicial authorities, such as Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) hearing fraud or default cases.

Bank Unions have opposed the present RBI decision to allow wilful defaulters and fraudsters to avail compromise settlements and fresh loan after 12 months,

saying that RBI's "framework for compromise settlements and technical write-offs" is a "detrimental step that may compromise the integrity of the banking system and undermine the efforts to combat wilful defaulters effectively".

All India Bank Officers Confederation (AIBOC) and All India Bank Employees Association (AIBE) have said that the decision is "an affront to the principles of justice and accountability." It would be rewarding for the dishonest and distress the honest borrowers who strive to meet their financial obligations, which would lead to erosion of public trust in the banking sector and also undermine the confidence of depositors.

AIBOC and AIBE said that in February 2016, the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance recommended for accountability of nominee directors of the RBI/ Ministry on the bank boards as well as the CMDs and MDs of banks. Moreover, the list of top wilful defaulters, as suggested by the Standing Committee, is yet to be published. The RBI should make the list of the wilful defaulters' public, introduce stricter penalties, enhanced scrutiny and a more proactive approach to identify and prevent potential defaulters.

Country is really in dark about who are the big defaulters of over Rs1 crore. Even in the written reply in December 2022 in the Parliament of India, the Union Ministry of Finance had said that RBI had informed them that borrower-wise information on written off loans accounts is not maintained by them. The list of suit filed against wilful defaulters of Rs25 lakh and above is available in public domain on the websites of the Credit Information Companies (CICs) and that of non-suit filed wilful defaulters is confidential in nature and are not in the public domain, the reply of the Union Finance Ministry had added.

The timing of the RBI decision is also noteworthy since it has come at a time when the general election 2024 is just 10 months away. It has given additional occasion for recalling the old allegation that many big borrowers, bank and government officials, and politicians of the ruling establishment are hand in glove in fleecing the public money from banks.

IPA Service

RSS NGO SPREADING DANGEROUS THEORY ABOUT PRODUCING 'CUSTOMISED BABIES'

WOMEN HEALTH AND SECURITY WILL BE AT RISK IF THESE IDEAS ARE ALLOWED TO FLOAT



DR ARUN MITRA

The news item published in the media on 12th June 2023 that an NGO affiliated with the RSS women's wing, the 'Rashtriya Sevika Samiti' has launched a documentary and guidance titled "Garbha Sanskar" to help the women bear customized "Cultured and Patriotic Children" is highly alarming. This is total negation of science and a move to push the society into utter backwardness and obscurantism. Shri Tamilisai Soundarajan the Governor of Telangana participated in the meeting of Rashtriya Sevika Samiti on 11th June 2023 giving it at official colour.

The guidance prepared by the organization highlights that the chanting of mantras, shalokas, Ramayana and Mahabharata will create positive vibration and connect with the baby in the womb. This connect will produce Sanskari and Patriotic babies. Such approach of the RSS is not new but the aggressive nature with which such myths are being propagated is dangerous and a matter of grave concern.

Commenting on this Dr Ms Param Saini, a leading Clinical Psychologist, said that "positive feelings and thoughts during pregnancy or listening to soothing music be it Ragas have always been promoted to help relieve stress and stay calm during pregnancy as this results in producing endorphins in the body and a happy mom connects well with her baby. A higher level of endorphins also helps in relieving pain during labour". We all know that the pregnant woman impacts her baby with her diet, oxygen saturation, stress, anxiety, mental and physical activities. Indian women have always been listening to all kind of Garbha Sanskar mantras and still fail to produce



"Most Sanskari & Patriotic Children".

It is the nature influenced by genetic inheritance and other biological factors and external factors such as what kind of exposure, experience and learning play a crucial role in influencing child development. This is another attempt by RSS to promote their agenda.

Dr Narjit Kaur a leading Gynaecologist at Ludhiana said that the documentary and guidance designed by the Rashtriya Sevika Samiti is not supported by any scientific evidence. It is only promoting the myths which do not stand anywhere in the modern scientific world.

The "Arogya Bharti", another RSS outfit established in November 2002 has been holding workshops to prepare women to deliver "Uttam Santati" - a perfect, "Customised Child" with the purpose of making strong India.

Arogya Bharti claims that through giving good food and advise about the time of

sexual intercourse based on planetary configurations they do "Shuddhikaran" (purification) which leads to transformation of genes and production of healthier superior babies. According to them recitation of religious hymns helps in production of healthier babies. By doing this they claim that generations to come will improve.

As per a report published in Indiatimes on 08 May 2017, the claim that through this exercise, Arogya Bharti has been able to produce 450 super babies so far, has to be followed up in time to find out whether the children produced in such a manner are superior to other children! There has to be an epidemiological study on the claims by comparing the results with control groups. That all this is being done under the shield of Ayurveda is exploiting people's faith in our traditional system of medicine.

The RSS patronized Arogya Bharti claim that they got this knowledge from Nazi

Germany which preached the concept of superiority of German race. This they claim is through the production of strong babies which was done by mother of Germany. One of leading surgeons from Germany and leading member of the German affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), Dr Christopher Kremer whom I contacted to substantiate this claim said that there is nothing like mother of Germany. "Though I have never heard of this 'Mother of Germany' -but it was so interesting for me to hear with a right wing movement (and government!) that I wanted not only to tell you that, in my eyes, this 'Mother of Germany' story is misleading. Germany's resurrection has several other reasons which are political and economic and in no way based on the concept of mother of Germany".

In a highly patriarchal society in our country large number of people give prefer-

ence to male babies. The whole concept of Uttam Santati is patriarchal and masculine. We are already fighting hard to restore gender balance in the population. There are ample laws which prohibit sex determination tests because it is illegal and against the constitutional obligations of equality among genders, now even trans-genders. Then, how and why, such a campaign is being allowed? Among the 450 super babies which the proponents of this exercise claim to have produced, how many are male and how many females must be made public. Since many of these babies have grown by now their comparison with other average children must be done.

However such an exercise to talk of Garbha Sanskar meets several objectives of some outfits to spread obscurantism, medieval ideas & myths and hate campaigns against other religious groups. It is for the medical bodies, rationalist societies and right thinking people with scientific outlook to question such absurdities.

Modernity cannot be achieved through medieval ideas. Health of our people, particularly of the women and children cannot be left to be exploited by the people with irrational ideas. There has to be a concerted effort to develop a healthy India through scientific outlook. We cannot let our country be again looked as a country of serpents but be seen globally as a nation marching forward in post independent period as a modern industrially, agriculturally educationally fast growing country with the efforts of scientists, technocrats, workers, peasants, professionals and other sections of intelligentsia with achievements in medicine, space and nuclear science. The health of women and children must be a priority with special emphasis on their nutrition, education, empowerment and socio-economic security.

IPA Service

US Pushing India To Seal Big Armed Drone Deal During PM Modi's Visit: Report

HT News Network

Washington/New Delhi: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington, the Biden administration is pushing New Delhi to cut through its own red tape and advance a deal for dozens of US-made armed drones, two people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

India has long expressed interest in buying large armed drones from the United States. But bureaucratic stumbling blocks have hampered a hoped-for deal for Sea Guardian drones that could be worth \$2 billion to \$3 billion for years. US negotiators are counting on PM Modi's White House visit on June 22 to break the log jam.

Since the date for PM Modi's visit was fixed, the U.S. State Department, Pentagon and White House have asked India to be able to "show" progress on the deal for as many as 30 armable MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones made by General Atomics, two sources said. PM Modi and President



Biden are also expected to discuss co-production of munitions and ground vehicles, like armored personnel carriers, while PM Modi is in Washington, the sources said.

Spokespeople for the White House, Department of State and the Pentagon declined to comment on the negotiations.

US President Joe Biden has made deepening ties with India a cornerstone of his policy to counter China's growing influence, placing special attention this year on collaboration between the world's two largest democracies on advanced

military technologies, despite their lack of a formal security alliance.

New Delhi, which often prizes its non-alignment in conflicts between great powers abroad, has frustrated Washington by maintaining some defense and economic ties with Russia after the invasion of Ukraine.

Breaking India's bureaucratic log jam on drones hinges on an internal meeting to generate an "Acceptance of Necessity" document, an Indian precursor to a formal "Letter of Request" which kicks off the foreign military sale

process. As of Tuesday, the sources did not know if the New Delhi had generated the necessary internal document.

"That's gonna be a decision that the government of India needs to make," said a senior Biden administration official. "We think it would be good for them to go through with the purchase of MQ-9s. But those decisions are sort of more in the hands of India than they are of us."

The topic was expected to be on the agenda as Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday to finalize preparations ahead of PM Modi's visit.

As of last week, the ministry of defense had still not made up its mind about the number of drones it wants to buy, according to a person familiar with the discussions. Earlier, the number was pegged at 30, but that was later revised to 24, and then further down to 18 last month. Sources cautioned that none of the numbers were final.

Cyclone Biparjoy: 50,000 People Shifted From Gujarat Coastal Areas

HT News Network

Ahmedabad: Authorities have so far shifted 50,000 people from coastal areas of Gujarat to temporary shelters ahead of the expected landfall of powerful cyclone 'Biparjoy' near Jakhau port in Kutch district.

With the cyclone barreling towards the Gujarat coast, parts of the Saurashtra-Kutch region received heavy rains accompanied by strong winds, the Met department said on Wednesday.

The cyclone is expected to make landfall on Thursday evening as a "very severe cyclonic storm" with maximum wind speed reaching up to 150 kilometres per hour, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. In the 24 hours ending Wednesday morning, Khambhaliya taluka of Devbhumi Dwarka district received the highest 121 mm of rainfall, followed by Dwarka (92 mm) and Kalyanpur (70 mm) during this period, the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said in a release.

More than nine talukas in Jamnagar, Junagadh, Rajkot, Porbandar and Kutch districts received more than 50 mm of rainfall in the same period, it said.

According to SEOC, 54 talukas across the districts of Saurashtra and Kutch received more than 10 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours till Wednesday morning.

"The cyclone is nearly 290 km away



from Kutch at present. As a precautionary measure, we have already shifted nearly 50,000 people living in coastal areas to temporary shelters. The evacuation process is still on and the remaining 5,000 persons will be shifted by this evening to safer places" said State Commissioner of Relief, Alok Kumar Pandey. Of the 50,000-odd evacuees, nearly 18,000 people were shifted to shelters in Kutch district while others were evacuated from Junagadh, Jamnagar, Porbandar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Morbi and Rajkot, Pandey told reporters in Gandhinagar.

He said 15 teams of NDRF (National Disaster Response Force), 12 teams of SDRF (State Disaster Response Force), 115 teams of state road and building department, and 397 teams of the state electricity department

have been deployed in different coastal districts.

"Officials of departments of Electricity and Road & Building have also reached designated spots to restore connectivity and power supply. We have also deployed teams carrying HAM Radio sets and satellite phones in the coastal region for better communication," said Pandey.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel visited the state government's emergency operations centre on Tuesday night for a review of the preparedness. The IMD said in a bulletin that the intensity of rainfall would increase as the cyclone approaches the Gujarat coast on June 15, with isolated places in the districts of Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka and Jamnagar likely to witness extremely heavy rains.

More than hundred trains affected due to cyclone Biparjoy: Railway spokesperson

HT News Network

New Delhi, June 14 (UNI) Operation of more than hundred trains have been affected due to cyclone Biparjoy in the state capital.

According to spokesperson of West Railway spokesperson, 69 trains have been suspended, 33 trains have been terminated before their destination and 25 trains have been arranged to operate from stations situated in between.

The administration has made arrangements to deal with the cyclone. Its impact will be felt in Bhavnagar, Mahua, Varival and Porbandar. Starting from Monday, the goods train will be equipped with Double stack. The arrangements are being reviewed from time to time. According to a railway spokesperson, medical emergencies and vans are kept on standby. The alert department has been activated. Along with this, the cyclone speed too is being monitored. Diesel engines too are being arranged. The communications department too is being prepared.

Defamation case: Bengaluru court summons Rahul Gandhi, Siddaramaiah

HT News Network

Bengaluru, June 14 (UNI) A city court on Wednesday ordered issuing of summons to Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in a defamation case filed by BJP.

The complaint also has been filed against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court here.

The complaint was filed by Karnataka BJP Secretary S Kes-

havprasad on May 9, alleging false claims by the respondents in advertisements, tarnishing BJP's image.

Keshavaprasad alleged that the claims made by the KCC that the then incumbent BJP government indulged in "40 per cent corruption" and looted Rs 1.5 lakh crore in the previous four years was "baseless, prejudiced and defamatory".

The claim was made by the KPCC by releasing the advertisement in major newspapers on May 5 in the run up to the assembly election.

The special court took cognisance of offences of respondents



under Sections 499 (defamation) and 500 (punishment for defamation) of the Indian Penal Code. The complaint also has been filed

against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court here. The complaint was filed by Karnataka BJP Secretary S Keshavaprasad on May 9, alleging false claims by the respondents in advertisements, tarnishing BJP's image.

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US NSA Sullivan meets EAM Jaishankar, PM Modi's Washington visit discussed

HT News Network

New Delhi, June 14 (UNI) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday met visiting US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan during which they discussed global strategic developments as well as PM Modi's upcoming State Visit to the United States.

In a tweet, EAM posted: "Great to meet US NSA @jakesullivan46 in South Block today morning."

"Our conversation focused on preparing for PM @narendramodi's upcoming US visit."



"Also discussed global strategic developments from the perspective of our partnership." On Tuesday, NSA Sullivan

had held talks with Indian NSA Ajit Doval and also called on PM Modi.

During the talks between PM Modi and the US NSA,

the two reviewed the progress under the India-US Initiative on Critical & Emerging Technologies (ICET) and other issues of bilateral cooperation.

On Tuesday, the two National Security Advisers met for restricted discussions on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Later in the evening, they attended the second Track 1.5 dialogue on ICET organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. During the talks between PM Modi and the US NSA, the two reviewed the progress under the India-US.

Political harassment, vendetta by Modi govt: Kharage on TN Minister Balaji's arrest

HT News Network

New Delhi, June 14 (UNI) Stepping up his attack on Narendra Modi-led government, Congress president Mallikarjun on Wednesday said the arrest of Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji by

the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is nothing but "political harassment and vendetta" by the ruling dispensation.

"Congress condemns the late-night arrest of Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister V Senthil Balaji by the ED. This is nothing but political harassment and vendetta by the (Narendra) Modi government



against those opposed to it," said party chief Mallikarjun Kharage.

Kharage, who has been accusing the ruling BJP of "misusing" the Central probe agencies against political opponents, further said, "None of us in the Opposition will be intimidated by such brazen moves."

Earlier, he said, "These tactics will not succeed in silencing the Opposition. They only reinforce its determination and resolve to continue its democratic struggle against the 'anti-people' policies of the Modi government."

The ED on Wednesday arrested Balaji after it conducted raids at his premises in connection with an alleged money laundering case. "Congress condemns the late-night arrest of Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister V Senthil Balaji by the ED. This is nothing but political harassment and vendetta by the (Narendra) Modi government against those opposed to it," said party chief Mallikarjun Kharage.

Cheating mafia biggest enemy of society, should be boycotted: Yogi

HT News Network

Lucknow, June 14 (UNI) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday described the "cheating mafia" as the biggest enemy of society that pollutes educational institutions and while calling for its social boycott said Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Board was "infamous for cheating" before 2017.

Speaking at the tablet distribution ceremony and felicitation of meritorious students at Lok Bhawan, the CM said that the state government has, therefore, implemented a cheating-free examination system in UP while directing the administration to take strict action against the "cheating mafia".

He further said that six years ago, examina-

tions were held for three months, results used to come in 2 to 3 months while admission to the next class used to take another three months and the remaining three months were spent in festivities affecting study schedules of educational institutions.

Yogi said, "The Secondary Education Board has done commendable work of conducting the examination within 15 days and releasing the result within 14 days."

Congratulating the students who have achieved success in various board examinations, he said that before 2017, there were not enough teachers in the schools, whereas today the state tops in the recruitment of teachers in the country.

The CM said, "Our government has com-



pleted selection of more than 1.62 lakh teachers for Basic and Secondary Education Council schools in a transparent manner and has also given them appointment letters in six years, while 1.33 lakh schools have been

established under Operation Kayakalp."

He said that tablets, smartphones are being given to two crore youths in the state to make them tech-savvy.

"Abhyudaya Coaching has been established for those parents and students who cannot afford costly coaching. Notably, 23 and 98 students who received training at Abhyudaya Coaching Centres cracked this year's civil services exam the UP Public Service Commission (UPPSC) exam respectively," he said.

Yogi said that Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana is going on for the girls of the state. "Schools should make people aware about this so that a large number of girls can take advantage of this facility," he said.

He said, "The education department is try-

ing to bring a new revolution in the field of education across the state by using modern technology."

Emphasising on the need to create awareness about sports among children, the CM said that dropout rate in schools and colleges has reduced in UP. "Students appearing in board exams must read the book 'Exam Warriors' written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

He said, "India is the only country that has generated new opportunities even during the novel coronavirus pandemic period. The National Education Policy is the outcome of that period. Educational institutions must implement the NEP for the bright future of the students."

Xi hails establishment of 'China-Palestine strategic' ties

HT News Network

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday that his country was establishing "strategic" relations with Palestinians ahead of talks with leader Mahmud Abbas in Beijing.

Abbas will be in the Chinese capital until Friday, Beijing has said, on his fifth official visit to the world's second-largest economy.

"Facing a century of global changes and new developments to the situation in the Middle East, China is ready to strengthen coordination and cooperation with the Palestinian side," said Xi during a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People.

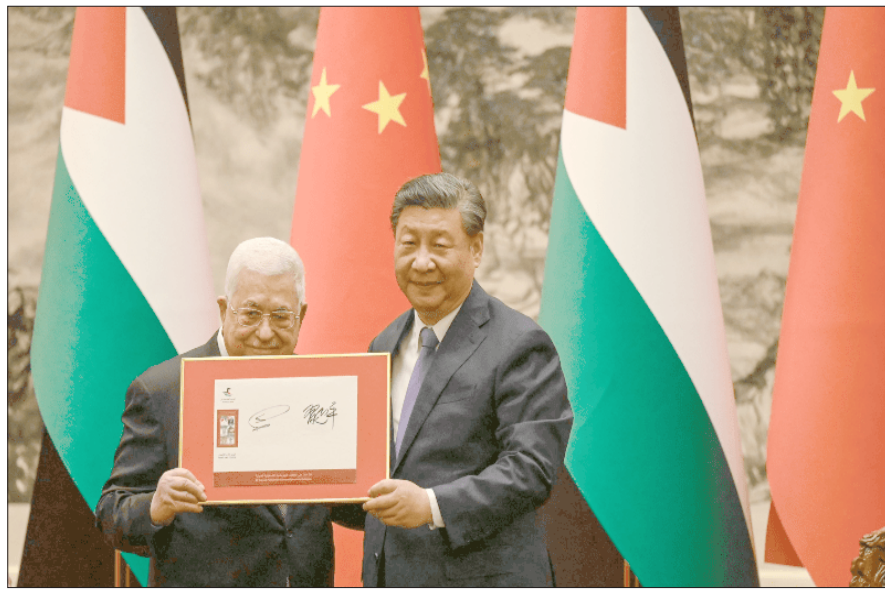
"Today, we will jointly announce the establishment of a China-Palestine strategic partnership, which will be an important milestone in the history of bilateral relations," added Xi.

Abbas arrived in Beijing on Monday to hold talks with top Chinese leaders including President Xi and Premier Li Qiang.

The two sides are using the opportunity to discuss ways to advance relations and resolve longstanding challenges to the Palestinian-Israeli relationship.

Beijing has sought to boost its ties in the Middle East, challenging US influence — efforts that have sparked unease in Washington.

During a regular press briefing last week, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin called long-time Palestinian



leader Abbas an "old and good friend of the Chinese people".

Last December, President Xi visited Saudi Arabia on an Arab outreach trip that also saw him meet with Abbas and pledge to "work for an early, just and durable solution to the Palestinian issue".

Beijing has since positioned itself as a mediator in the Middle East, brokering the restoration of ties in March between Iran and Saudi Arabia — rivals in a region where the United States has for decades been the main powerbroker.

But finding a lasting solution to Israeli-

Palestinian tensions may prove more elusive, as peace negotiations between the two sides have been stalled since 2014.

In April, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang told his Israeli and Palestinian counterparts that his country was willing to aid peace negotiations, Xinhua reported.

And Qin told Palestinian foreign minister Riyad Al-Maliki that Beijing supports the resumption of talks as soon as possible, according to the state news agency.

In both calls, Qin emphasised China's push for peace talks on the basis of implementing a "two-state solution". Chinese

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Last December, President Xi visited Saudi Arabia on an Arab outreach trip that also saw him meet with Abbas.

Donald Trump arrested, pleads 'not guilty'

HT News Network

MIAMI: Former US president Donald Trump was arrested at the federal courthouse in Florida on Tuesday, and pleaded not guilty to federal criminal charges that he unlawfully kept national security documents when he left office and lied to officials who sought to recover them, CNN reported.

Deputy marshals booked the former president and took his fingerprints, while his aide and co-defendant, Walt Nauta was also arrested, fingerprinted and processed.

Trump's plea, entered before US Magistrate Judge Jonathan Goodman in a federal court in Miami, sets up a legal battle likely to play out over coming months as he campaigns to win back the presidency in a November 2024 election.

The hearing was closed to cameras and live broadcasts.

It was the second courtroom visit for Trump in recent months. In April, he pleaded not guilty to state charges in New York stemming from a hush-money payment to a porn star.

Trump is the first former president to be charged with federal crimes.

Trump has repeatedly proclaimed his innocence and accuses Democratic President Joe Biden's administration of targeting him.

He called Special Counsel Jack Smith, who is leading the prosecution, a "Trump hater" on social media on Tuesday.

Iran discusses N-plan with Europeans in UAE

HT News Network

TEHRAN: Iran's nuclear negotiator on Tuesday said he had met with diplomats from three European countries in Abu Dhabi to discuss a number of issues including the country's atomic energy programme.

"Following diplomatic consultations with regional and extra-regional parties, we met with our German, French and British counterparts in Abu Dhabi and discussed a range of issues," deputy foreign minister and top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri tweeted.

Germany's foreign ministry said the meeting took place on Monday and that discussions broached topics concerning Iran's nuclear programme.

State news agency IRNA added that Bagheri was also in Abu Dhabi to discuss with the officials the promotion of bilateral cooperation and to review regional issues.

Iran's nuclear programme has long been the subject of scrutiny from Western powers, resulting in sanctions that have hit the country's economy.

A landmark deal in 2015, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), gave Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme to guarantee that Tehran could not develop a nuclear weapon — something it has always denied wanting to do.

But the US unilateral withdrawal from the accord in 2018 under then-president Donald Trump and the reimposition of biting economic sanctions prompted Iran to begin rolling back on its own commitments.

On-off negotiations with France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China directly, and the United States indirectly to revive the deal have stalled in the past months.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani on Monday said the country has continued indirect negotiations with the United States over the issue.

On Sunday, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reiterated that the country does not seek to acquire a nuclear weapon, adding that agreements could be reached in certain nuclear fields.

Two students among three stabbed to death in UK

HT News Network

NOTTINGHAM: Three people, including two students, were found dead and a van tried to mow down three others in Nottingham, central England, on Tuesday, in incidents the authorities believe are linked.

Nottingham's centre was cordoned off, with a heavy police presence, including armed officers following the events that left residents shaken.

Police said a 31-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of murder but they were not looking for anyone else in connection with the incidents. Counter-terrorism police have been drafted in to help with the investigation but there has been no formal declaration that it was a terror incident.

Nottingham University — one of two universities in the city — confirmed that two of its students were among the dead.

A van tries to mow down three others in Nottingham, central England.

"We are shocked and devastated by the news and our thoughts are with those affected, their families and friends," a statement read.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak thanked emergency services who had dealt with the "shocking incident" in the city, which is home to more than 320,000 people. "My thoughts are with those injured, and the family and loved ones of those who have lost their lives," he said. Police were called just after 4am after two people were found dead in Ilkeston Road, which runs west out of the city centre between Nottingham University and Nottingham Trent University.

Residents reported hearing screams and seeing a young man and woman being stabbed, before the attacker — said by one witness to be dressed in black with a hood and rucksack — walked off calmly.

The body of a man was also found on Magdala Road, about two miles (3.2 kilometres) away, police said. The three people hit by the van, in Milton Street, in the city centre, were being treated in hospital, the force added. One was in a critical condition while the others had minor injuries, it added. A white Vauxhall van with a shattered windscreen was cordoned off a mile away outside a convenience store, a photographer said. A black rucksack was seen on the road under the vehicle's open passenger-side door.

59 Migrants Die As Ship Overturns Off Greek Coast

HT News Network

Athens, Greece: Greece's coastguard said 59 migrants died early Wednesday after their boat capsized and sank off the Peloponnese, while around 100 others were rescued.

The accident occurred in international waters in the Ionian Sea and prompted an extensive rescue operation complicated by strong winds, the coastguard said earlier.

Along with navy vessels, the operation included an army plane and helicopter as well as six other boats that were in the area.

"Since very early Wednesday, an extensive rescue operation is underway off Pylos, after a fishing boat capsized with a large number of migrants onboard," the coastguard said.

Those rescued were being brought to Kalamata, though four in serious condition were transferred by helicopter to the port's hospital.

The coastguard said a surveillance plane with Europe's Frontex agency had spotted the boat Tuesday afternoon, but the passengers "refused any help".

It later said that none on board were wearing life jackets, and did not immediately disclose their nationalities.

Authorities said it appeared the migrants had departed from Libya and were heading for Italy.

Also Wednesday, Greece's port police



said a sailboat in distress carrying about 80 migrants off Crete was rescued by a coastguard patrol and towed to port.

Greece along with Italy and Spain have long been the main landing points for tens of thousands of people seeking to reach Europe from Africa and the Middle East.

Greece is also facing an increase of crossing attempts from Turkey on southern routes near the Cyclades islands and toward the Peloponnese peninsula, hoping to avoid patrols in the northern Aegean Sea.

Rescue operations are common, but last month the Greek government came under international pressure over video footage reportedly showing the forceful expulsion of migrants who were set adrift at sea.

Greece and other EU member states on the south and southeastern rim of the bloc say they are being unfairly tasked with managing arrivals of undocumented migrants. The coastguard said a surveillance plane with Europe's Frontex agency had spotted the boat Tuesday afternoon, but the passengers "refused any help".

Record 110 Million People Forcibly Displaced Across The Globe: UN

HT News Network

Geneva, Switzerland: A record 110 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced from their homes, the United Nations said Wednesday, branding the huge upsurge an "indictment" of the world.

Russia's war in Ukraine, refugees fleeing Afghanistan and the fighting in Sudan have pushed the total number of refugees forced to seek shelter abroad, and those displaced within their own countries, to an unprecedented level, said UNHCR, the UN refugee agency.

At the end of last year, 108.4 million people were displaced, UNHCR said in its flagship annual report, Global Trends in Forced Displacement.

The number was up 19.1 million from the end of 2021 — the biggest-ever increase since the records began back in 1975.

Since then, the eruption of the conflict in Sudan has triggered further displacement, pushing the global total to an estimated 110 million by May.

"We have 110 million



people that have fled because of conflict, persecution, discrimination and violence, often mixed with other motives — in particular the impact of climate change," UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi told a press conference in Geneva.

"It's quite an indictment on the state of our world," he said. Numbers likely to increase

Of the 2022 global total, 35.3 million were refugees who fled abroad, with 62.5 million being internally displaced. There were 5.4 million asylum-seekers and a further 5.2 million other people — predominantly from Venezuela — needing international protection.

"My fear is that the figure is likely to increase more," said Grandi. He said the swelling displacement this year was being increasingly met with "a more hostile environment, especially when it comes to refugees, almost everywhere".

"Leadership is about convincing your public opinion that there are people that deserve international protection," he said.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees noted that around 76 percent of refugees fled to low- and middle-income countries, while 70 percent stayed in neighbouring countries.

Door must 'remain open' Grandi said Britain's plans to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda for adjudication was "not a good idea".

He said the US case was more complex, but added: "We are worried... about denial of access to asylum in the United States".

UN sees no progress on biases against women in a decade

HT News Network

ISLAMABAD: The 2023 Gender Social Norms Index's (GSNI) report published by the United Nations has revealed no improvement in biases against women in a decade, with almost 9 out of 10 men and women worldwide still holding such biases today.

Half of people worldwide still believe men make better political leaders than women and more than 40 per cent believe men make better business executives than women.

A staggering 25pc of people believe it is justified for a man to beat his wife, according to the new GSNI report released on Monday by the United Nations



Development Programme (UNDP), reflecting the latest data from the World Values Survey.

The report, titled 'Breaking down gender biases' says political rights and civil liberties have been in decline worldwide for at least a decade. Shrinking global freedoms and rising

polarisation have been accompanied by the backlash against gender equality and women's rights, affecting entire societies by shifting power relations.

25pc people think man beating his wife is justifiable in addition to discriminatory social norms, the backlash has also been seen

through extremism and gendered disinformation, putting democratic practices under stress and risking women's equal participation in politics and civic spaces, and through the backsliding of gender equality laws and policies.

The world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030. The global Gender Inequality Index (GII) value, UNDP's composite measure of gender inequality in empowerment, has remained stagnant since 2019. The outlook is further diminished by a global backlash against women's rights and the lasting devastation of the multidimensional human development crises that followed the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nato to set up liaison office in Tokyo

HT News Network

TOKYO: Nato will set up a liaison office in Tokyo in 2024 and use it as a hub for co-operation with Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea, the Nikkei newspaper said on Tuesday, a plan China has described as unwelcome.

In May, Japan's ambassador to the United States said the US-led military alliance was planning a Tokyo office, the first in Asia, to ease regional consultations, but French President Emmanuel Macron objected to the plan.

At the time, China said the Asia-Pacific did not welcome what it called "group confrontation", urging Japan to be "extra cautious on the issue of military security" given its "history of aggression". The Nikkei said Nato would deepen ties with its four major partners in the Pacific, preparing two-way cooperation documents with each, to form a basis for collaboration on issues such as cybersecurity and space.

On a visit to Japan in January, Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg pledged with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to strengthen ties in the face of "historic" security challenges, citing Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's rising military power. "Australia will have further updates on its partnership arrangements in due course," a spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said. "All Nato partners are transitioning to the new Individually Tailored Partnership Programme process once their existing partnership arrangements are due for renewal," the spokesperson said in a statement.

World Blood Donor Day-2023 celebrated at GMC Baramulla

Donating Blood is an act of Solidarity, join the effort & save lives: President ISBT

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JUNE 14: To mark the commemoration of 'World Blood Donor Day' being observed today across the world under the theme, "Give Blood, Give Plasma: Share Life, Share often", the Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla Wednesday organized a day long programme at Auditorium Hall here to mark the celebration.

The grand event was presided over by Principal Government Medical College Baramulla, Dr. (Prof) Ruby Reshi. The event was graced by the chief guest T.R. Raina (President International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT)) while as Medical superintendent GMC Baramulla, Principal

Degree college and Principal women's college Baramulla besides other faculty members of GMC Baramulla were also present in the programme.

Many Non-government organizations (NGO) like Care for Humanity trust, Al-Imaan Youth Foundation, Blood Network Baramulla, Al Ummah Welfare Foundation, Red Cross Society Baramulla and HDFC Baramulla also participated in the event.

On the occasion, Principal GMC Baramulla while addressing the gathering elaborated the importance of blood donation and gave a brief awareness about the event.

She asserted to recognize and promote the values of voluntary unpaid blood donation in enhancing community solidarity and social cohesion; raise awareness of the need for donating blood voluntarily.



ing blood voluntarily.

Addressing the programme, the chief guest highlighted the importance of blood donation and its health benefits. He said that this day is celebrated to support national blood transfusion services, blood donor organizations and other non government organizations in strengthening and expanding their voluntary blood donor programmes by reinforcing national and local campaigns.

While disseminating the requirements of blood donation, T.R. Raina said that Blood and blood products are essential resources for effective management of women suffering from bleeding associated with pregnancy and childbirth; children suffering from severe anaemia due to malaria and malnutrition; patients

with blood and bone marrow disorders, inherited disorders of haemoglobin and immune deficiency conditions; victims of trauma, emergencies, disasters and accidents; as well as patients undergoing advanced medical and surgical procedures.

He also reiterated that the need for blood is universal, but access to blood for all those who need it is not. Donating blood is an act of solidarity, join the effort and save lives, the chief guest remarked.

Earlier, Head of the Department, Pathology and Blood Centre, Professor Parveen Shah gave a brief introduction regarding the event and achievements of Blood bank department of Government Medical College Baramulla.

DIET Doda, Pratham organise Zonal Level Exhibition

HT News Network

DODA, JUNE 14: In a collaborative effort between the District Institute of Education Research & Training (DIET) and the Pratham Education Foundation, an exciting Zonal Level Exhibition was organized here today. The exhibition showcased a wide range of Teaching Learning Materials (TLM), Models, Toys, and Puppet Shows across all 10 Educational Zones.

The primary objective of this event was to promote foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) among grade children by creating visually appealing and engaging TLM. With a focus on blended learning, teachers from various schools in District Doda came together to prepare colourful and attractive TLM. These materials aimed to enhance the learning experience for children, ensuring they gain a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy.

The exhibition featured multiple stalls, each dedicated to displaying TLM, Models, and Toys. The purpose of these stalls was to align with the goals of the NIPUN BHARAT initiative, which emphasizes the importance of foundational skills in children. By providing hands-on experiences and interactive displays, the exhibition aimed to foster a love for learning while strengthening fundamental knowledge.

Through this collaborative effort, DIET Doda and Pratham Education Foundation hoped to create an enabling environment for the holistic development of children. By showcasing innovative teaching tools and resources, the exhibition aimed to inspire educators and encourage the implementation of effective teaching practices. Ultimately, the goal was to ensure that every child in District Doda receives quality education, setting them on a path to success in their academic journey.

GDC Reasi starts Yoga Classes

HT News Network

REASI, JUNE 14: Five day yoga classes were started today by Government General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College Reasi under the guidance of Director Ayush and supervision of district nodal officer Reasi, Deputy Commissioner, Babila Rakwal was the chief Guest at the inaugural function. Around fifty students of the college attended the yoga class. Abdul Majid (YOGA INSTRUCTOR) explained the importance of Yoga in human life.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance and need of practicing Yoga to stay fit and healthy. "Yoga was an invaluable gift of India to the world. It brings harmony in all walks of life and helps in disease prevention, health promotion and management of stress and anxiety besides helping to prevent many lifestyle related disorders," she added.

JKRLM, Ashok Kapoor Foundation Trust jointly opens "Duggardhani" dhaba in Bhalwal

Kitchen to offer traditional Dogra cuisines, delicacies

HT News Network

JAMMU, JUNE 14: Mission Director, Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Indu Kanwal Chib, on Wednesday inaugurated "Duggardhani-Dogra Dhaba", an outlet of women Self Help Group, here at Bhalwal, Jammu.

Additional Mission Director JKRLM Jammu, Mridhul salathia, Founder Chairperson, Ashok Kapoor Foundation Trust, Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh were present on the occasion.

Pertinently, Duggardhani is a joint initiative of JKRLM and Ashok Kapoor Foundation Trust which will be run and managed by around 35 women members of Self Help Group (SHG) of JKRLM. The people



can enjoy dogra food recipes such as Maki ki Roti and sarson da Sag among other dogra delicacies.

Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib, appreciated women SHGs involvement in operating the Duggardhani. She said that JKRLM is emerging as a huge platform for rural women to attain financial

independence. Giving Details, Mission Director said that Duggardhani has been established to give a platform to the local Dogra cuisines prepared by women SHG of Umeed JK. Duggardhani of these SHG members offers an attractive menu with more than 20 varieties of comfort Dogra Recipe food. Some

of the popular dogra food cuisines including Makkhi Roti, Saag, special dogra recipe dal, Rajmah Ambal and mixed rice would be available in their kitchen which sets them apart from commercial restaurants, MD stated. To support and increase capacity building of these women, JKRLM imparted skill development trainings from time to time. These women were also taught the basics of stocking up the pantry, making quick recipes, packing techniques and order management related to cooking techniques, she maintained. Underlining the role of SHGs in eradicating poverty, she said these can play an important role in raising the economy. She added the SHGs.

Amar Singh College organises Blood Donation Camp

Students & faculty donate 48 points of Blood

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: A one day Blood Donation Camp was Wednesday organized by the Red Ribbon Club, NSS & NCC Wings of Amar Singh College in collaboration with Umate Rasool (SAW) Relief Trust & Blood Bank JLN Hospital, Rainawari Srinagar within the College campus, here.

The camp was inaugurated by Director Colleges, HED Prof. (Dr) Yasmeen Ashai in presence of a large number of blood donors, guests and faculty.

In her inaugural address, Prof. Ashai was all grateful to the organizers for such an initiative that ultimately aims to put life in life less.



She remarked that "RAKT DHAN HAI MAHA DHAN", and impressed upon the stakeholders to be among the blood donors for saving lives of humans.

A large number of students and faculty members of the college enthusiastically took part in the blood donation and proudly served for the cause to save human lives.

36 students and 12 faculty members donated 48 points of blood to the Blood Bank of JLN Hospital Rainawari Srinagar.

Dr. Tajamul Hussain incharge JLN hospital Rainawari Srinagar, interacted with all the volunteers of blood donation camp and highlighted various benefits of blood donation.

Former College Principal, Mujahid Ahmad voluntarily donated the blood on the occasion.

Red Ribbon Club Officers of Amar Singh College, Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, applauded the organizers and blood donors. He was all grateful to the Director Colleges HED, Prof. (Dr) Yasmeen Ashai for gracing the occasion.

He further, extended his gratitude to Umate Rasool-SAW Relief Trust & Blood Bank JLN Hospital, Rainawari Srinagar, for facilitating the camp with necessary support.

Dr. Shabnam Ara and Prof. Hilal Ahmad Bhat facilitated and coordinated the event.

Theater Federation of Kashmir delegation met program head All India Radio Srinagar

Surkhab Zehra



Srinagar/ Theatre Federation of Kashmir delegation consisting of the executive body, headed by President Mushtaq Ali Ahmed Khan, met Ghulam Rasool Akhon, program Head All India Radio Srinagar. Vice-President Sheikh Muhammad Hanif, General Secretary Manzoor Ahmad Mir and Treasurer Farhat Siddiqui were present in this delegation. Program Head AIR welcomed this delegation generously and listened to their every proposal very carefully. Delegation apprised Ghulam Rasool Akhon, program Head AIR about the problems faced by the people associated with different theatres in Valley. Program Head AIR assured to provide all possible legal assistance in this direction. The delegation further said that they will continue their struggle to restore the glory of the theater of the valley.

Police organizes one day workshop for PRI Members in Budgam

HT News Network

Budgam June 14: Addressing the critical issue of drug addiction, Budgam Police organized a one-day workshop for PRI members (Panches and Sarpanches) at District Police Lines Budgam.

More than 50 PRI members participated in the workshop, which was focused on prevention strategies, imparted essential knowledge to participants, including identifying symptoms and appropriate initial responses. Addressing the participants, Additional SP Budgam Shri Gowher Ahmad Khan-JKPS emphasized the crucial role of PRI members in raising awareness and implementing preventive measures at the grassroots level. The session provided an opportunity for participants to engage in open dialogue, share experiences and learn from one another. Ms. Insha In-charge of the Drug De-addiction Center DPL Budgam delivered a comprehensive presentation, providing valuable insights and sharing her expertise on various aspects of drug addiction.

The one-day workshop received an overwhelming response from the participants, who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to enhance their understanding of drug addiction.

CUK's edu deptt education holds cleanliness drive

HT News Network

Ganderbal 14: Department of Education, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) organized a day-long cleanliness and awareness drive at Tulmulla campus here.

The programme was driven by sensitizing the students towards the ill-effects of one-time use of polythene and also developing the attitude of respect for manual work in the students at large.

Dean and Head School of Education, Prof. Syed Zahoor Ahmad Geelani, kick-started the event and emphasized that, "students and faculty should use eco-friendly material for packaging and carrying the daily goods instead of the polybags". He urged the participants to inform others, with greater assertiveness, the non-negotiable and deleterious impact of polybags on nature.

The event saw huge participation from the M.Ed. students of Teacher Education who worked passionately and relentlessly in cleaning the corridors, classrooms, labs, lawns and paths housed in the building of Education & Physics departments. The event also witnessed a student rally for raising awareness about the benefits of employing eco-friendly materials for packaging and carrying purposes.

Awareness programme/ Workshop on Organ Donation & Tissue Transplantation held at Gandhi Bhawan, KU

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: The first ever awareness programme cum workshop on the Organ Donation and Tissue Transplant was Wednesday organized by Department of Bioresources and Department of Home Science, from University of Kashmir and JK Science Technology & Innovation Council (JKTIC), JKDST in collaboration with State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) JK under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India. The program witnessed participation by around 200 people including Medical professionals, Educational professionals and students



from various departments from University of Kashmir.

As awareness is the key to success, the series of events include conduct of awareness programme cum workshop, display of banners and posters for awareness of general public, and awareness through print, electronic and social media. The programme was

inaugurated by Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir, Prof Neolofar Khan. In her talk, she said that this Awareness programme cum Workshop on Organ Donation and Tissue Transplantation is first of its kind being organized by University of Kashmir, and such programmes should be organized by the institute.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra DC Jammu inspects arrangements at Railway Station, Vaishnavi Dham, other places

HT News Network

JAMMU, JUNE 14: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa today visited Railway Station, Vaishnavi Dham, Saraswati Dham and Panchayat Bhawan to inspect the arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2023.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Commissioner JMC, Rahul Yadav; SSP Railways, Mohan Lal Kainth; SSP Traffic, Faizal Qureshi; ADC (LO) Harvirder Singh; ADC, (ADM) Sandeep Seointra, Nodal officers of respective registration counters and other senior officers deployed for smooth conduct of SANJY 2023.



The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the arrangements put in place for the Yatris including accommodation, security arrangements, installation of technical equipments and wi-fi, public address system, power and water supply cleanliness, sanitation and medical facilities at registration counters, Lodgement centres and especially at Yatri

Niwas. She also reviewed the security and other arrangements including token and registration services at Railway Station, Vaishnavi Dham and Panchayat Bhawan.

The Deputy Commissioner further inspected the RFID centre to be established at the Tourist Reception Centre building within the premises of the Railway Station.

Agriculture Deptt Kashmir celebrates (Thaejkaad) 'Paddy Transplanting Day'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: The Agriculture Department Kashmir today celebrated (thaejkaad) Paddy transplanting day across the valley.

The campaign was kick-started by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal from the central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. He also participated in the paddy transplantation activities in the farmer's field at various places in the district.

While interacting with the farmers of different areas of the valley, Director Agriculture said that paddy is a staple crop of the valley

and paddy transplantation has its cultural importance in the valley of Kashmir. He said people of Kashmir celebrate paddy transplanting day as they celebrate other religious and cultural festivals.

Chowdhary Iqbal marked various initiatives taken by the department for the development of the farming community of the valley. He said the department is working not only to ensure high yielding varieties of agriculture crops including paddy reaches the farming community but to preserve and promote the cultivation of traditional varieties viz. musk-budji, zagg, meetha-chawal etc. also in the region.

Director Agriculture appreciated the role



of the farming community in preserving the traditional varieties of paddy and other agriculture crops.

He said that besides the latest high yielding varieties our local paddy varieties like musk-budji, zagg, meetha-chawal etc. are finding new markets. He said the department is working to facilitate the concerned farmers so that they could fetch good returns for their produce.

Director agriculture reiterated the importance of transferring the latest technologies, interventions to the farmers on field. He impressed upon the officers to ensure that modern techniques and practices in the cultivation of agriculture crops including paddy reaches the farmers.

Iqbal highlighted the importance of feedback from the farming community with respect to the implementation of different centrally sponsored schemes so that the necessary steps to address the issues of farmers could be taken up on time.

Director agriculture was accompanied by Joint Director (Inputs) Mohammad Younis Chowdhury and other senior officers of the department. Meanwhile the Paddy Transplanting Day was celebrated in all the districts of Kashmir Division monitored by concerned Chief Agriculture Officers. At Shopian, Agriculture Zone Turkawangam celebrated Paddy Transplanting Day (JASHN-E-DHAAN) in Village Heff Shirmal Shopian.

World Blood Donor Day celebrated at Anantnag Participants donate 37 Points of blood

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, JUNE 14: On 'World Blood Donor Day' celebrated every year on 14th June; a Blood Donation Camp was today held at Dak Bungalow Anantnag with the theme "Give Blood, Give Plasma, Share Life, Share often" by District Red Cross Society in collaboration with Indian Red Cross Society, GMC Anantnag and District Administration Anantnag.

The camp was organized to spread awareness and seek attention to the Blood Donation besides educating people on the importance of safe Blood donation for the purpose of transfusion.

While inaugurating the Camp, the Additional District Development Commis-



sioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Bashir Ahmad Wani termed the act of blood donation an act of solidarity and a service to mankind and

most important activity. He appreciated the donors for such an act and exhorted all people to donate blood and asked

them to make themselves aware of the benefits of blood donations. ADC also stressed on spreading awareness among the public regarding blood donation and debunking myths associated with it besides directing the health team to check all medical formalities of donors before donating.

Volunteers from across the district thronged the camp and donated blood besides the college students, CISF, CRPF, RR and JKP Personnel donated 37 points of blood. The camp was attended by ACR, Doctors from GMC, officials from civil administration, Red Cross officials and officials of various departments besides the volunteers of various social organizations.

DC Shopian presides over Weekly Block Diwas programme at Imam Sahib

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JUNE 14: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today presided over a weekly Block Diwas programme at Block Office Imam Sahib and took appraisal of public welfare and development issues of people at their doorsteps.

At the outset, a brief profile of Imam Sahib was also presented wherein the DC was apprised about the progress and performance achieved in various developmental sectors of the block.

On the occasion, DDC Members, other PRI members and people highlighted their grievances and public welfare issues like availability of potable drinking



water, proper drainage network system in the area, replacement of electric poles and wires, road connectivity and other matters of vital public significance.

Among other demands, the people stressed for the restoration and upgradation of roads and link roads of the adjoining areas also.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands, the DC sought on

spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp.

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

Considering the importance of drinking water, DC said that the Administration is keen to streamline public service delivery and added

World blood Donor Day observed at CRPF 137 Battalion

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 14: A one day blood donation camp was organized by District Red Cross Society, in collaboration with 137 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and District Hospital to mark "World Blood Donor Day" on the theme "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often" here at 137 Battalion Udhampur.

Commandant 137 Bn Central Reserve Police Force, Ramesh Kumar was the chief guest, while Secretary District Red Cross Society, Udhampur Dr V.P Sharma presided over the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest complimented the initiative taken by the District Red Cross Society and Health department for the noble cause of saving one's lives. He also appreciated the officers, jawans for participating in blood donation camp. While highlighting the importance and benefits of blood donation, the Commandant said that such camps would go a long way to minimize the paucity of blood in health institutions from time to time. During the Camp, as many as 21 jawans participated in the camp and donated the blood for the noble cause of saving precious lives.

Weekly Block Diwas: DC Rajouri listens to public grievances at Gurdhan Balla; Assures early redressal of genuine concerns

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JUNE 14: As a part of the weekly Block Diwas, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today presided over a public outreach camp at Gurdan Bala in block Rajouri to redress the public grievances at their doorsteps.

During the camp, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the locals and listened to their issues and concerns. He assured them that their problems would be addressed on a priority basis and directed the concerned officials to take necessary action. Among others, DDC member Rajouri, sain Abdul

Rashid; BDC chairperson Darbar Choudhary; CPO, Mohammad Khursheed; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan; DSWO, Wakeel Ahmed Bhat; Tehsildar Rajouri, Varinder Sharma; EXEN STD Kalakote, Hasan Mohd were present on the occasion.

The camp witnessed a good turnout, with people from various parts of the block coming forward to voice their concerns. The issues raised by the locals included the macadamization of roads, upgradation of Govt. Institutions, shortage of staff and augmentation of health infrastructure, shortage of electricity poles, boundary wall of HS Gurdan Bala, dilapidated condition of



MSDhanore, compensation for the BGSBU road, non-functioning of borewell at Chawwa besides others.

The Deputy Commissioner assured time bound redressal of issues. For shortage of electricity poles, DC assured that the same would be provided under the RDSS scheme of

the PDD sector. Regarding scarcity of water, he assured that all households of the district would be provided with tapped water connection with the implementation of JJM in the district. Officers from the Horticulture Department were directed to organise special camps in the area to educate

the public about their schemes. Public also appreciated District Administration for taking prompt measures for the redressal of their genuine concerns in a time bound manner. Officers also educated the public about various schemes of their departments and motivated them

to avail the benefits of the same. The DC appreciated the Health Department for institutional deliveries under Kaya Kalp Schemes. He also mentioned that JJM schemes are progressing well. Entrance test for EMRs Gurdhan Balla was conducted last week with massive participation of students.

EMRs would be a milestone in the development of the area. Services are being provided through online mode & efforts are being made to provide benefits of these schemes to all deserving beneficiaries. Several Connectivity projects have been completed and many are under execution. Public participation is a must in the development.

State Taxes Department holds GST interactive session for Chartered Accountants

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: As part of 'Kartavya, Commissioner State Taxes Department, Dr. Rashmi Singh, on Wednesday held a GST interactive session for Chartered Accountants of Jammu and Kashmir here at Excise and Taxation complex, Solina.

During the session, She responded to various issues raised by the participants and assured that all genuine issues and queries will be taken care of.

Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration and Enforcement) Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool, gave a detailed presentation sensitising the participants about malpractices that lead to tax evasion and loss of revenue to the government. He particularly flagged the issues of utilisation of ineligible input tax credit for setting off tax liability and declaration of ICGST liabilities by the hotels and travel agents in violation of place of supply rules which leads to loss of revenue to J&K government. He also emphasized the need of issuing e-invoices.

Additional Commissioner, Tax Plan-



ning and Advance Ruling, Ankita Kar, educated the participants about the audit under GST Act.

Similarly, Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Administration and Enforcement) Jammu, Namrita Dogra, attended the session online and spoke on the importance of CA's role in GST taxation system.

Deputy Commissioner (Audit and Recovery), Farooq Ahmad Baba and Assistant Commissioner (Technical) Sarib Sehan were also present in the session. The session witnessed active participation from Chartered Accountants with more than 45 CAs from Kashmir were present in the session

while a good number of CAs from Jammu participated through VC. Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration and Enforcement) Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool, gave a detailed presentation sensitising the participants about malpractices that lead to tax evasion and loss of revenue to the government. He particularly flagged the issues of utilisation of ineligible input tax credit for setting off tax liability and declaration of ICGST liabilities by the hotels and travel agents in violation of place of supply rules which leads to loss of revenue to J&K government. He also emphasized the need of issuing e-invoices.

JKTPO organizes Walmart Vriddhie, Commerce onboarding drive in Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the guidance of Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department and supervision of Managing Director JKTPO, organized a successful onboarding drive on Walmart Vriddhi at JKEDI, Pampore today.

More than 45 local entrepreneurs participated in the drive and 25 were registered on-spot from various sectors including Handloom and Handicrafts, Agro and Food, manufacturing sector and others.

Pertinently, JKTPO is continuously organising such promotion activities including onboarding on e-commerce platforms to enable local entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products across the world. The onboarding drive is



a significant milestone in the continued efforts of JKTPO and Walmart Vriddhi to foster economic growth and promote digital commerce in Jammu and Kashmir. These workshops have helped create awareness about the benefits of leveraging the power of e-commerce through Walmart Vriddhi and expand their reach beyond traditional boundaries.

During the event, it was

observed that local entrepreneurs hesitate to register for GST which is primary document for registration on any e-commerce platform. However, the same misconception of GST registration and its advantages such as GST refund, Input tax credit in B2B trading was briefed and cleared by the officials.

As of now, 100+ sellers have completed registration and learning process

of onboarding, of which, 20+ sellers are live on Walmart Vriddhi platform. Similar onboarding drive for Jammu division shall be held on 16th June 2023 at Udhayog Bhawan.

JKTPO shall continue the spree of such events to endorse e-commerce onboarding of potential entrepreneurs and boost the socio-economic scenario of J&K.

Uzair, Showkat, Irfaaq, Haris Shine As Affarwat-XI Beat YSCC Bandipora Reds By 37-Runs In Come, Win And Joy T20 Championship Singhpora

■ Lone Musaib

BARAMULLA: In the ongoing Come, Win And Joy T20 Championship Singhpora Baramulla a Powerful Stylish allround show by Affarwat-XI Sports Club beats YSCC Bandipora Reds by 37-runs. Uzair, Showkat, Irfaaq and Haris were rockstars with their splendid performances with both bat and ball.

Batting first Affarwat-XI Sports Club lost their early wicket on 11-runs in the form of Sameer Aku-G after that Irfaaq Khan and Haris attacked brutally on the bowlers of YSCC Bandipora Reds and took the best advantage of powerplay. Affarwat-XI Sports Club lost their another wicket in 6th over on the score off 63-runs. Affarwat-XI Sports Club set the target of 161/8 runs on board in allotted 18 overs.

Irfaaq Khan played a destructive innings of 30-runs off 17-balls while Haris followed him with



24-runs off 15-balls, Uzair played a brilliant unbeaten knock of 24-runs off 11-balls and Ashiq added 23-runs off 22-balls. Ikhlaaq took 3-wickets while Mush-taq took 2-wickets for YSCC Bandipora Reds. In reply YSCC Bandipora lost early 3-wickets for 16-runs but Bilal, Zameer and Ikhlaaq replied brutally to the Affarwat-XI Sports Club bowlers and played destructive innings for YSCC Bandipora Reds but lost the battle of win in 17th over by 37-runs.

Bilal played a splendid knock of 36-runs off 32-balls while Zameer played a destructive knock of 35-runs off just 18-balls and Ikhlaaq was very much dangerous at the end with 31-runs off 20-balls. Showkat took 3-wickets while Uzair, Sameer Aku-G, Rizwan took 2-wickets each and Amir took 1-wicket for Affarwat-XI Sports Club. Uzair was adjudged player of the match for his allround Show.

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Ben Foakes, Dom Sibley lead Surrey's 501 run chase to beat Kent

Surrey rewrote history with almost causal ease in the LV= Insurance County Championship on Wednesday, chasing down a target of 501 to beat Kent by five wickets at Canterbury.

What threatened to be a pulsating final day instead turned into a one-sided procession as Dom Sibley and Ben Foakes batted mercilessly, eclipsing Surrey's previous highest chase of 410, made at this venue in 2002, to finish on 501 for 5.

Foakes made 124, while Sibley scored what's believed to be the slowest ever century in the County Championship over the course of 511 minutes and 368 balls. He eventually finished on 140 from 415 balls, seeing Surrey home with Jordan Clark after



a magnificent feat of concentration and endurance.

Three days of violent momentum swings, luck, individual brilliance and human error had left the match almost perfectly poised at the start of day four, with Kent needing seven wickets and Surrey 238 runs.

It was the human factor that added the intrigue: without the dropped catches, the

"poor" shots and the "bad" balls this would have been a torpid 700 v 700 bore draw. The final day, however, offered almost none of the drama of the previous three.

Only once in the history of the Championship had a side chased over 500 to win: when Patsy Hendren hit an unbeaten 206 as Middlesex scored 502 to beat Notts by four wickets at Trent Bridge in 1925.

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