



SC to hold day-to-day hearing on scrapping of Article 370

■ [HT News Network](#)

NEW DELHI, JUL 11: Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to hear on a day-to-day basis from August 2 a batch of petitions challenging the Centre's August 5, 2019, decision to scrap special status under Article 370 of Jammu & Kashmir.

The hearings will also include the petitions challenging the Centre's decision taken on the same day to bifurcate the state into two Union Territories - J&K and Ladakh.

A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court, headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Yeshwant

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Centre defends Article 370 abrogation in fresh affidavit

■ [HT News Network](#)

NEW DELHI, JUL 10: A day before the crucial hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the Central government on Monday defended its action

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

No Shortage Of Petrol, Other Essentials In Kashmir: Govt

■ [HT News Network](#)

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: The Govern-



ment on Tuesday said that there was no shortage of essential commodities including petrol in the Valley and that the adequate supply will be received tomorrow once the Srinagar-Jammu highway will reopen for vehicular movement.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Hoteliers say rush declines after June, urge govt to hold big corporate events in Kashmir

■ [HT News Network](#)

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: The hotels in Kashmir were jam-packed until June and the rush is now witnessing a downward trend, said hoteliers here.

Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya, a prominent hotelier and the chairman of J&K Hoteliers Club told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that till June the hotels were fully occupied, but with the arrival of monsoons and the end of holidays, they are witnessing a dip in bookings.

"The current booking patterns have started dipping as the holiday phase has passed and the arrival of monsoon has further changed the mood of aspiring travelers," he said.

Another hotelier said they were witnessing good business until June this year, but are currently hosting minimal arrivals. "This is not a new phenomenon, the next three months are like that, and the tourist arrivals go on the lower side due to the end of holidays," he said.

Apart from that, the visitors, mainly from north Indian parts who prefer to travel to Kashmir by road in their cars have deferred their travel plans due to the rush of the annual Amarnath Yatra which has exerted extra pressure on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, he cited.

Chaya, while calling for awareness and promotion of MICE tourism, said the government should disseminate information to bigger corporate houses to hold the events in Kashmir.

"The next three months will be the lower

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

18,137 yatris performed darshans at Holy Cave

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: New batches of yatris continue come and pay obeisance at Shri Amarnathji Holy Cave.

All the base camps remained abuzz with yatris on Tuesday as 18137 yatris performed darshan including 12459 males, 5028 females, 470 children, 176 Sadhus and 01 Sadhvi besides 03 Transgenders.

The total number of pilgrims who visited the shrine from July 1st to till date is 137353.

The yatris were seen happy with the arrangements from the administration enroute to twin axis of yatra and also appreciated the hospitality

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Army foils major infiltration bid in Naushera Sector, terrorist killed

JAMMU, JULY 11: Alert troops of Indian Army have successfully foiled a major infiltration bid along the Line of Control in the Naushera Sector over two nights in a deliberate and massive operation in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu based defence spokesman on Tuesday said that on July 10 at midnight alert ambushes of Indian Army deployed along the Line of Control, in the Naushera observed suspicious movement of a group of terrorists moving suspiciously from across the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CB Arrests Clerk While Accepting Bribe In Kupwara

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: ACB traps and arrests Saifudin Wani, clerk in the office of District Industrial Complex, Kupwara while demanding & accepting the bribe of Rs.5000 for helping processing case of complainant wife.

A complaint was received by Anti Corruption Bureau alleging therein that the complainant prepared file of his wife for establishing a unit under District industries for the activity Tailoring & preparation of Ready made Garments under Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). He applied with DIC Kupwara on 06-08-2021. He

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Electoral Bonds Form Over Half Of Donations To Political Parties: Report

■ [HT News Network](#)

NEW DELHI, JUL 11: More than half of all donations received by political parties between 2016-17 and 2021-22 were through Electoral Bonds and the BJP received more funds than all other national parties put together, a report by think tank Association for Democratic Reforms said.

According to the ADR, donations worth around Rs 16,437 crore were received by the seven national parties

and 24 regional parties in India between 2016-17 and 2021-22. Of this, Rs 9,188.35 crore — around 56 percent — were received through Electoral Bonds.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) declared donations worth Rs 10,122.03 crore between 2016-17 and 2021-22, followed by the Congress (Rs 1,547.43 crore) and the Trinamool Congress (Rs 823.30 crore), the report said.

The total donations declared by the BJP is more than three times the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

More than 500 PACS to be computerized soon: Officers to CS



■ [HT News Network](#)

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today took stock of the identification and establishment of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Soci-

ties (PACS) across the UT.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, IT; Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives; DC, Kathua; Registrar, Cooperative Societies;

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Srinagar becomes Model District of the country under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) 2.0

All villages attain Model village status under ODF Plus Programme

■ [HT News Network](#)

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: The Srinagar District has achieved yet another milestone and became Model District of the country under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) 2.0.

Under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the District has achieved the journey of making all the 26 villages as Model villages and completed the target of 100% Model Villages under prestigious cleanliness scheme Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G 2.0).

The District Administration Srinagar with dedicated Team of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj launched an ambitious plan to transform all the villages of the District into Model villages under Swachh



Bharat Mission (SBM-G 2.0).

The District had embarked on cleanliness mission to transform its rural villages into Model Villages with a vision to enhance the living standards of its inhabitants, improve infrastructure and promote sustainable development, this initiative aims to bring about a comprehensive

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Girl's body recovered after 4 days from River Pohru in Jaggerpora Kupwara

■ [Dr. Ab Qayoom](#)

KUPWARA, JUL, 11: The Dead Body of a minor girl who drowned in river Pohru in Jaggerpora village in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Saturday last was finally finished out from Nallah Pharou today, officials said. They told HEADLINES TODAY that after days

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Jammu-Srinagar Highway Made Through After 5 Days; 5500 Yatris Proceed Towards Srinagar: DGP

■ [HT News Network](#)

RAMBAN, JUL 11: Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh Tuesday said that the Jammu-Srinagar national highway has been made through after five days and stranded vehicles ferrying 5500 pilgrims were allowed to proceed towards Srinagar. He said more 5500 pilgrims have been allowed to move upwards while a final decision by the Traffic authorities about traffic movement on the highway will be taken this evening.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



NIA again cracks down on newly floated outfits of banned organisations in J&K

■ [HT News Network](#)

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday cracked down once again on the newly-floated offshoots of proscribed Pakistan-backed militant outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir and conducted raids at five locations in south Kashmir, officials said.

The raids were conducted in the three districts of Anantnag, Shopian and Pulwama in the Kashmir valley, and the agency seized several digital devices containing massive incriminating data.

A spokesperson of NIA said the locations raided on Tuesday were residential premises of hybrid militants and Over-ground Workers (OGWs) linked with the newly-formed offshoots and affiliates of several banned Kashmiri terrorist outfits. Premises of sympathisers and cadres of these organisations were also raided.

"All these cadres and workers are being investigated for activities relating

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

SC to hold.....

Chandrachud, scheduled day-to-day hearings from August 2 on 23 writ petitions.

"The hearing of the petitions before the constitution bench shall commence on August 2, 10:30 am and then proceed on day-to-day basis barring miscellaneous days, ie, on Monday and Friday,," the CJI said in the order.

The apex court also said that the written submissions should be filed on or before July 27 and no more submissions would be allowed thereafter.

The Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, senior law officer of the Union of India, submitted that though the Centre has filed an additional affidavit setting out the Central government's view on post-notification development, it would have no bearing on the constitutional question and it would not be relied upon.

Mehta also said the Centre's Monday affidavit was to inform the SC about post-August 2019 developments in the UTs/

The issues before the SC relates to the constitutional validity of the scrapping of Article 370 conferring special status on J&K.

Centre defends.....

in a fresh affidavit, and said that since 2019, the entire region has witnessed an unprecedented era of peace, progress and prosperity.

"Since 2019, the entire region has witnessed an unprecedented era of peace, progress and prosperity. Life has returned to normal in the region after over three decades of turmoil," the Central government claimed in the affidavit, filed before the Supreme Cour.

The Centre argued that schools, colleges, universities, hospitals and other public institutions are functioning efficiently without any strikes or any kind of disturbances during the last three years.

"The earlier practice of daily hartals, strikes, stone pelting and bandhs are things of the past now," the Central government told the Supreme Court in its affidavit.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Tuesday a batch of pleas challenging the abrogation of Article 370.

After the constitutional changes, democratically made, major steps were taken to strengthen grassroots democracy. For the first time in its history, a duly elected 3-tier Panchayati Raj System has been established in Jammu and Kashmir. Elections for the members of the District Development Councils were held in Jammu & Kashmir in November-December 2020, the Centre, in its fresh affidavit said.

It said that stone pelting incidents which were as high as 1767 in 2018 are 0 in 2023.

The Central government said that the entire region of J&K including Ladakh has witnessed an unprecedented era of peace & development.

The historic step brought stability, peace, development & security in the region, it said.

The Centre said that resolute anti-terror actions have resulted in the dismantling of the terror eco-system which is reflected in a significant drop in terrorist recruitment from 199 in the year 2018 to 12 in the year 2023 till date. UNI

No Shortage.....

"There was no need to panic. We have an adequate supply of essential commodities here," Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said.

He added that the Srinagar-Jammu national highway will reopen tomorrow for vehicular movement and adequate supply of essential commodities will arrive here on priority.

Earlier, a huge rush has been witnessed at fuel stations in several parts of Kashmir where the people were seen buying petrol.

Reports reaching that the petrol was not available at several fuel stations in South Kashmir including Anantnag and Kulgam. (KNO)

Hoteliers say.....

side, as far as the hotel bookings are concerned, but the government can emphasize and ask the bigger corporate houses to hold the MICE events in the valley," he said, adding, "Not just the MICE events, the next few months can turn out the valley into a top wedding destination."

The authorities should give extra focus with regard to the promotions on summer scenic beauties of Kashmir, Mushtaq suggested.

He said the hotel industry has not yet experienced any shortage of space in terms of the availability of rooms for visitors. Even home-stay facilities have not yet reached full-scale occupancy, he said.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha earlier this week said that Srinagar is jam-packed with tourists and that he is getting calls about the availability of rooms almost every day.

"Last year, 1.88 crore tourists visited J&K and this year, the number is expected to increase further," he said. "The hotel infrastructure will come up at district level too besides at the tourist resorts of the UT."

Electoral.....

total donations declared by all the other national parties, it said.

Donations worth Rs 4,614.53 crore, about 28 per cent of the total, were received from the corporate sector and Rs 2,634.74 crore (16.03 per cent) were received from other sources.

More than 80 per cent of the donations, around Rs 13,190.68 crore, were received by the national parties, and Rs 3,246.95 crore (19.75 per cent) by regional parties, the ADR said.

For the national parties, there was a 743 per cent increase in donations from electoral bonds between 2017-18 and 2021-22, while corporate donations increased by 48 per cent.

The highest donations were received in 2019-20, the year of general elections (Rs 4,863.50 crore), followed by Rs 4,041.48 crore in 2018-19 and Rs 3,826.56 crore in FY 2021-22.

The BJP, which got three times more donations than all other national parties put together, got over 52 per cent of it through Electoral Bonds. Around 32 per cent of the donations to the BJP came from corporate houses.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Communist Party of India (CPI) received 100 per cent donations from "other" sources, which means donations less than Rs 20,000 for which political parties do not need to declare the details of the donor.

Among the regional parties, more than 89.81 per cent of the BJD's total donations came from Electoral Bonds worth Rs 622 crore, the DMK declared the second highest donations from bonds of Rs 431.50 crore, followed by the TRS which declared Rs 383.65 crore and YSR-C which declared Rs 330.44 crore.

The direct corporate donations declared by the seven national parties are more than five times the corporate donations declared by 31 regional parties during the six-year period.

In the six-year period, direct corporate donations declared by the regional parties increased by around 152 per cent. (Agencies)

More than.....

Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir/ Jammu, Nodal Officer, Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadi Kendras; Representative from NAB-ARD besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, Dr Mehta enquired about the current status of the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in J&K and their overall role and functioning in the UT. He asked for completing all the technical requirements for procurement of hardware and software in order to make these Societies fully computerized. He stressed on procuring the hardware with specifications aimed at achieving the desired outcomes.

Regarding the identification of PACS to establish the affordable medical stores under PM Jan Aushadi Kendras, the Chief Secretary asked for expediting their establishment at an earliest. He asked for accommodating them within the premises of the health care institutions or near them. He also directed for looking into the offtake of medicines from different Jan Aushadi Kendras in order to take informed decisions about the locations for new outlets.

While reviewing the augmentation of grain storage capacity in the UT, the Chief Secretary advised its location at a place which is most beneficial to stakeholders. He told the Cooperative Department to liaise with the concerned District Administration for identifying land that is most suitable for this purpose.

He also emphasised upon holding of regular UT level and District Level Cooperative Development Committee Meetings. He asked for completing adoption of model byelaws for all the PACS if not already completed and intimation to Gol.

The Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal informed the meeting that under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Computerization of PACS is under progress. She said that a total number of 537 PACS have been recommended for Computerization in UT for which Government of India has sanctioned first installment of Rs 5.25 Cr for the purpose of Procurement of Computer Hardware.

She further informed the meeting that some 94 PACS in the UT have been identified for the purpose of establishment of Jan Aushadi Kendras and they have been directed to apply online for the same as mandated under the rules governing it.

In order to have 'World's Largest Grain storage Plan' in Cooperative Sector the GoI is creating such storage facilities across the country. In this regard, land has been identified for the purpose and necessary indent has been placed before the competent authority for allotment of 16 Kanals of State Land at Kathua District for establishing such mega storage facility in the UT.

It was further pointed out that under Phase-I a total number of 726 PACS related to Dairy and Fishery were uploaded on the portal thereby achieving 100% target. In Phase-II, the details for other categories have been uploaded and till now 2631 Cooperatives/ Cooperative Societies have been uploaded on the portal which is 96% of the total data to be uploaded on the portal.

CS launches.....

sync with the vision of Apka Mobile Hamara Daftar, a pioneering initiative for mobile-based delivery of citizen-centric services in J&K.

This remarkable event marks a significant milestone in the digital transformation of the region, bringing unparalleled convenience and accessibility to the residents of Jammu & Kashmir in terms of mobility in accessing online services.

The Mobile Dost App aims at empowering people of Jammu & Kashmir by providing a comprehensive platform to access all the Government to citizen Services (G2C) directly from their mobile devices. With just a few taps, residents can now effortlessly avail themselves of numerous services, enhancing their daily lives and fostering an efficient, effective and transparent governance system.

While launching, Mobile Dost app, the Chief Secretary expressed his satisfaction stating, "this revolutionary app signifies a significant step towards a digitally empowered Jammu & Kashmir".

He further added that the administration is committed to providing seamless, citizen-centric services to its residents, fostering ease in accessibility, mobility, transparency and efficiency in governance. With the Mobile Dost App, we aim to enhance accessibility and convenience, ensuring that every individual can benefit from government services at their fingertips, he added.

On the occasion, Dr Mehta congratulated the IT Department and thanked the Government of Haryana for their support in the development of the mobile application. He expressed hope that 'Mobile Dost' would enhance the accessibility and inclusiveness of government service delivery in sync with the vision of 'Apka Mobile Hamara Daftar'.

Sh. V. Umashankar, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Haryana and Principal Secretary, Citizen Resources Information Department to Haryana Government joined the launch virtually and congratulated the UT J&K for the milestone achievement. He assured the Chief Secretary of whole-hearted support of the State of Haryana for replication of IT initiatives and sharing of State's best practices.

While providing details about the application, the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri revealed that more than 450 Govt to Citizen services including application for certificates, licenses, and permits, registration of grievances, and accessing various welfare schemes can be done seamlessly through the mobile devices by virtue of this application.

It was made out that in times of crisis, individuals can swiftly connect with emergency helplines such as police, fire, medical, and disaster management services, ensuring rapid response and assistance during emergencies.

The app also provides detailed information about government tenders, enabling entrepreneurs and businesses to stay informed about opportunities and actively participate in the region's development.

Moreover it has additional features like provision for Bill payment, travel & tourism related information, links to apply for jobs, news updates, information about significant events, and directory of important contacts for public.

It was said that the Mobile Dost Apka Dost App is now available for download on Android and very soon the iOS version of the app will be available on iOS platforms.

The government encourages all residents of J&K to embrace this technological marvel and join the journey towards a progressive and prosperous future.

The launch event was attended by Anuradha Gupta, CEO, JaKeGA; Sanjay Gaden, IT Consultant, J&K; Saleem Khan, SIO, NIC; besides other concerned officers of the IT Department.

NIA again.....

to terror, violence and subversion in J&K," the spokesperson said.

NIA suspects their involvement in the collection and distribution of sticky bombs, magnetic bombs, IEDs, funds, narcotic substances and arms or ammunition.

The J&K terror conspiracy case was registered suo moto by NIA on June 21, 2022 at its Jammu police station .

The case related to a physical and online conspiracy by the banned terror organisations to launch a series of violent terrorist attacks in J&K with sticky bombs, IEDs and small arms etc. The Pakistan-backed outfits are also engaged in radicalizing local youth and mobilizing overground workers, to disturb peace and communal harmony in J&K.

As per NIA investigations, Pak-based operatives behind the conspiracy were using various social media platforms to spread terror among the people. They were also using drones to deliver arms/ammunition, explosives, narcotics etc. to their agents and cadres in the Kashmir valley.

The newly floated terror outfits under investigation include The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH), Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers, PAAF and others. These outfits are affiliated to major banned terrorist organisations like Laskhar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al-Badr, Al-Qaeda, etc.

Girl's body.....

of day night search operation, the body 12years old missing girl Ronak Jan daughter of Abdul Jabbar Payer, resident of Sulkote Kupwara was found at Awatkul, nearly 3 Kilometres from the incident site. "Soon after the incident was reported, a search operation was launched by Police, SDRF, NDRF, Army and MARCOS with active assistance by locals to trace the girl", they said adding however no

clue was found until this afternoon. Pertinent to mention here that Ronak Jan (12) was among three minors who drowned in river Pohru after the trio tried to retrieve slippers' of one of a girl from the water source. Two of the drowned minors identified as Zehran Javid (11) son of Javid Ahmad Dar resident of Jagerpora and Sadiya Fayaz (9) daughter of Fayaz Ahmad Mir resident of Mughalpora Nagri were rescued safely with timely intervention of locals. (HT)

Srinagar becomes.....

socio-economic upliftment.

The Srinagar District (Rural) comprised of four CD-Blocks Harwan, Khonmoh. Srinagar and Qamarwari having jurisdiction of 21 Gram Panchayats comprising of 26 villages from picturesque foothills of Faqir Gujree, Harwan to Sangri Khonmoh and plain areas of Lasjan, Nowgam and Panzinara. Recognizing the need for inclusive cleanliness of villages,

To achieve the vision to reality, a rigorous saturation campaign was launched to ensure that all the Households, Schools/ Anganwari Centers. Panchayat Ghars in the villages of the District have access to a functional toilet, with separate facilities for men and women. Besides, a number of drains/soakage pits were constructed in the villages for disposal of grey water in forward linkage with UEED of Srinagar Municipal Corporation. As a result of which, all 26 villages of District Srinagar were declared as ODF Plus in Aspiring Category.

While embarking into next category of sanitation to make these villages ODF Plus Rising, segregation sheds and compost pits were constructed for solid waste management to segregate the waste and its proper.

Barely after making these villages ODF Plus Rising, a massive sanitation drive was launched on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar in all the Gram Panchayats by way of door to door collection of waste and its proper disposal by roping in village sanitation Committees, Welfare Committee, an outsourced agency namely "SAAF (A group of volunteers)", which has yielded results and villages observed to have minimal litter, minimal stagnant waste water and no plastic waste dump.

Even, a massive IEC campaign was launched in all the villages by engraving painting at prominent places depicting messages/slogans with regard to benefits of cleanliness, thereby the villages became ODF Plus Model.

Meanwhile, the people of the District have lauded the efforts of the District Administration Srinagar to imbibe/ embrace concept of cleanliness in District Srinagar (Rural) under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G 2.0), as a result of which District Srinagar (Rural) has become 1st Model District of the country and also Ranks among top 10 Districts of the country in Achievers 3 Star Category at All India Level.

Pertinent to mention that the Central Government has approved the Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM (G)] till 2024-25 with focus on Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus), which includes ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM). The program will also work towards ensuring that no one is left behind and everyone uses a toilet.

Under the program, provision for incentive of Rs.12,000/- for construction of Individual Household Toilet (IHHL) to the newly emerging eligible households as per the existing norms will continue. Funding norms for Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) have been rationalized and changed to per capita basis in place of no. of households. Additionally, financial assistance to the Gram Panchayats (GPs) for construction of Community Managed Sanitary Complex (CMSC) at village level has been increased from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.3 lakh per CMSC.

In addition, the SBM-G Phase II will continue to generate employment and provide impetus to the rural economy through construction of household toilets and community toilets, as well as infrastructure for SLWM such as compost pits, soak pits, waste stabilisation ponds, material recovery facilities etc.

Jammu-Srinagar.....

Pertinently, the highway was blocked after incessant rains triggered landslides that resulted in the caving in of the road stretches at Chamb Seri and Panthal. The DGP, said High Authorities of India did a commendable job by restoring the highway. "At Chamb Seri area, a portion has been black topped while the remaining portion has to be blacktopped as well. However, at Panthal, road stretch between the two tunnels had caved in and the Highway Authorities managed an alternate motorable stretch within shortest possible time," the DGP said, adding that stranded vehicles ferrying 5500 Amarnath pilgrims were allowed to proceed towards Srinagar while another 5500 pilgrims were allowed to move towards upwards.

"Firstly, all stranded vehicles, espe-

cially the vehicles ferrying pilgrims will be allowed to proceed towards Srinagar. In the evening, Traffic authorities will sit and take a call on traffic movement on the highway," he said, the road was made through after five days as rains lashed J&K last week.

Singh was accompanied by ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh, IG traffic, DC Ramban, SSP traffic NHW and other officials. He took stock of the road restoration at Chamba Seri, Ramban. (KNO)

18,137 yatris.....

of the people.

The administration had been proactive to maintain sanitation of treks and base camps to ensure clean and waste free pilgrimage.

Many efforts are being laid under Swachh Bharat and Swachh teerath programmes to maintain pollution & waste free cordial environment.

Besides, Special sanitation drives were carried out on Yatra routes to collect waste.

Army foils.....

Line of Control towards own side.

"Own alert troops kept the movement of the infiltrators under constant observation, and when they were nearly 300 meters inside own side of Line of Control they were challenged and a firefight ensued," said the spokesman.

He added that a heavy and accurate fire was brought down on the terrorists, one terrorist was seen falling to the side, while two others who were injured, were seen taking cover into the jungle.

"The area of operation being broken ground, having thick jungle and foliage, with inclement weather, the terrorists hid themselves in the jungle. Additional troops were moved in, and the area was cordoned," he added.

The spokesman said that in a deliberate and massive search operation lasting over two days and two nights, in an area which is heavily mined, in inclement weather conditions, body of one terrorist who was neutralized, has been recovered with weapon and war like stores.

He said that during further search operations into the jungle blood trail, with drag marks on ground were observed leading towards the line of control. Possibly, other injured, terrorists taking advantage of the forest foliage managed to move back across the Line of Control.

Major war like stores recovered, include one AK 47 Rifle, three AK Magazines with 175 Rounds, one 9 mm Pistol, two Magazines with 15 Rounds, Four Hand Grenades, communication equipment, large quantity of eatables and clothing for sustenance.

"By their quick action, alert Indian Army troops deployed in the Naushera Sector have eliminated a major infiltration bid, which was aimed to disturb the peace in Rajouri District. The India Army continues to remain alert on the Line of Control and is fully prepared to thwart such attempts in the future too," he added.

CB Arrests.....

complained that he is being made to run for one formality or the other and the case of his wife under PMEGP is not being processed on merit for past 2 years. . The case of the complainant delayed for two years for want of bribe under PMEGP.

He further alleged that despite the fact that he had completed all the formalities in the file the officers/officials posted at DIC Kupwara fail to process the genuine case of his wife, that even after lapse of considerable time no action was taken on the said file. He is now being asked to pay bribe in order to approve the case and sent it to Punjab National Bank for release of loan amount disbursement.

The complainant further alleged that one of the employee of the District Industrial Centre, Kupwara Saifudin Wani is presently demanding the bribe of Rs. 5000/- from him. He lodged his complaint with ACB requesting therein for legal action against concerned.

As the contents of complaint prima facie disclose the commission of offence punishable U/S 7 of the PC Act 1988 by accused public servant namely Safudin Wani, posted in the office of DIC Kupwara, accordingly a Case FIR No. 05/2023 was registered at Police Station Anti Corruption Bureau Baramulla U/S 7 of the P.C Act 1988 & the investigation were initiated.

During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted which laid a trap and caught the accused official of DIC Kupwara red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of Rs. 5000. He was arrested on the spot after completing all legal formalities.

The role of other officials/ officers of the DIC Kupwara is also being looked into & investigations are also looking into the circumstances under which the case of the complainant's wife was delayed for two years and was approved immediately after receipt of the bribe amount.

Further investigation in the case are going on.



RS Bali, spouse and son Cremated in Chandoosa Baramulla

Officers, officials of several departments, others pay their respects

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: In a heart-wrenching ceremony today, Director Finance, Forest Department, RS Bali, his spouse, and their beloved son were consigned to flames amidst tears and profound grief.

The tragic demise of RS Bali has left a lasting impact as hundreds of mourners from all walks of life gathered at Chandoosa Village in Baramulla District to pay their respects and bid farewell.

Officers and officials from Finance Department, along with the Forest Department, School Education Department, and various other departments attended the last rites of the officer and his family.

The mournful cremation took place at Chandoosa Baramulla, where a multitude of officers,



fellow relatives, neighbors, and individuals from all sections and religious communities gathered to pay their respects.

Sh. Bali, his spouse, and their son tragically lost their lives in a devastating accident while traveling on Mughal road on July 9, 2023.

The news of this heart-wrenching incident has left everyone present at the cremation site in deep grief, with tearful eyes, as

they prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

During the cremation ceremony, representatives from the J&K Finance Association and J&K Accounts Employees Association were also present to express their profound sorrow and offer their prayers for the well-being of the injured daughter, who is currently undergoing treatment and reported to be in stable condition.

The Finance Department, along with all those in attendance, extends its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Sh. Bali. His contribution and dedication to the department and the state will always be remembered, and his untimely demise has left a void that will be difficult to fill.

Pace of Smart City works doubled after G-20 summit: CEO Athar Aamir

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Athar Aamir Khan on Tuesday said that the works across Srinagar are going on in full swing and the pace has been doubled after the culmination of G-20 event in the Valley.

Talking to the media persons, Khan, who is also Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that a major project was among the 11 projects that have been completed since the culmination of G-20 event in Srinagar.

He said that works at several places across Srinagar including in downtown areas are going on.

The pace of works has been doubled after the culmination of the G-20 event here," he said, adding that some of the works are being carried forward by the Roads and Building (R&B) department for which the funds are coming from smart city.

"The time has gone when the roads were being dug after being renovated. We are making every effort to ensure that the roads are not dug for the next 10-20 years," he said, adding that the smart city is a collection of all the departments, who are making the things good on the ground.

LG-led administration's inattention has made SDH Tangmarg a center for lack of basic amenities: Shahid Reshi Khan

Mr Khan urged the government to ensure the provision of basic facilities in the hospital



TANGMARG, JUL 11: National Conference Senior YNC Block President and Constituency Spokesperson Gulmarg Shahid Reshi Khan on Monday expressed his outrage at SDH Tangmarg's lack of basic amenities, despite serving a densely populated area and termed it unfortunate.

In a statement issued to the media, National Conference Constituency Spokesperson Shahid Reshi Khan said, the stepmother's demeanor with SDH Tangmarg, especially with the people of the area are unfortunate, despite

the status of a Sub District hospital, but the hospital is experiencing a shortage of manpower, including technicians and doctors.

He further said, the pathologist is available, but the laboratory is almost not working, as the equipment in the laboratory one decade old and cannot properly study the test. There should be a dermatologist and an ophthalmologist, as patients suffer greatly in their absence, but the role of Block Medical officer Tangmarg Dr Syed Saba is applauded as she has run the hospital excellently and almost 1,000

patients receive proper treatment every day.

He further said, the mess there is unhygienic due to dilapidated conditions, there is a possibility of a disease outbreak, and the government should issue a tender so that the local youth should be given the opportunity to run the mess.

Mr Khan appealed Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Syed Sehrih Asgar to deputed a team of Health department to access the basic amenities of the hospital to reduce the sufferings of patients.

DC Srinagar releases District Statistical Handbook

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Tuesday released Annual publication "District Statistical Handbook of the District Srinagar compiled by District Statistics and Evaluation Office (DSEO) Srinagar here at a simple Book release function held in the Office Chamber of the DC Srinagar.

The Deputy Commissioner also released Constituency Wise Village Amenity Directory, Evaluation Report on Beti Bachao Beti Padoo (BBBP) scheme, Evaluation Report on Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) and District Srinagar at a Glance.

The Annual publication "Statistical Handbook (2021-22)" has captured the development scenario of Srinagar District in all sectors. The Book also provides the comprehensive data on social-economic indicators of development of the District. The Data for said publication has been collected from various District and Sectoral Offices of the District and after scrutinization and compilation by DSEO



is being published annually in the form of flagship publication "District Statistical Handbook".

Similarly, the Constituency Wise Village Amenity Directory, contains the Statistical Profile of the amenities available to the people within the boundaries of each constituency of the District Srinagar and thus plays a vital Statistical tool used for grass root level planning of the District.

Likewise, the publication titled "District Srinagar at a Glance" presents data of District Statistical Handbook in condensed form.

During the function, the Deputy Commissioner also released publications related to Evaluation Studies/ Report on Beti Bachao Beti Padoo (BBBP) scheme, Evaluation Report on Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) conducted by District Statistics & Evaluation Office, Srinagar during 2022-23.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC praised the efforts of DSEO staff headed by District Statistics and Evaluation Officer (DSEO) Srinagar, Anika Mush-taq and her staff for bringing out such useful publications.

The DC hoped that the book will prove useful to present a real picture of Srinagar District on a developmental map and will also guide the Administration for next coming years to further improve on the developmental front.

The DC also hailed the efforts of DSEO and its field functionaries in the collection of data and stressed the improvement of these publications in the future with regular updates in policy-making coverage. He said this handbook will help in providing updated data to concerned Departments which would assist in policy-making, planning, research and also the Government to focus on chalking out priority sectors. He appreciated the line departments for providing requisite data on different indicators

The book has captured the data regarding Public Infrastructure and Utilities, Education, Health, Finance, Tourism, Climate, Social Welfare, Employment, Industries Agriculture, Horticulture and allied sectors besides other general information. The additional information captured this year included performance in Banking services, Judiciary, Fisheries, Food Civil Supplies, Irrigation, Employment, Annual Rainfall, Post and Telecom sectors.

Pertinent to mention that, the District Statistics and Evaluation Office (DSEO) is the Nodal Agency for the collection, compilation, and dissemination of important statistical data of the District. Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer (DSEO) Srinagar, Anika Mushtaq and other concerned were present on the occasion.

DoA and FoA.SKUAST-K, Wadura initiated week long capacity building training programme under HADP

■ Dr. Ab Qayoom

SOPORE, JUL 11: The Division of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-K, Wadura, has initiated one week capacity building training programme under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (Alternate System of Agriculture for Sustainability) "Project No 16". The inaugural session of the training programme was graced by Prof. A.H. Mughal, Director Research, SKUAST-K who in his inaugural address informed the house about the HADP Projects their importance, implementation strategies and planning for future development especially organic agriculture in the Kashmir valley. He emphasised on the ways Kashmir can meet the growing demand



for organic produce in a health-conscious society its scope especially in remote pockets using traditional cultivation methods which can easily be converted as organic hubs. Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth enlightened the house about the pillars of organic farming

and activities associated to fulfil its principles. Dr. Lal Singh, Course Director extended a warm welcome to the esteemed guests. Dr. Parmeet Singh, Principal Investigator, HADP-16 emphasized the need for the capacity building of extension functionaries on the organic crop production system in

the current scenario. The total of 25 participants from various development departments, KVKs and Faculty of Agriculture have registered for the said training programme. The programme was attended by Yaduvinder Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla, Heads of various Division,

Head KVK Bandipora, Head KVK Kupwara, Faculty Members, Participants/Students, supporting Staff and media persons. Dr. Lal Singh, Course Director extended a warm welcome to the guests and vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Amal Saxena, Professor and Head Division of Agronomy.

اطلاع عام

غلٹی سے میرے پاسپورٹ میں میری بیوی کا نام مہجین بانو اراج ہوا ہے جب کہ اس کا اصلی نام صفی بانو safi banoo ہے اب اس کی دوستگی کرنی مطلوب ہے

Mohd Akbar Malik

Romoudlan pahlgamang Kashmir

NO S G R A O 1385312

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Syed Nasir Hussain S/o:- Syed Showkat Hussain resident of Watergam Kreeri want to make it public through this newspaper that my name in my school records has been registered incorrectly as Naseer Ali Hashmi instead of Syed Nasir Hussain now I want to change it after producing the authentic identity proof before the JKBOSF sub-office Baramulla. if Anybody has any objection He/She shall contact the concerned Branch Head within one week of the publication of this notice

No objection shall be entertained after that.

Syed Nasir Hussain
S/o: Syed Showkat Hussain
R/o: Watergam Keeri
Pin: 193108

Conduct recruitment against faculty positions in SKIMS through JKPS: Govt to Director SKIMS

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday directed Director SKIMS Soura to conduct recruitment against faculty positions in SKIMS Soura and SKIMS Medical College Bemina through JKPS.

"I am directed to convey that the recruitment against all the Gazetted/Faculty vacancies/posts under direct quota, borne on the establishment of SKIMS,

Soura as well as SKIMS Medical College, Bemina, henceforth, shall be made through J&K Public Service Commission," reads the official communiqué of Government to Director SKIMS, a copy of which lies with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). "This is in continuation to this department's reference No. GAD(Adm)51/2020-IV dated

15.01.2021 vide which the SKIMS stands already advised about filling up all Class- IV and Non Gazetted vacancies in the Institute by placing appropriate indents to J&K SSB."

It stated that "Further necessary action in the matter may be taken accordingly. This issues with the approval of the competent authority (Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor)"

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that my Mother MUKHTI BEGEM W/O. ABDUL GANI RATHER R/O WAGOORA has died on 02/06/2023... Now I am applying for his death certificate. If anybody have any objection He/she may file his /her objection in the (BDO) office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

NAME.....MUKHTI BEGEM
M/O ...MUSHTAQ AHMAD RATHER
R/O..... WAGOORA
BLOCK ...WAGOORA
DISTTBARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME IN ELECTRICITY CONNECTION

The Electricity connection with Consumer ID No 0204030002922 installation No 659R1 Registered in the name of Mohammad Sidiq S/o Gh Mohammad R/o Malik Agan Srinagar is to be transferred in the favour of NISAR AHMAD KITAB S/o Mohammad Shafi Kitab R/o Narparistan Fateh Kadal . Anybody having any objection, May Contact Executive Engineer PDD Sub Division Khankahi Moulla Srinagar Division Khanyar within a period of 7 days. After that no objection will be entertained in any case.

Name NISAR AHMAD KITAB
S/o Mohammad Shafi Kitab
R/o Narparistan Fateh Kadal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that I'm running tour and travel agency under the name of TRAVELING BUZZ KASHMIR ...If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file His /her objection in the concerned Department within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.....SHOWKAT AHMAD GANAIE
S/oABDUL MAJEED GANAIE
R/O.....HAIL KREERI
Phone no..... 7780968625

LOST OF DOCUMENTS

I have lost RC ,Insurance ,Pollution & Fitness of my vechile (Pik Up) bearing Registration No: JK01U/9101 From Batmaloo To Parmpora . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the R T O Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name;- Abdul Khaliq Dar
Prop:- Ghulam Qadir Dar
R/o:- Muja Gund Khawaja Bagh Srinagar

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE TRAL (Proclamation Requiring Objections From General Public)

Faheem Ahmad Bhat Son of Gh. Nabi Bhat R/O Lariyar Tral
(Applicant)

Verses

Registrar, Births and Deaths B. D. O Dadsara
Whereas application has been made before this court that Faheem Ahmad Bhat Son of Gh. Nabi Bhat was born on 10-02-2002 and the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the birth particulars of Faheem Ahmad Bhat in the concerned Register of Births and Deaths. Proclamation is hereby made that any person/s having objection(s) to this application may appear before this court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication.

Dated this: 08-07-2023

Altaf Ahmad Mir
Judicial Magistrate Tral

(Seal of the court)

Delegation of Committee on Estimates, Haryana Vidhan Sabha calls on Lt Governor

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, JULY 11: Delegation of Committee on Estimates of Haryana Vidhan Sabha called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhavan.

The members of the delegation led by its Chairperson Sh Mohan Lal Badoli shared their insights on the all-round rapid development going on in the UT of Jammu Kashmir with many new initiatives and schemes launched for the welfare of people.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My self, Gulam Mohi Ud Din Ganie S/o Gulam Hassan Ganie, Resident of Langate Tehsil Langate, District Kupwara do hereby declare as under: That I am permanent resident of J&K UT. I am working in BSF as constable under belt No, 024030441, (144, Bt BSF). I inform general public as well as Govt Officials that the correct name of my wife is Rifat Begum, which maintain mistakenly as Rifat Jan and Rifat Bano, instead of Rifat Begum in my service records. In this regard I submit an affidavit to concerned authority that treat Refit Begum as same instead of Rifat Jan, Rifat Bano under DOB 10-10-1985, which were carry mistakenly in my service records. In this regard if anybody has any sort of objections He/She may file report same in the office BSF Headquarter 144 Bt nare he can directly call on my phone no +919149481872 within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objections shall be entertained.

From: Gulam Mohi Ud Din Ganie
S/o Gulam Hassan Ganie
R/o. Langate Jk.
Tehsil: Langate District; Kupwara

UT Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, R & B Division Baramulla

e-Expression of interest

e-NIT No:- 28/3411-20/2023-27/RnB/BlA Dated 06.07.2023

For and on behalf of the LT. Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT, EOI on percentage basis is invited from the approved consultants/ firms for below mentioned Projects S. No	Name of Project	Advt Cost of consultancy fees (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc.	Project Authority	Position of AAA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Providing Consultancy Services for Architectural, Structural, Electrical, Design/Drawings & Soil Investigation for Upgradation of Cooperative Infrastructure of CMS Patten	1.00	2000/-	200/-	Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies District Baramulla	Accorded vide No: DRDS/BlA/Plan/ 2023/357-362 dt: 17.06.2023

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of EOI Notice	06.07.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10.07.2023 to 17.07.2023 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	10.07.2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	17.07.2023 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	18.07.2023 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla

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

Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

- All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification information with their bids
- Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of business.
 - Valid GST No. & Pan No. along with the latest GST Return form GST-3/GSTR-3B ending 05/2023.
 - Earnest money & document fee (TR) indicating name of work therein.
 - The firm shall have to upload the proof of experience for providing consultancy of **Similar nature of Work**

Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents.

- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/ FD pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. **Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla**. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
- The firm must have Architect as proprietor registered with the statutory body and Structural Engineer registered with the statutory body on its panels and certificates to be submitted with the quotation.
- The firm should have valid GST/CGST registration and PAN registration. Tax shall be deductible as per norms.
- Successful bidder has to submit conceptual drawing duly vetted by the third party (Design Directorate or NIT Srinagar) and DPR & BOQ of whole project within 07 days of issuance of LOI.
- Successful bidder herein after called consultant has to ensure site visits during execution of work as and when required.

The payments shall be paid in the following time frame:

I	Submission of conceptual overall plan for approval of drawings complete as required by the competent authority & submission of BOQ.	20% of total fee
II	Finalization of conceptual plan and submission of soil investigation report & structural drawings	50% of total fee
III	After Completion of Civil Part	10% of total fee
IV	After Completion of Electrical Part	05% of total fee
V	After successful commissioning of the Project	15% of total fee

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor J&K (UT)

DIPK-4836/23

Dated: 11.07.2023

Executive Engineer,
R & B Division Baramulla

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Sub: Changes in technical specification.

Ref: This office E-NIT No. PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-18 of 2023-24, S. No. 02, issued under No. PHE/MDNS/DB/2298-2305, dated: 07-07-2023.

Please read "61/0.093 (240mm²) copper cable" instead of "300mm² copper cable".

All other terms and conditions shall remain same

DIPK-4890/23

Dated: 11-07-2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)
Sopore

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION (KPDCL) GANDERBAL

Phone/Fax no: 0194-2416236

E-mail:- edgbl123@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-NIT no: 43 of 2023-24 dated 10/07/2023

For and on Behalf of Managing Director KPDCL Kashmir, Tenders are hereby invited from resourceful/reputed Class A Electrical Contractors Registered with competent Authority / PDD/PDC/MES for following work for the following job:-

Name of the work	Est. cost (in Lacs)	CDR Amount (in Rupees)	Cost of tender document (Treasury Challan)	Completion Period	Position of funds
SITC for creation of 1x63KVA and Aug of 1x63KVA by 100KVA , shifting of 250KVA Sub Station and imp of HT/LT network at Jamia Masjid Baba Wayil , ward no 2 and 7 at Dar Mohalla Shahpora, Wayil Woodeer, Dar Mohalla Arhama-A, Benhama, Syed Mohalla and chichi mohallah, ward no.1 at CWW-A Under PRI Grants FY 2023-24	29.79	2% of Advertised Cost	Rs1000/-	Within 60 Days from the date of issuance of LOA	Authorized (50% Released)

The tender document consisting of terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities and other details can be seen/downloaded from official web site of JKPD or <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per following schedule:

S#	Description	Date	Time
1.	Publish/uploading of e NIT Date	11-07-23	18.00 hrs
2	Documents Download/Sale start date	11-07-23	18.00 hrs
3	Clarification Date Start	11-07-23	18.00 hrs
4	Clarifications Date End	25-07-23	14.00 hrs
5	Bid submission Start date	12-07-23	09.00 hrs
6	Bid submission end date	25-07-23	14.00 hrs
7	Opening date for E-tender	26-07-23	14:00 hrs
8	Venue of opening e bids	Office of the Executive Engineer ED Ganderbal	

Date: 11-07-2023

DIPK-NB-1898/23

Executive Engineer
ED Ganderbal

IQRA COACHING & COUNSELING INSTITUTE HANDWARA

MANAGED BY: **TABINDA MEMORIAL SOCIETY**
REGISTERED WITH: REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES JAMMU & KASHMIR VIDE NO: 6766-S OF 2015

Congratulations to all Class 11th Students

463 Iffat Javid

457 Sumaya Reyaz

438 Qurat ul Ain

426 Tawqeer Bashir

415 Rahila Rasool

469 Darakshan Altaf

414 Aafaq Bashir

411 Rounaq Jahan

412 Athar Nazir

414 Bisma Jan

411 Mudasir Yousuf

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CLASS WORK IN PROGRESS
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OUR RESULTS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

11th & 12th

REHMAN COMPLEX, NEAR SBI RAJWAR ROAD, HANDWARA

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is a BRAND in the field of COACHING

DDC Budgam reviews status of JJM in district

Stresses on coordination between line departments for speedy completion of all JJM works


HT News Network

BUDGAM, JULY 11: In a move towards ensuring access to safe and sustainable drinking water for all, the District Development commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today conducted a comprehensive review of the JalJeevan Mission (JJM) in the district.

The detailed review and status was put forth before DDC touching various aspects of the scheme and progress made in various major and minor schemes approved under JJM.

Recognizing the significance of JJM, the DDC along with key officials and stakeholders, undertook a detailed evaluation of the mission's progress and future plans within the district.

He highlighted the importance of delivering safe drinking water to every household in the district. He also emphasized the need to expedite the implementation process and ensure that all eligible households receive tap water connections as per the mission's guidelines.





Furthermore, the DDC emphasized the significance of community participation in achieving the mission's objectives.

The review meeting also discussed challenges faced during the implementation of the mission and explored possible solutions to overcome them.

The DDC directed concerned officials

to address any bottlenecks promptly and ensure the timely completion of ongoing projects. He emphasized on the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders to accomplish the mission's targets effectively and within the stipulated timeline.

Detailed review was conducted by the DDC on the progress of

works approved under JJM, Har Ghar Jal Certification, Monitoring of Water Quality assessment and community mobilisation for participation in the mission.

Besides, JD planning Rafiq Ahmad, all Executive Engineers of PHE department, all AEEs and other concerned officers and officials were present in the meeting. Furthermore, the DDC emphasized the significance of community participation in achieving the mission's objectives.

The review meeting also discussed challenges faced during the implementation of the mission and explored possible solutions to overcome them.

The DDC directed concerned officials to address any bottlenecks promptly and ensure the timely completion of ongoing projects. He emphasized on the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders to accomplish the mission's targets effectively and within the stipulated timeline.

Detailed review was conducted by the DDC on the progress of works approved under JJM, Har Ghar Jal Certification, Monitoring of Water Quality assessment and community.

Forest Department condoles demise of R.S. Bali, Director, Finance Forest Department

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, JULY 11 J&K Forest Department expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of Ranbir Singh Bali, Director, Finance (Forest, Ecology & Environment) who died in a tragic accident on 09-07-2023 at Mughal Road. A condolence meeting of forest officers and officials was held in this regard at Sheikh Bagh, Forest Complex, Srinagar which was attended among others by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, J&K Roshan Jaggi. A two-minute silence was observed for peace of the departed soul.

DIO Samba holds meeting with members of media fraternity

HT News Network

SAMBA, JULY 11: District Information Officer Samba, Monika on Tuesday held an interaction with the media persons here in the District Administrative Complex.

The DIO urged the media persons to play a proactive role in disseminating the information regarding the Government schemes and initiatives, meant for the welfare of the people. He sought their cooperation in projecting the issues of the public in the right perspective.

The representatives of the print and electronic media organizations projected numerous issues of public interest discussed. They also briefed the DIO about the difficulties they face while covering events on ground level and sought support of the Information Department to facilitate timely coverage of events.

The DIO assured that media persons will be provided full support by the DIPR and District Administration in highlighting the genuine public issues for their prompt redressal.

Reasi youth shine at International Dance Competition

HT News Network

REASI, JULY 11: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Babila Rakwal today felicitated a group of local youth who won medals at 3rd Mount Everest International Dance, Singing, Acting, and Instrument playing competition held recently in Kathmandu.

The students from different institutions from across Reasi district participated in the International level dance competition and brought laurels by winning medals.

The students were selected for the international level competition on the basis of their outstanding performance at district level, state level and national level performances in different categories and age groups.

The District Development Commissioner presented appreciation certificates and extended warm congratulations to the achievers of international level competitions and wished them good luck for their future competitions. DC also motivated the participants to recognize their unique potential and contribute towards nation building. The students from Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir won gold, silver and bronze medals in various instruments and dance forms. Anandroop Singh won gold medal in folk dance category, Aradhya Rani won gold medal in solo dance category and Aliya Thappa won silver medal in folk dance category. These children were accompanied by Preeti Langheh.

Chief Education Officer Sunita Bali was also present on the occasion. The students from Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir won gold, silver and bronze medals in various instruments and dance forms. Anandroop Singh won gold medal in folk dance category, Aradhya Rani won gold medal in solo dance category.

Samba administration conducts massive cleanliness drive on banks of River Devika in Purmandal

HT News Network

JAMMU, JULY 11: To promote cleanliness on the holy land of Purmandal, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Samba Abhishek Sharma today launched a massive Cleanliness drive along the River Devika and its surrounding areas.

This community mobilization cum sanitation drive was organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Tourism Jammu, the Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, and the Surinsar-Mansar Development Authority. As part of the campaign, garbage, plastics etc were removed from the banks of the river. The general public was also sensitized on the importance of maintaining cleanliness.

A large number of people, members of PRIs, and NSS



volunteers of Government Degree College Purmandal, besides officers of Civil and Police Administration also participated in the campaign. A plantation drive was also conducted at Sangar Morh, Purmandal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stated that the holy site of Purmandal holds great cultural and religious value for the people of J&K and it should be the utmost priority of all to maintain the sanctity of the sacred Devika River. He called upon the public to discard the use of polythene, maintain hygiene, adopt best waste management practices and segregation and keep the water resources clean. He also thanked all the participants and appealed to them to join hands with the District Administration.

DC reviews patient care scenario in Health Institutions of Udhampur District


HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JULY 11: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today chaired a meeting of health department functionaries here in Mini Conference Hall of DC Office Complex to review the healthcare scenario and healthcare services being provided by the department to the people in the district.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Anil Manhas briefed the DC about the functioning of the health department and indicator wise achievements.

The DC took an extensive review of achievements under various health schemes, functioning of health institutions, infrastructure upgradation, and the healthcare facilities being provided to the patients. The DC asked for focusing on efficient delivery of health services in all health institutions to facilitate the public.

He stressed upon all to serve the



patients with utmost dedication and sincerity. The DC directed the medicos to prescribe generic medicine in all OPDs of the district. Officers of the health department were directed to conduct field visits in their respective areas. To stop the unnecessary prescription of drugs by doctors, the DC directed the CMO to conduct a prescription Audit in the District.

He directed the CMO to install the


Biometric attendance system in all the health institutions and make it sure that the staffers mark their attendance through the Biometric system on a daily basis. The BMOs were directed to be punctual and work with dedication and zeal. DC urged upon health functionaries to come up to the expectations of the patients and focus on quality assurance, accessible, affordable health care in the district.

CAPEX 2023: DC Bandipora reviews tendering, allotment & execution of works

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JULY 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad today chaired a meeting of heads of line departments here to review the progress of projects being executed in the district under District Capex budget 2023-24.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised with regard to projects being executed by various departments in the district. He was also informed about the tendering process and execution of different works. After reviewing the sector wise progress of the projects, the DC impressed upon all the departments/executing agencies to ensure timely completion of all stages of



execution of works viz. estimation, tendering, allotment and on ground execution of all developmental works in a time bound manner. Reviewing the issues hampering the pace of progress, the DC asked the concerned to monitor the pace of progress on a regular basis and resolve the issues hampering the progress of several works at an earliest. The DC directed the

officers to put in best efforts for maximum and optimum utilization of funds under different schemes.

Dr Owais instructed concerned officers to involve all PRIs in identification of all priority works to be taken up in hand for the financial year 2023-24.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Ali Afsar Khan, Nodal Officer Coordination.


Slash of import duties on Washington apples worrisome : Faisal Khankashi

Syed Tajamul

Eminent tourism stakeholder and Socio-political and economic voice of Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Khankashi has expressed deep concern over the decrease in import duty on Washington apples and its likely negative effects on the apple industry of Kashmir.

Faisal Khankashi affirmed that "Both in Kashmir as well as Himachal Pradesh The government decision to slash import duty on Washington apple from 70 per cent to 50 per cent has left the local apple growers worried. They fear the 20 per cent reduction in the import duty will significantly increase the import of Washington apple, which will shrink the space for the premium local produce. We are well aware that Kashmir Valley-based fruit growers and dealers fear that the reduction in import duty will have significant repercussions, leading to a surge in the import of Washington Apple into Indian markets."

Faisal Khankashi affirmed that it is a known



fact that Washington Apple is renowned for its high-quality standards, and the previous 70% import duty ensured that it remained in a different league compared to premium Indian apples.

He hoped that Government will give a keen relook into the decision.

Ajaz Ahmad Bhat: From LOC Uri to the Limelight, Preserving Pahari Culture through Music

By Zubair Qureshi

In the enchanting valleys of Jammu and Kashmir, where the rich tapestry of Pahari culture weaves its intricate threads, a young singer by the name of Ajaz Ahmad Bhat has emerged as a beacon of hope for his community. With his soul-stirring voice and unwavering commitment, Ajaz is on a mission to preserve and promote the unique heritage of the Pahari people through the power of music.

Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, a promising singer from the Pahari Ethnic group in Jammu and Kashmir, has emerged as a prominent figure in the realm of Pahari music, particularly Pahari folk music. Hailing from the Namla area of LOC Uri, in the Baram-

ulla District, his passion for singing ignited in the 6th grade when he discovered the enchanting world of local Pahari singers. Inspired by their melodies, Ajaz dedicated himself to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Pahari people through his soulful voice.


In 2018, Ajaz took a significant leap forward by creating his own YouTube channel, appropriately named "Ajaz Bhat Official." With his captivating voice and heartfelt renditions, he quickly gained popularity, amassing over 1.5 Lakh subscribers. Reflecting on his remarkable journey, Ajaz humbly shares, "I never expected such an overwhelming response when I started my YouTube channel. It's a humbling experience to know that my music has touched the hearts of so many

people and brought attention to the struggles our community faces." One of his songs, "Sadna wala rastu," struck a chord with listeners as it shed light on the hardships faced by the Karnah people due to

the absence of the Sadha tunnel at Kupwara Karnah highway. This emotionally charged composition propelled Ajaz into the limelight, opening doors to numerous opportunities to showcase his talent at local and

national events. A major milestone in Ajaz's career occurred in 2016 when he received an invitation to participate in an event organized by the NZCC Patiala in Chhatisgarh, Rupnagar in Punjab, and Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh. Representing the Pahari culture, he fondly recalls, "Participating in that event was a turning point for me. It was a great honor to meet and learn from many prominent singers. It further fueled my passion for preserving our heritage through music." This event provided him with wider recognition and spread his name beyond the borders of Jammu and Kashmir. Undeterred by challenges, Ajaz continued to perform at various local events in the region, captivating audiences with his melodious voice and heartfelt lyrics. Ajaz's dedication to

preserving Pahari culture has not gone unnoticed. Zubair Qureshi, a renowned Pahari writer, acknowledges the pivotal role that youngsters like Ajaz play in safeguarding and promoting their heritage's traditions. Zubair expressed his admiration, stating, "Ajaz Bhat, like many other youngsters, is playing a vital role in preserving the Pahari culture and traditions among the younger generation. His commitment to showcasing our unique heritage through music is truly commendable." In addition to his online presence and event participation, Ajaz's impact is deeply felt in local Pahari weddings. His captivating performances have become an integral part of these joyous occasions, seamlessly blending traditional Pahari melodies with a contemporary flair.



EDITORIAL

The Alarming Rise of PTSD in Kashmir: Unemployment's Hidden Toll

The region of Kashmir has long been marred by unprecedented and incessant political instability leading to severe mental health implications for its residents. While discussions around Kashmir often center on geo-political and security issues, there is an urgent need to address the rising cases of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among its youth, who also face the burden of unemployment.

The intersection of these two challenges has created a vicious cycle of despair, requiring immediate attention and comprehensive solutions.

Kashmir has grappled with an acute unemployment crisis, particularly among its youth. The lack of job opportunities and economic stagnation have left countless young Kashmiris without avenues for a meaningful livelihood. Unemployment not only strips them of financial security but also denies them a sense of purpose, achievement, and hope for the future. The resulting frustration and disillusionment contribute significantly to the mental health crisis in the region.

Kashmir has witnessed decades of political unrest, violence, and military presence. This prolonged conflict has subjected its residents, particularly the younger generation, to constant exposure to fear, trauma, and loss. The prevalence of violence has deeply scarred the psyche of Kashmiri youth, leaving them vulnerable to psychological disorders such as PTSD. Witnessing or experiencing events like curfews, encounters, and mass protests takes a heavy toll on their mental well-being, exacerbating their vulnerability to trauma.

The alarming convergence of unemployment and trauma has given rise to a vicious cycle that perpetuates the suffering of Kashmiri youth. The lack of job opportunities increases their exposure to social and economic hardships, creating a fertile ground for psychological distress. Simultaneously, the trauma experienced due to the conflict impairs their ability to cope with the stressors of unemployment, making it even more difficult for them to secure gainful employment. This cycle of trauma, unemployment, and mental health issues poses a severe threat to the overall well-being and stability of the region.

Addressing the Crisis:

To effectively combat the rising cases of PTSD in Kashmir, a multi-faceted approach is required:

Increase Economic Opportunities: The government, in collaboration with local and international organizations, must prioritize job creation and skill development programs. By fostering entrepreneurship, promoting industries, and investing in infrastructure, sustainable economic opportunities can be generated, providing hope and stability to the youth.

Mental Health Support: Adequate mental health infrastructure, including counseling services and trauma-focused therapies, should be made accessible to all those affected by PTSD. Specialized programs must be designed to address the unique needs of Kashmiri youth, taking into account their cultural sensitivities and the socio-political context of the region.

Education and Awareness: Initiatives aimed at destigmatizing mental health issues should be implemented, promoting awareness and understanding within the community. Schools and colleges can play a crucial role in fostering a culture of empathy, resilience, and emotional well-being through targeted educational programs.

The escalating cases of PTSD among the youth of Kashmir demand immediate attention and comprehensive action. Addressing the intersection of unemployment and trauma is crucial in breaking the vicious cycle of despair that has taken hold of the region. By fostering economic opportunities, providing mental health support, promoting education and awareness, and pursuing a peaceful resolution to the conflict, we can restore hope, heal wounds, and empower the youth of Kashmir to reclaim their lives and build a brighter future. It is time to acknowledge their pain, listen to their voices, and work together to bring lasting change to this beautiful but troubled land.

MINUTES OF MERIT

A Collection of Poetry By Sushant Thapa



REVIEWED BY SHAFKAT AZIZ

Sushant Thapa's this poetry book titled as "MINUTE'S OF MERIT " With a gripping cover page has been published by Haoajan Publishers at 35 / 1A, Manohar Pukar , Road , Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

The author of this book is from Biratnagar, Nepal. He's the author of three other poetry books: The Poetic Burden and other poems (Authorspress New Delhi, 2020) and Abstraction and Other Poems (Impspired , UK ,2021). Loves Cradle (World Inkers Printing and Publishing New York, USA , Senegal, Africa, 2023). He is an English Lecturer , teaches at Nepal Business collage , Biratnagar , and Master's level at Degree Campus, Nepal. He has also published in print and online school books, anthologies around the world.

He's also an Executive Member of Swopnil Literature Society, Kathmandu, Nepal.

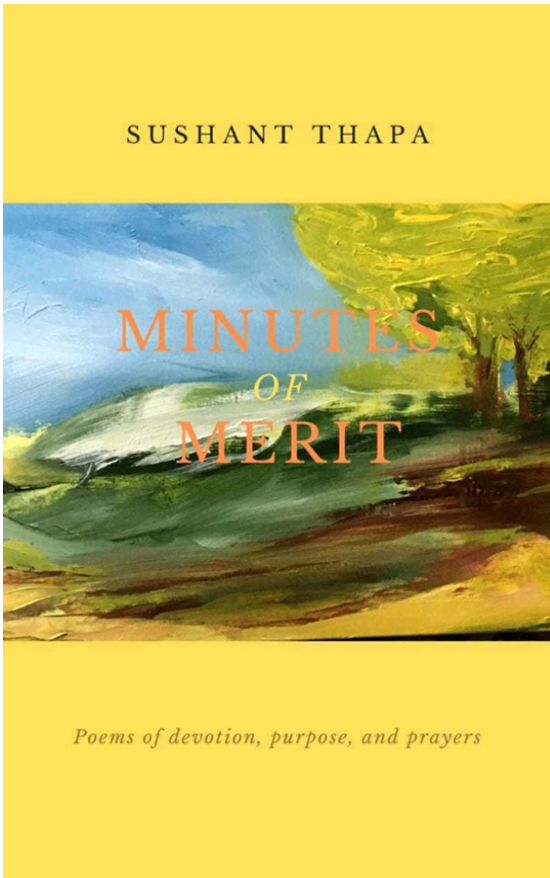
Gopal Lahiri , a poet and critic from Kolkata, in his foreword written for this collection of poetry " Minutes of MERIT " writes that Sushant Thapa's this poetry book doesn't offer only a close look into the daily life but also his remarkably creative Philosophical musings .

Gopal Lahiri being, a critic , giving critical analysis of the book , further writes in the foreword that the real joy of this book lies in its bold, energetic expression and openness, Sometimes creating a sense of triumph and togetherness. Sail between the locales , his poems are the painting that speaks the conventional realism with relative ease and unforced moments of lyricism. This book positively buzzes with desire , truth and unshakable refusal to stay within a confined space and stands out for its sheer promise and startling originality and quietness.

The book has seventy three poems in it, on eighty eight pages.

Most of them are short , very short and some are fairly long .

According to my analysis all the poems have been beautifully crafted though in simple diction, have strong contents, giving profound and powerful messages to the world. The poems are written on varied topics like , reality, passion, power, empathy, existence, faith so on. Though these are the commonly known themes on which verses are often crafted , the interested , Voracious and skilled poetry readers will find the book greatly worth reading, as the way and to the extent the poet has versified his experiences, knowledge etc on the already mentioned themes is inspiring different. The beauty of the poetry of Sushant Thapa doesn't lie only in its profound meaning , lofty thoughts and simple diction but also in the images almost of all types he has used. According to my analysis, the visual imagery is dominant all through



his poetry. The poetry of Sushant Thapa is a free verse poetry as no poem has any rhyme scheme and metrical pattern. His poems reminds me of Walt Whitman, Who is known to be the " Father of Free verse" though he himself has not claimed it. Being a reviewer not a critic, I can't claim beauty of the content and depth of Sushant Thapa's poetry limited to my analysis. It must have more of such things than what I observed and felt .

Now I briefly pen down about a few of the poems in the book, what I felt or got after going through them.

One of the beautifully crafted poems from the book is titled as " Nepal "

This is the birth place or native place of the poet
My country , when I left you ,
I did not become of anywhere .

I write, I need to find words to sing a song about you .

The poet in this poem expresses patriotism; the feeling of love , devotion and sense of attachment to his country(which we all must have) , Nepal after having abandoned it for some reasons. The abandonment of his country, makes him feel as if he belongs to no where. When he remembers his land which according to him is incomparable to any other land for its alluring landscape, he yearns to write and sing in praise of it , falls short of words . Rest , beautiful content of the poem will be found by the readers on their own .

One more poem in the book is ; " BEING A POET "

It's a short but beautiful poem in which the poet expresses his yearnings for being a Surprisingly different poet. It's really an interesting poem for poetry lovers to read .

Another nice poem in the book is : " RELIGION "

What I know about religion
Is what I believe in .

The religious poem has been crafted by the poet, conveying the message about his strong belief in the religion of one God, all powerful, the creator of the universe, which he further writes in it. The ideology in the verses of the poem, related to the religion the poet believes in , is worth knowing.

Each poem in the book is unique for totally different contents .

One more nicely crafted poem is titled as ; " NATURE "

From the depth of the planet
Every creature, silent and vocal
Exists and shares the fruitful nature .

I realize it to be an interestingly profound poem , the poet draws the pictures of many captivating things that guide him , make him forget his being alone and soothe him. The opening crafted verses of this poem let know that he looks into the nature or the planet, Earth keenly , finds the creatures of all kinds, living and sharing the things existing for their survival. I suggest the readers to go into the depth of the poem , it really reveals the exalted thoughts of the poet .

Another beautiful poem in the book is ; " PASSION "

In this poem the poet considers ' passion ' as a weapon to kill the pain and continuity as a mantra to excel .

It's a known fact that passion for procuring something doesn't let one to stay at rest . It gives one a power and one goes on struggling to achieve one's goal.

Though one experiences a lot of pains while wrestling , gets a long lasting relief after achievements .

Caged Bird, Blank page, Rainbow, Time and Evening grief are some of the very short poems in the book with profound thoughts.

One more beautifully crafted poem that I like more is ; " Tools of compassion " In the poem the poet considers, Kindness and forgiveness as the tools of compassion, that can't be questioned and what the poet further writes in poem must be read.

It's not possible to throw light on each poem in the book.

But I suggest reading the book as it contains exalted thoughts, powerful messages versified in simple diction that can add more to the poetry reader's as well as writer's knowledge

And can broaden the vision of the poets to write more broadly on the themes written in the book, in their own way or style.

I wish more power to the poet's pen .

Shafkat Aziz, is a poet, reviewer and co author from India Kashmir District Kupwara Handwara and He works in a private Secondary school , Hill Park International school, located in his native town, Handwara. He can be reached at :Shafkataziz399@gmail.com

The Shadow Side of Greatness: Exploring the Darker Side of Achievements



JASWINDER PAL

When we think of greatness, we often imagine extraordinary individuals who have accomplished remarkable feats, leaving a lasting impact on the world. We idolize their achievements, their talent, and their relentless pursuit of excellence. But behind the veneer of greatness, there lies a shadow side that is often overlooked and rarely discussed. The shadow side of greatness encompasses the hidden struggles, sacrifices, and flaws that accompany extraordinary success.

One of the key aspects of the shadow side is the tremendous pressure that comes with being great. The expectation to constantly perform at an exceptional level can be overwhelming. Great individuals often bear the weight of societal and personal expectations, and the fear of failure or not living up to their previous successes can haunt them. This pressure can lead to anxiety, burnout, and a constant need for validation, as they strive to maintain their reputation and status.

Another aspect of the shadow side is the sacrifices that greatness often demands.



Achieving extraordinary success usually requires immense dedication and sacrifice in various areas of life. Great individuals often sacrifice personal relationships, leisure time, and even their own well-being in the pursuit of their goals. They may become consumed by their work, neglecting other aspects of life that bring joy and fulfillment. This unbalanced focus can lead to a sense of emptiness or a feeling of being disconnected from the world.

Additionally, the pursuit of greatness can sometimes lead individuals down a morally ambiguous path. In their relentless pursuit of success, some may compromise their values or engage in unethical behavior. The desire to win at all costs can overshadow the importance of integrity, compassion, and empathy. This dark

side of greatness has been witnessed in various fields, from business to sports, where individuals have been caught in scandals or have tarnished their reputation through questionable actions.

Moreover, the shadow side also encompasses the toll that greatness takes on mental health. Many highly successful individuals struggle with mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and imposter syndrome. The constant striving for perfection and the fear of being exposed as a fraud can deeply impact one's mental well-being. Despite their achievements, they may battle with feelings of inadequacy or a sense of never being good enough.

It is crucial to recognize and acknowledge the shadow side of greatness, both as a society and as individuals. By under-

standing the challenges and struggles that come with exceptional success, we can foster a more compassionate and supportive environment for those who strive for greatness. It is important to redefine success in a way that includes balance, well-being, and ethical conduct, rather than solely focusing on achievements and accolades.

For those who aspire to greatness, it is essential to maintain a healthy perspective. Recognize that it is okay to have flaws and imperfections. Embrace the importance of self-care, maintaining meaningful relationships, and finding joy in the journey rather than solely fixating on the destination. Seek support when needed and prioritize mental well-being alongside professional success.

In conclusion, the shadow side of greatness sheds light on the hidden struggles and sacrifices that accompany extraordinary achievements. The pressure, sacrifices, ethical dilemmas, and mental health challenges are part of the darker side that often goes unnoticed. By acknowledging and addressing these aspects, we can create a more holistic and compassionate understanding of greatness. Let us strive for a version of greatness that not only celebrates achievements but also encompasses personal growth, well-being, and ethical conduct.

The author is a SS Master, GSSS Hakuwala Sri Muktsar Sahib(Punjab)



VIJAY GARG



Agriculture has the power to remove unemployment

The way the country saw the migration of migrant laborers back home during the Corona epidemic, the report of the Periodic Labor Force Survey that came after that shows that the number of agricultural laborers has increased by 3 percent, this count was 42.5 percent in the year 2018-19 increased to 45.5 percent in 2021-22. The agriculture sector, which has been deliberately kept poor all these years, still holds the potential of gross value added (GVA) worth Rs 40.66 lakh crore. This The data shows the strength and resilience of the sector. If nothing else, if only price parity is created in the agriculture sector i.e. higher price guarantee, the agriculture sector would do much better, both in production and value-addition. Due to keeping the prices of agricultural products low, it is obvious that the income from agriculture sector is less visible. Instead of accepting this fact, it is cleverly given an impression by arguing that 'since the share of agriculture sector in the total income of the country is only 19 per cent, the burden which The cost of carrying to maintain the district should be drastically reduced. This vicious argument is a repetition of an out-of-date economic thinking, which is bent on pushing farmers out of farming. Mainstream economists continue to advance a global economic conspiracy that is eager to sacrifice agriculture to make economic reforms viable. It has to change. Let us first understand the Gross Value of Output (GVO). If the average price of a commodity increases, then its gross value also increases. Developed countries use this equation to chastise India that it is violating the terms of the WTO agreement. With the increase in the minimum purchase price of wheat and rice, rich developed countries determine the total

value of a product by multiplying the output by the price. Then calculate from this how much India gives relief to the farmers by going above the fixed limit of giving 10 percent subsidy under the Aggregate Measurement of Support formula. other words In s, they calculate what share of the total value of output India provides as support to the agriculture sector. The point is that if the production remains the same and the price goes up, then its GVO will also go up. But, because we keep agricultural product prices low, GVO also stays down. At present, the farm-hand price of the commodity is generally lower, even 20-30 per cent less than the announced minimum support price. wheat and rice, and to a lesser extent cotton, apart from a few pulses and a few vegetables Price remains low. I know that the gross price of the product is determined by taking the average of the current price in a few mandis, then adding some other expenses to it. It is logical that if the market price is relatively high, which is not less than the declared minimum support price, then the GVO will also be relatively high. In 2014-15, the Karnataka government gave farmers a bonus of Rs 450 per quintal on tur dal, resulting in record procurement. In the process, the income of the tur dal producer increased by Rs.22,500. additional



increase. Imagine if the prices of tur dal had increased to such a level across the country, the GVO of this particular commodity would have been much higher. Similarly, the current minimum purchase price of wheat, which is Rs 2125 per quintal this year, if it is implemented across the country with legal guarantee, not only Punjab-Haryana farmers but the farmers of the entire country will be able to get a higher price. This would automatically count the GVO of wheat production quite high. If there is a proportionate increase in the prices of the remaining crops, the same thing will happen to them. also applies. Another measure that economists apply is Gross Value Added (GVA). The difference between GVA and GVO is that the cost of growing the crop and

the cost of raw materials have to be subtracted from GVO. For the year 2021-22, the National Statistics Department (NSO) has calculated the GVO from agriculture, forestry and fisheries at Rs 50.71 lakh crore. In view of the fact that the GVA-GVO ratio of the agriculture sector is the highest in the country i.e. 80.19 percent, even the land-property, business and Even more than the financial services, hotels and business sectors, this explains how high the productivity of the agricultural sector is. Some economists think that because the consumption of industrial goods to produce agriculture is lower than the global average, such as fertilizers, pesticides and farm-implements, and production data is based mostly on land sources, the GVA of agriculture remains high.

. What happened after that? If agriculture is producing so much productivity with little use of external industrial inputs, imagine if, starting with all 23 crops, Higher and guaranteed price of the commodity by legally implementing the minimum purchase price, then the picture of Indian agriculture will change completely and it will become the main axis of economic development. Globally, the world is now moving towards a food system transformation aimed at reducing greenhouse emissions from agriculture. For this, there will be a need to move towards an agro-ecological farming system that uses less external resources. Mainstream economists must know that The Biodiversity Mechanism has called for cutting pesticide use by two-thirds by the year 2030. There is a lesson for them here. In any case, what is crystal clear is that the share of agriculture in the national income has remained low mainly because farmers have been denied their dues all these years. If the GVA of agriculture is coming out the most in the country, then I do not understand the logic when economists look down upon agriculture as a burden on the Indian economy, the facts are That is, it is agriculture which is giving strength to the economy like a rock. Even when the country's economy registered a contraction of 24 per cent in the first quarter after the corona lockdown, agriculture was the only sector that did exceptionally well. In fact, it is the continued good performance of agriculture that has kept the hopes alive. A vibrant farming system has so much courage that it can absorb the employment crisis facing the country. In fact, agriculture is a trouble-shooter rather than a burden. Today when 45.5 percent of the total population in the country If a person is engaged in the agriculture sector, the emphasis needs to be on making farming livelihoods economically viable and profitable. Deliberately depriving the agriculture sector of public investment, not guaranteeing minimum purchase price to farmers and not creating a reliable market system has been made the need of the hour. To solve this, there is a need to overturn the existing economic thinking.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

Thirty Years Of Project Elephant



BHUPENDER YADAV

It is increasingly evident that biodiversity conservation is one of the best strategies to combat climate change. Nevertheless, biodiversity conservation is a complex endeavor as biological communities are intricately linked with their environment. To circumvent the challenge, approaches focused on conservation of select keystone and umbrella species can help. Conservation of the globally endangered Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) in India is a case in point.

The association between elephants and people in India is deep, and unparalleled in the world. In India, elephants are revered as a sign of prosperity. They are cultural icons and part of our religion, art, literature and folklore. Indian epics are full of references to elephants. It is even believed Mahabharata was written by Lord Ganesha with one of his broken tusks.

Since the dawn of India's independence in 1947, elephant population trend has been relatively stable unlike other range countries. India has strong legislations such as the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 that accord highest legal protection to elephants regardless of whether they are in the wild or in human care. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, protects elephant habitats from loss and degradation. In the last 9 years, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has built a robust institutional mechanism, backed by strong political will and leadership, to conserve elephants.

Collectively, elephants are found in about 5% of the total landmass of India. Elephants' current range include Protected Areas and other forms of multiple-use forests. They also use human-dominated areas to move between forest patches.

Ivory poaching, which remains the foremost challenge for conservation of African elephants, is under control in India. This, however, was not the case in the 1970s and 1980s when we lost several tuskers to poaching fueled by the rapacious international illegal ivory market. The killings posed a serious threat to elephant

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conservation, and necessitated a mission-mode to revitalise conservation with active coordination between the States and the Centre. This recognition led to the launch of the ambitious Project Elephant in 1992, in line with Project Tiger that managed to bring tigers back from the brink of population collapse.

Project Elephant is a centrally sponsored scheme to provide technical and financial support for elephant conservation and welfare. Elephant Reserves are the fundamental management unit under Project Elephant. As on date, there are 33 Elephant Reserves spread over 80,778 km² across India. The year 2022 marked 30 years of Project Elephant in India.

Project Elephant has ramped up initiatives for elephant conservation. Two new Elephant Reserves have been created during the last two years in strategically important locations. The Terai Elephant Reserve notified in the Dudhwa and surrounding landscapes of Uttar Pradesh aims to address long-standing issues facing management of transboundary elephants between India and Nepal. The Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve in southern Western Ghats mountains of Tamil Nadu would provide a thrust towards restoring connectivity between Periyar and Agasthiyarmalai landscapes.

Recognizing the importance of corridors to conserve elephants and minimize human-elephant conflicts, Project Elephant has been carrying out the task of ground-validating known elephant corridors across India. Significantly, some critical elephant corridors like Chilla-Motichur in Uttarakhand, Tirunelli-Kudarakote corridor in Kerala and a few others have been successfully restored. In a first, an important corridor in Odisha was

notified as a conservation reserve under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The Railways and the MoEFCC have been meeting frequently to address the issue of train-related elephant collisions. Both the Ministries are working in tandem with the State Forest Departments and research institutions to solve the problem.

The most significant challenge towards elephant conservation in India emerges in the form of human-elephant conflict. The government acknowledges the problem and stands with the people to minimise conflicts. Novel initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana are now extended to wildlife-related crop losses so that timely compensation can be paid to affected farmers. Efforts are on improve the response time towards conflict and timely ex gratia disbursement.

As India is fast developing and economically progressing, the need of the hour is to retain the nature-culture ties. Our mythology, art, religion and heritage emphasize on the virtues of oneness with nature. To take the elephant conservation message to the masses, MoEFCC and the Assam Forest Department will be celebrating Gaj Utsav marking 30 years of Project Elephant in India.

Gaj Utsav will be a platform to collectively pledge our commitment to conservation of this magnificent species.

Minister, Environment Forest & Climate Change, Government of India



"Islam Occupies Unique 'Position Of Pride' In India": NSA Ajit Doval

HT News Network

New Delhi: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Tuesday said India has been a melting pot of cultures and religions that have co-existed in harmony for centuries, and Islam occupies a unique and significant "position of pride" amongst the religious groups in the country.

Mr Doval's remarks came during an event here at the India Islamic Cultural Centre where Muslim World League Secretary General Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, who is on an India visit, also addressed the gathering.

Mr Doval hailed Al-Issa as an authentic global voice of moderate Islam and a profound scholar with a deep understanding of Islam.

Hailing the "excellent" relations between India and Saudi Arabia, Mr Doval said the ties were rooted in shared cultural heritage, common values and economic ties.

"Our leaders share a common vision for the future and have been closely interacting with each other," the National Security Advisor said.

In his remarks, Mr Doval said India as the world's largest democracy and the mother of democracies is a land of incredible diversity.

"In your (Al-Issa) talk you elaborately mentioned diversity as a fundamental trait of our existence. It (India) has been a melting pot of cultures, religions, languages and eth-



nicities that have co-existed in harmony for centuries. As an inclusive democracy, India has successfully managed to provide space for all its citizens regardless of their religious, ethnic and cultural identities," he said.

"Amongst its numerous religious groups, Islam occupies a unique and significant position of pride with India being home to the second largest Muslim population in the world," he said. To give an idea of the scale we are talking about, India's Muslim population is almost equal to the combined population of over 33 member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Mr Doval added. Mr Doval's remarks came during an event here at the India Islamic Cultural Centre where Muslim World League Secretary General Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, who is on an India visit, also addressed the gathering. Mr Doval hailed Al-Issa

as an authentic global voice of moderate Islam and a profound scholar with a deep understanding of Islam.

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Cannot Direct Army, Paramilitary Forces: Supreme Court On Manipur

HT News Network

New Delhi: Hate speech should be curbed in Manipur and all parties should maintain equilibrium, the Supreme Court said today while hearing a clutch of petitions seeking the return of the bodies of victims of violence. The court also said it would not issue any directions to the army or paramilitary forces, which has had a civilian leadership since Independence.

"We request all parties to maintain a sense of equilibrium and not participate in any hate speech," said Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, who was leading the three-judge bench hearing the petitions. "As a court we have to show a clear balance because we stand away from the contention. Once we enter the frame, we lose our objectivity. We have to stand apart," he added.

Senior Advocate Colin Gonsalves, who represents the Kuki community, said, "The learned Solicitor must curb the extreme hate speech. I have never seen this in India. He can stop this because he knows



these gentlemen". Nearly 150 people have been killed and many more injured in ethnic violence in Manipur since clashes broke out between Kukis and Meitis early in May. The Kukis have claimed that the state government is sponsoring the violence and have sought the court's intervention to help scale it down.

The violence has been fuelled by hate speech, especially on social media.

The court, which had sought suggestions to bring the situation in the violence-torn state under control, said, "In the last 72 years, we haven't issued such directions to the Indian army... civilian control over army is greatest hallmark of democracy. We cannot breach that."

"We are of the view that

it will not be appropriate for the court to direct army and paramilitary forces. At the same time, we would impress upon the UOI and state of Manipur to ensure arrangements to protect lives of citizens of Manipur," Justice Chandrachud said.

The court had said yesterday that while it has extensive powers, it was the elected government's job to maintain law and order. "This is a humanitarian crisis and we have an enormous power... We should be conscious of the remit of the Supreme Court. We cannot run the law and order, elected government does," the court had said. "We request all parties to maintain a sense of equilibrium and not participate in any hate speech," said Chief Justice of India DY

Chandrachud, who was leading the three-judge bench hearing the petitions. "As a court we have to show a clear balance because we stand away from the contention. Once we enter the frame, we lose our objectivity. We have to stand apart," he added.

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BJP Disrupts Bihar Assembly Demanding Tejashwi Yadav's Resignation

HT News Network

Patna: The Bihar Assembly was adjourned today till 2 pm amid uproar by members of the opposition BJP who entered the well demanding Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yaav's resignation following a CBI chargesheet. The proceedings began at 11 am, when BJP members rose in their seats and trooped into the well, pressing the demand for the resignation of the RJD leader who is named in a land-for-jobs scam which is being investigated by the CBI. Speaker Awadh Bihari Chaudhary tried to conduct the proceedings amid the bedlam but gave up in less than 10 minutes as his pleas for orderly behaviour had little effect. "Your behaviour is a blot on the history of this august House. You are impeding the Question Hour, even though many issues you wished to raise are listed for the day," the Speaker said, before announcing that the House would reassemble at 2 pm, after lunch hour.

Trinamool Leading With Over 18,000 Seats In Bengal Rural Polls

HT News Network

Kolkata: According to the latest declarations by the State Election Commission, the TMC is leading in 18,332 gram panchayat seats. Its nearest rival BJP is leading in 4,592 seats out of 63,329 seats as of 5.30 pm.

CPI(M) is leading in 1,894 seats. The Congress in 1,142 seats. Other parties which included the newly formed ISF are leading in 1,721 seats, while independents which included TMC rebels won 718 seats and led in 216 seats.

Counting of votes for the three-tier panchayat polls to nearly 74,000 seats which besides the gram panchayat seats, also includes 9,730 panchayat samiti seats and 928 zilla parishad seats, began at 8 am on Tuesday peacefully amid tight security, officials said.

There are around 339 counting venues spread across 22 districts. The maximum number of counting centres is in South 24 Parganas at 28, while the minimum is in Kalimpong at four. Some northern districts are also facing inclement weather. "Counting began at 8 am and is likely continue for the next two days. It will take time for the ballots to be counted and the results to be compiled," an SEC official said.

Kharge holds meeting with party's Maharashtra unit

HT News Network

New Delhi, July 11 (UNI) Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday held a meeting with the leaders of the state unit of Maharashtra, in presence of former chief Rahul Gandhi at the party headquarters here. During the meeting, they discussed on strengthening the party in Maharashtra, and the recent political developments in the state, sources said.

Earlier this month, senior NCP leader Ajit Power and several others were sworn-in as Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Ministers respectively following their support to the government-led by CM Eknath Shinde. Ajit's rebellion has caused a vertical split in the NCP. "BJP has done the work of hurting the self-respect of Maharashtra by using its 'washing machine'. Congress will give a befitting reply to this political fraud.

UP to have 15 pc green area by 2027 with public participation: Yogi

HT News Network

Lucknow, July 11 (UNI) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said that Van Mahotsava has turned into a mass movement in Uttar Pradesh, which is blessed by nature and God and in the last 6 years, more than 131 crore saplings have been planted with public cooperation.

While presided over a special meeting with the ministers to discuss the action plan for the successful organisation of "Van Mahotsav 2023", Yogi said, "More than 5.72 crore saplings were planted in the year 2017-18, 11.77 crores in 2018-19, 22.60 crores in 2019-20, 25.87 crores in 2020-21, 30.53 crores in 2021-22, and 35.49 crores in 2022-23. It is encouraging that, along with planting saplings, full care is also being taken for their protection."

He said that during the awareness week organised between July 1 to 7 great enthusiasm was seen among the general public. "This enthusiasm will become the basis for making this year's 'Van Mahotsav' a success. The target of 'Green UP' will be fulfilled only with the maximum participation of the common people. Programmes like Prabhat Pheri, slogans, essay writing,



speech competitions, and wall writing should be continued in schools," he said.

The CM said that monsoon has set in the state. "This season is the ideal time for planting. After the successful organisation of awareness week, now we will have to join the mass plantation programme on July 22 as 'Van Mahotsav'. Like the previous years, with zeal and full enthusiasm, this year also we are ready to create a new record of plantation," he said.

He said that every department, institution and citizen will have to make efforts with the aim of planting 35 crore saplings during the massive plantation campaign this year. "Department-wise target of plantation has been fixed by the Forest Department. Division-wise targets have also been fixed.

Landslides, Floods In North India After Monsoon Fury, More Rain Predicted

HT News Network

New Delhi: Heavy rain across north India over the last three days has led to several deaths in landslides and other rain-related incidents. The weather office said that the unprecedented rainfall is due to the confluence of a western disturbance and monsoonal winds.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy, very heavy, and extremely heavy rainfall in 23 states in the country. A red alert has been issued in Uttarakhand while extremely heavy rainfall is expected in West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya.

The weather office has issued a forecast of heavy rainfall for today in Himachal Pradesh. However, the intensity of the rain is expected to decrease significantly after three days of intense rainfall.

The weather office has



also issued a forecast of moderate to light rainfall in Delhi and surrounding areas today.

The scale of the damage in the entire region has been captured in visuals of bridges being swept away, boulders tumbling down hills due to rain-induced landslides, and vehicles swallowed by the gushing waters.

The River Yamuna in Delhi breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres late last evening. The water level continued to rise overnight, and by this morning, it had reached 206.32 meters. The increase in water level was due to Hary-

ana releasing more water into the river from the Hathnikund barrage.

In Haryana and Punjab, after three days of heavy rain, special teams have been deployed to assess the damage and to provide food, water, and shelter to those who have been displaced.

A flood-like situation developed in a private housing colony in Punjab's Dera Bassi after a fresh spell of rain. The water level rose so high that boats and tractors had to be used to rescue locals who were stuck in their homes.

In Himachal Pradesh, the worst affected state in north

Mallikarjun Kharge Invites For Opposition Meet In Bengaluru On July 17-18

HT News Network

New Delhi: Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge has invited top opposition leaders for participation in the next unity meeting scheduled to be held on July 17-18th at Bengaluru. Congress President in a letter addressed to top opposition party leaders reminded them about their participation in June 23 opposition meeting held in Patna called by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

"The meeting was a great success as we were able to discuss various important issues that threaten our democratic polity and came to a unanimous agreement on unitedly fighting the next General Elections," Mr Kharge said in his invitation letter. Congress President further reminded the leaders that we had further agreed to meet again in July. "I believe that it is important to continue these discussions and build on the momentum that we have created. We need to work together to find solutions to the challenges that our country is facing," the letter further stated.

"In furtherance thereof, I request you to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting followed by dinner on July 17 at



6.00 pm at Bengaluru. The meeting will continue on July 18 2023 from 11.00 am onwards. Looking forward to meeting you in Bengaluru," Mr Kharge further stated in his letter. The first opposition meeting attended by more than 15 parties was held in Patna in view of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Leaders including AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin were among those who attended the meeting.

The meeting is being held to chalk out the Opposition's strategy for defeating the BJP in the upcoming 2024 general elections.

133 Fleeing Bengal Poll Violence Staying At Assam Relief Camps: Chief Minister

HT News Network

Guwahati: Amid reports of Panchayat poll violence in Bengal, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma claimed that over a hundred people, fleeing the clashes, have sought refuge in Assam.

"Yesterday, 133 individuals who feared for their lives due to violence in the panchayat election in West Bengal sought refuge in Dhubri District of Assam. We have provided them with shelter in a relief camp, as well as food and medical assistance," Mr Sarma tweeted. Reacting to the tweet, the BJP's Leader of Opposition in the Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, thanked the Chief Minister for "providing relief to the tormented Opposition party karyakartas of West Bengal, especially those from the BJP, who time and again are subjected to poll related violence". "We consider the people of West Bengal as our valued and respected neighbours," Mr Sarma asserted, adding that Assam had extended the same assistance during the 2021 Bengal Assembly elections. "We consider the people of West Bengal as our valued and respected neighbours. During the previous assembly election in West Bengal, we extended the same assistance. Please be assured that you can rely on us for any humanitarian aid during times of crisis," he said. Around 20 people have been killed in Panchayat poll violence in Bengal. The state voted on July 8 to elect representatives to the gram panchayats amid reports of violence, destruction of ballot papers, ballot box loots and deaths of political workers. The counting of votes is underway. "Yesterday, 133 individuals who feared for their lives due to violence in the panchayat election in West Bengal sought refuge in Dhubri District of Assam. We have provided them with shelter in a relief camp, as well as food and medical assistance," Mr Sarma tweeted. Reacting to the tweet, the BJP's Leader of Opposition in the Bengal Assembly.

Xi wants Russia, China to ‘lead global governance reform’

■ HT News Network

BEIJING: China and Russia need to “lead the correct direction of global governance reform”, according to Chinese President Xi Jinping, who hailed the two countries’ partnership at a meeting with a top Russian politician in Beijing on Monday, state media reported.

Beijing and Moscow have ramped up economic cooperation and diplomatic contacts in recent years, with exchanges only growing closer since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine last year.

On Monday, Xi met Valentina Matviyenko, the speaker of the Federation Council — the Russian parliament’s upper house — at the Great Hall of the People, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Xi said the development of relations between the two countries was “a strategic choice made by both countries based on the fundamental interests of their respective countries and peoples”, according to CCTV.

“Both sides also need to strengthen communication and collaboration within multilateral mechanisms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the BRICS countries, lead the correct direction of global governance reform, and safeguard the common interests of emerging market countries and developing countries,” the statement continued.

On Monday, Western leaders gathered



in Lithuania’s capital ahead of a summit expected to present unity on Ukraine’s future membership of the Nato military alliance — a prospect Russia has reacted furiously to.

Beijing says it is a neutral party in the war, but its refusal to condemn the invasion has led many of Kyiv’s allies to accuse it of favouring Russia.

Matviyenko on Monday said the strategic partnership between Beijing and Moscow “has reached the highest level in history and continues to develop steadily”, according to CCTV.

She said a March visit by Xi to Moscow,

where he met his counterpart Vladimir Putin, had “injected strong impetus into the further development of Russia-China relations”.

Xi said China was “willing to continue to work with Russia to develop a comprehensive strategic partnership of mutual assistance, deep integration, innovation, and inclusive cooperation in the new era”. Beijing and Moscow have ramped up economic cooperation and diplomatic contacts in recent years, with exchanges only growing closer since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine last year.

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Nato wrestles with Ukraine bid at summit on Russia’s doorstep

■ HT News Network

Nato leaders grapple with Ukraine’s membership ambitions at their summit on Tuesday, their determination to face down Russia boosted by a breakthrough in Sweden’s bid to join the alliance.

German Patriot missile systems and French fighter jets were guarding the skies as Nato leaders gathered in Lithuania, on land once occupied by Moscow on the alliance’s eastern flank.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will head to Vilnius for the two-day summit to make the case that Kyiv has earned the right to join when the Kremlin’s invasion ends.

“Ukraine deserves to be in the alliance. Not now, because now there’s war, but we need a clear signal,” Zelensky said in Kyiv.

The Western military alliance is set to offer its full-throated backing for Kyiv’s quest for victory, but its 31 nations are divided over how far to go on letting Ukraine join their ranks.

While Ukraine’s neigh-



bours have pushed for an explicit timetable, heavyweights the United States and Germany are reluctant to go beyond an earlier vow that it will become a member one day. US President Joe Biden, who will meet with Zelensky on Wednesday, has said there is no agreement to offer Kyiv membership while its war with Russia rages, as this would drag Nato directly into the conflict. White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters Nato will draw up a path of reforms that Ukraine will need to undertake in order to eventually join, but without giving a “timetable”. The alliance is offering Kyiv a branch by

simplifying its eventual accession bid and dropping a requirement that it completes a formal road map of reforms. As Ukraine wages a punishing counter-offensive, dominant powers the United States, Britain, France and Germany have been negotiating long-term commitments on weapons supplies with Kyiv.

These fall far short of Zelensky’s desire to be under Nato’s collective defence umbrella but could reassure him that his nation can keep on fighting. Drawing up something similar to the US arrangement with Israel — which sees Washington sending \$3.8 billion (3.5 billion euros) of weapons each year.

Myanmar Crisis Tops Agenda At ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meet

■ HT News Network

Jakarta: ASEAN foreign ministers gathered in Indonesia on Tuesday for talks dominated by the crisis in Myanmar, with the regional bloc divided over how or whether to reengage with the coup-wracked country’s ruling junta.

The two-day Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting will be followed by talks later in the week with Beijing, Washington and other powers where top US diplomat Antony Blinken will seek to push back on China’s assertiveness in the South China Sea.

Myanmar has been ravaged by deadly violence since a military coup deposed Aung San Suu Kyi’s government more than two years ago and unleashed a bloody crackdown on dissent.

ASEAN has long been decried as a toothless talking shop, and it remains split over diplomatic attempts



to resolve the crisis. Those fractures were laid bare in a draft joint communique seen by AFP, where a section on Myanmar was left blank as ASEAN members failed to agree on a unified position beforehand. “The para is still being discussed... member countries are still taking time to propose their submission,” a Southeast Asian diplomat told AFP.

The only time ASEAN has failed to issue a joint communique was over a decade ago in 2012 due to a language dispute about the South China Sea. ASEAN members were making “extra efforts” in the days

before the meeting — a prelude to a leaders’ summit in September — to unite the group around the Myanmar issue, the diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

However the official was “not too optimistic” that would happen given that a “few members have different perspectives on how to approach the problem”, they said. Myanmar remains an ASEAN member but has been barred from high-level meetings over the junta’s failure to implement a five-point plan, agreed two years ago, to end the violence and restart negotiations to resolve the crisis.

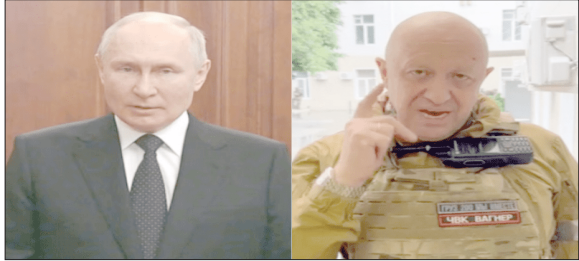
Moscow says Putin held post-mutiny talks with Wagner leader

■ HT News Network

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin held Kremlin talks with Wagner mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin days after denouncing an armed mutiny he had led as treasonous, Putin’s spokesman said on Monday, as Russia’s top general resurfaced for the first time.

The meeting with Prigozhin, according to Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, was held on June 29, five days after the aborted mutiny, which is widely regarded to have posed the most serious challenge to Putin since he assumed the presidency on the last day of 1999.

Much of what happened on June 24, the day of the



mutiny, and how the authorities are handling its aftermath remains unclear. One of the biggest mysteries is why Prigozhin does not yet appear to have fulfilled the terms of the deal which ended the standoff, what his future plans and those of his fighters are, and why he does not appear to have been punished by the Kremlin.

Meeting held in Kremlin on June 29, five days after aborted mutiny

The fact that Prigozhin

and his top field commanders sat down with Putin in the Kremlin days after the Russian leader called their actions a treasonous “stab in the back” which could have pushed Russia into a chaotic civil war is certain to raise more questions about what is going on behind the scenes.

Peskov, Putin’s spokesman, told reporters that Putin had invited 35 people to the three-hour meeting, including Prigozhin and Wagner unit field com-

manders.

“The only thing we can say is that the president gave his assessment of the company’s (Wagner’s) actions at the front during the Special Military Operation (in Ukraine) and also gave his assessment of the events of 24 June (the day of the mutiny),” Peskov told reporters.

He said Putin had listened to the commanders’ own explanations of what had happened and had offered them further options for employment and combat.

The brief mutiny saw Wagner fighters seize control of the southern city of Rostov-on-Don along with its military headquarters building and shoot down an unspecified number of military helicopters, killing their pilots.

Rescuers save 86 migrants from boat near Canary Isles in Spain

■ HT News Network

Spain’s coastguard said it rescued 86 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa aboard a boat near the Canary Islands that had been spotted earlier on Monday by a rescue plane.

The Salvamento Marítimo coastguard service said they had found the boat with six females and 80 males on board as rescuers were searching for a missing migrant boat that had “left Senegal with around 200 people on board”.

It did not indicate the ages of those rescued. When a rescue plane spotted the vessel about 71 nautical miles south of the island of Gran Canaria, it was initially thought to have “around 200 people on board”, a spokeswoman said.

“We can’t be 100 per cent sure but it’s likely it is the same boat,” she said.

But the coastguard later acknowledged that the estimate by the plane’s crew was incorrect. “It is difficult to determine the number of people from the air,” she told AFP.

A rescue ship brought the migrants to the port of Arguineguin on Gran Canaria, where they were greeted by Red Cross workers who provided them with medical care.

The situation remains confusing, however, and the spokeswoman told AFP she was not able to say whether there was another boat adrift in the same area with 200 people on board.

UN set to clash over motion on religious hatred

■ HT News Network

GENEVA: The Human Rights Council is set to debate a contentious draft proposal on religious hatred in the wake of burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden, an initiative that has highlighted rifts in the UN body and challenged practices in human rights protection.

In a draft resolution presented by Pakistan on behalf of the 57-nation Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the group described the burning of Holy Quran in Stockholm last month as “offensive, disrespectful and a clear act of provocation” that incites hatred and constitutes a human rights violation.

The draft — which condemned “recurring acts of public burning of the Holy Quran in some European and other countries” — has stoked opposition from Western diplomats who argue it aims to safeguard religious symbols rather than human rights.

“We don’t like the text,” one Western diplomat said of the draft, which will be presented to the Human Rights Council in Geneva on Tuesday. “Human rights are supposed to be attached to individuals, not to religions.”

The OIC initiative also stokes tensions between Western states and the Islamic organisation at a time when the group has unprecedented clout in the council, the only body made up of governments to protect human rights worldwide.

Nineteen OIC countries are voting members of the 47-member council, and other states such as China have aligned with their draft resolution.

It remains to be seen whether Pakistan will succeed in rallying all OIC countries behind it. A Saudi-led effort to end a Yemen war crimes probe prevailed in 2021.

“If the resolution passes, as seems likely, it will strengthen the impression the council is flipping and the West is losing ground on key debates such as the boundary between free speech and hate speech, and whether religions have rights,” said Marc Limon, director of the Geneva-based Universal Rights Group. “This could make the council explode in acrimony.”

The European Union has urged parties to reach a consensus on the issue. “Defamation of religions has been a difficult topic for decades within the UN,” an EU diplomat said in negotiations last week.

“The question where to draw the line between freedom of expression and incitement to hatred is indeed a very complicated one.”

BBC pauses investigation into sex photo allegations after meeting police

■ HT News Network

The BBC said on Tuesday it had paused its investigation into a presenter accused of paying a young person for explicit images, saying its review was on hold while the police examined the circumstances.

Britain’s leading broadcaster has been rocked in recent days by a report in the Sun newspaper that one of its leading presenters had paid a young person 35,000 pounds for explicit photos over three years, beginning when they were 17.

The BBC, which dominates Britain’s cultural and news landscape, has suspended the presenter and discussed the situation with the police.

The presenter has not been named. Several BBC stars have taken to social media to say they were not involved after speculation swirled online.

“The BBC has been asked to pause its investigations into the allegations while the police scope future work,” it said in a statement on Tuesday. The police said on Monday that detectives from its specialist crime command had met with representatives from the corporation and were assessing the information.

World’s war on greenhouse gas emissions has a military blind spot

■ HT News Network

LONDON: When it comes to taking stock of global emissions, there’s an elephant in the room: the world’s armed forces. As temperatures hit new highs, scientists and environmental groups are stepping up pressure on the UN to force armies to disclose all their emissions and end a long-standing exemption that has kept some of their climate pollution off the books.

Among the world’s biggest consumers of fuel, militaries account for 5.5 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to a 2022 estimate by international experts. But defence forces are not bound by international climate agreements to report or cut their carbon emissions, and the data that is published by some militaries is unreliable or incomplete at best, scientists and academics say.

That’s because military emissions abroad, from flying jets to sailing ships to training exercises, were left out of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on reducing greenhouse gases — and exempted again from the 2015 Paris accords — on the grounds that data about energy use by armies could undermine national security.

Now, environmental groups Tipping Point North South and The Conflict and Environment Observatory, along with academics from the British universities of Lancaster, Oxford and Queen Mary are among those pushing for more comprehensive and transparent military emissions reporting, using research papers, letter campaigns, and conferences in their lobbying drive.

DC Baramulla reviews progress of works under Jal Jeevan Mission Put in every effort to achieve timely & desired results: Dr Sehrish directs Officers

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JULY 11: In order to take an appraisal of the progress of effective implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish today presided over a meeting of concerned officers at DC Office Complex here.

At the outset, the DC was apprised through Power Point Presentation with regard to the physical and financial progress of the works being executed under the JJM.

It was also given out that 107050 households have been provided with portable water connection in the

district till date against the set target of 145696.

Asserting that JJM is a major flagship programme to cover all households, Dr Sehrish directed all the officers to work in coordination and ensure smooth execution of JJM works in their areas.

She directed officers of all concerned departments to ensure that all households are connected through tap water, besides all pending schools, anganwadi centres, health centres and panchayat ghars be also provided with tap water connections under JJM scheme across the district.

She also directed the executing agencies to redouble their efforts so that cent percent saturation and



desired target is achieved within the stipulated time frame.

Meanwhile, various issues and

bottlenecks were comprehensively discussed wherein DC exhorted upon the officers to carry on the works

with minimum inconvenience to the public.

Joint Director Planning M Yousuf Rather, Superintending Engineers Jal Shakti Department, Chief Medical officer, Executive Engineers and other functionaries of concerned departments were present in the meeting. At the outset, the DC was apprised through Power Point Presentation with regard to the physical and financial progress of the works being executed under the JJM.

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JJM: District Administration Bandipora conducts handholding/ orientation workshop on FTK training

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JULY 11: The District Administration Bandipora Tuesday organized a comprehensive handholding/ orientation workshop to facilitate the training of stakeholders under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The program was aimed to familiarize participants with the objectives, implementation strategies, and key components of the Water Quality Monitoring and surveillance, and sensitizing the stakeholders about its use and importance.

The program witnessed the participation of various stakeholders, including Engineers, field staff, Lab Staff of PHE Department, members of Pani Samitis, PRIs (Sarpanches), Anaganwari Workers/ Supervisors, Women FTK Members, Wom-



en SHG members of NRLM and members from civil society organizations.

The inaugural session was presided by Joint Director, Planning, Imtiyaz Ahmad

and attended by Executive Engineers PHE Bandipora, PHE Sopore, SSD Gurez, PM DPMU JJM Bandipora and other concerned officials. JDP laid emphasis on the importance of collaborative efforts in successful implementation of the JJM. During the orientation program, participants were provided with detailed information and demonstration of the Water Field Testing Kits (FTKs) and also on various aspects such as planning, implementation, operation, and maintenance of water supply systems. It equips them with the necessary skills and knowledge to ensure sustainable water management practices in rural areas. Speakers included Experts from Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Mission Directorate JJM, J&K, who on the occasion shared their insights and experiences in the field of water supply and management. The sessions covered a varied range of

topics, including water quality testing, water conservation, community participation, financial management, and capacity building. JD Planning reiterated the commitment of the District Administration towards ensuring the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission. He highlighted the need for active involvement and cooperation of all stakeholders to accomplish the mission's objectives within the stipulated time frame. Interactive session was also held during the program, where participants had the opportunity to clarify their doubts and seek guidance from the experts.

As a crucial step towards achieving the goal of providing tap water connections to all rural households, the District Administration Bandipora took the initiative to organize the orientation program to enhance the capacity of stakeholders involved in the implementation of JJM.

Animal Clinical Camp held at Nagbal Pakherpora

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, JULY 11: SKUAST-K, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam today conducted Animal Clinical Camp at Nagbal Pakherpora in Budgam.

The clinical camp was attended by Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension SKUAST-K; Dr. Muzamil Maqbool Beigh, Sub-divisional Magistrate Chadoora; Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone, Sr. Scientist & Head KVK Budgam; Dr. Mir Nadeem Hassan, Scientist Animal Science KVK Budgam; Dr. Nisar Ahmad, BVO Char-i-Sharief, experts from department of Veterinary clinical medicine, Vety. Surgery and Radiology, Vety. Obstetrics & Gynaecology Faculty of Vety. Sciences & Animal Husbandry Shuhama, SKUAST-Kashmir, Veterinary Assistant Surgeons from Animal and Sheep Husbandry Deptt. Budgam and scientific staff of the Kendra.

During the camp, hundreds of large and small animals were evaluated and treated on spot for various ailments. Free of cost Veterinary Medicine kits which included anthelmintic, mineral mixture, calcium supplementation etc were also distributed among the livestock owners. The services of mobile veterinary clinics of animal husbandry deptt. Budgam was also kept available during the event for the livestock owners. On spot parasitological examination of the faecal samples of the animals was also conducted to find out the parasitic load for prescribing the proper anthelmintic medicine for the livestock of the area. Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi evaluated and treated various animals which included horses suffering from ailments which needed surgical intervention. Dr. Muzamil Maqool Beigh, SDM Chadoora during his visit hailed the efforts of KVK Budgam for conducting the much needed camp for the livestock owners of the far-flung area.

DC Shopian reviews progress on RIDF projects of NABARD

Instructs for speeding up pace of works execution

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JULY 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Iul Haseeb today chaired a meeting to review the status of projects funded under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD in the district.

DDM NABARD, Rouf Ahmed Zargar informed the meeting that 56 projects with total outlay of Rs. 216.39 Cr, under different sectors are under execution in the district. The projects funded under RIDF of NABARD in the district include rural roads, bridges, water supply schemes, primary health centres, irrigation and flood control works, fruit mandis and works under Sheep Husbandry among others.

He also apprised the DC on various issues related to



fund flow, timely submission of Project Completion Certificates and Utilization Certificates.

The DC, while reviewing the physical and financial

progress of the taken up works, laid thrust on the executing agencies to complete the projects under timelines fixed by NABARD. Project-wise threadbare

discussion was held to accelerate the physical and financial components of the projects.

The DC directed the Executive Engineers to speed up pace and complete the slow moving projects by the end of this year.

He also impressed upon the executing agencies to liaison with the line departments to keep them abreast of status of projects and proper monitoring.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning, Khursheed Ahmed Khatana; DDM NABARD, CMO, DSHO, CAHO, AMO and Ex-Engineers of R&B, PHE and Irrigation and other concerned. The DC directed the Executive Engineers to speed up pace and complete the slow moving projects by the end of this year. He also impressed upon the executing agencies.

DC Kupwara reviews functioning of Health Department

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, JULY 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of the Medical Officers to review the overall functioning of the Health Department in the district.

At the outset, DC took a detailed review of all the infrastructural projects and various health programmes/ Schemes like NQAS (National Quality Assurance Standards), LaQshya (Labour Room Quality Improvement initiative), RBKS (Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram), Anemia Mukh Bharat, Institutional deliveries, Maternal Health and Immunization.



The CMO Kupwara gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation and highlighted the targets/achievements under various programmes. He apprised the chair that there are a total of 307 Health Institutions in the district including GMC Handwara and its associated Hospitals, Handwara and Langate.

Reviewing the Financial and physical progress of infrastructural projects under CAPEX Budget, Area Development Fund (DDC Grants, BDC Grants, PRI Grants), Samridh Seema Yojna (SSY), and Languishing projects, the DC directed concerned Executive Engineers to expedite the tendering process.

Director Agriculture Kashmir visits Maloora Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited vegetable growing areas of Maloora, Srinagar and took stock of the vegetables Cultivated on latest scientific lines by different agripreneurs in the area.

As a part of ongoing farmers outreach program he visited different vegetable fields, hi-tech polyhouses and reviewed the crop status in the area.

Speaking to the budding agri-entrepreneurs, Director Agriculture reiterated the department's commitment to the promotion of entrepreneurship culture in agriculture and allied sectors. He said the department is working on an ambitious plan to attract more and more educated youth towards agriculture and allied activities.

He asked the officers to work in close coordination with these agri-entrepreneurs and make all possible efforts to ensure that



these success stories may be replicated in all the areas of Kashmir division. He assured the agripreneurs and other farmers of all the support and technical guidance in their endeavors.

Director Agriculture said that under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme a special project has been approved for the vertical and horizontal expansion of vegetable cultivation in the region. He said the department is continuously working to facilitate the concerned farmers so that they could get good marketing platforms, the produce reaches multiple markets at the right time and they could fetch maximum return for their produce.

DC Bandipora reviews accommodation, facilities at Shadipora transit camp

■ Farooq Rather

BANDIPORA, JULY 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad visited Transit Camp for Amarnath pilgrims at Shadipora and reviewed accommodation and other facilities available for the pilgrims who were halted owing to rainy and suspended yatra for a couple of days.

On the occasion, Dr. Owais took stock of all the arrangements, including boarding and lodging, lingers, cleanliness, and drainage at the camp.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Owais expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and said that they have further improved the arrangements for the comfortable stay of the Yatris. He directed the augmentation of bedding and refresh points at the transit camp.

He also reviewed health care services, medical facilities, and other indoor and outdoor arrangements. He hoped that such arrangements will continue to be put in place.

The DC directed concerned officers to take measures for enhancing the bed capacity of the Yatra Camp to the maximum possible level so that the maximum number of yatris can be accommodated in case the Yatra gets halted owing to vagaries of weather.

JKAACL organizes Punjabi Short Story Recitation programme at Srinagar

■ HT News Network

A Punjabi Short Story Writers' Meet was organized by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL) under the guidance of Sh. Bharat Singh JKAS, Secretary JKAACL, at the Conference Hall of Tagore Hall, Srinagar (Kashmir) today where S. Jagmohan Singh Raina, a well known Punjabi writer from Kashmir was the chief guest on this occasion. S. Ajeet Singh Mastana, a noted Punjabi Ghazal writer & writer from Kashmir presided over the programme. S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Sheeraza Punjabi also shared the dais. Sh. Bharat Singh Manhas JKAS, Secretary, JKAACL welcomed the guests and the writers present in the programme. In his address he said that it's an appreciable role of Punjabi writers of the Kashmir Valley, that due to their presence the language and literature of Punjabi is being written in Kashmir valley. He also said that the Academy will provide all facilities for the promotion of Punjabi language in the far flung areas of the valley and the entire region. Sh. Bharat Singh Manhas JKAS, Secretary, JKAACL welcomed the guests and the writers present in the programme. In his address he said that it's an appreciable role of Punjabi writers of the Kashmir Valley, that due to their presence the language and literature of Punjabi is being written in Kashmir valley. He also said that the Academy will provide all facilities for the promotion of Punjabi language in the far flung.

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District baramulla Handball Champions begins at indoor stadium Baramulla

■ Aashiq Hussain

BARAMULLA, JULY 11: Two day District baramulla Handball Championship begins at indoor stadium baramulla. The Championship is being organized by J&K Handball Association, in collaboration with J&K State Sports Council.

Secretary J&K Sports Council was the chief guest in the opening ceremony, while as international cricketer pervaiz Rasool, Manager sports Council baramulla Ab Majeed were the guests of honour. While addressing the participants, the chief guest stressed upon the players to concentrate on honing their skills and maintain high physical standards to achieve big. She congratulated the Baramulla Handball Association's office bearers for organizing the championship. About 150 players of the different areas of districts baramulla are participating in the championship. The first match in the men's section was



played between District Al Murad Sports club kreeri and Friends handball club in which Al Murad won by 13 -9 goals. The 2nd match in the men's section was played between KIC Sopore and Palhalen Handball club in which KIC Sopore defeat-

ed palhalen by 10-6 goals. The 3rd match in the men's section was played between Al Murad Sports club and Wanigam Baramulla in which Al Murad defeated Wanigam by 22-20 & District Kathua in Womans Section match was played between KIC Sopore and

Baramulla Handball club in which KIC Sopore defeated Baramulla Handball club by 7-5

Among others who were present on the occasion were Manager indoor stadium Showket Ahmad, Cricket coach Peerirshad, students and Sports.

Rahane: 'I'm young and there's a lot of cricket left in me'

Having turned 35 last month, Ajinkya Rahane says he still has a "lot of cricket left" in him, but is firmly focused on living in the moment instead of looking too far into the future as India begin their new WTC cycle with the two-match Test series against West Indies beginning July 12 in Roseau.

Call it a quirk of fate, and Rahane has been named vice-captain of the Test team, even though he was making a comeback to the side only last month after more than a year away. In that game against Australia - the WTC final no less - he was India's best batter, with scores of 89 and 46.

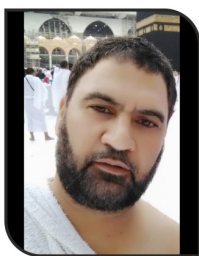
"I'm still young and there's a lot of

cricket left in me. In the last one year or so, I've worked a lot on my fitness," Rahane said after rain cut short India's training session for a second day in a row at Windsor Park. "There were a few points in my batting that I've worked on. I'm enjoying my cricket a lot, enjoying my batting. I'm not thinking too much into the future. Every game is important, personally and also from the team point of view. I'm focusing on just that."

Since being left out of the Test side in February 2022, Rahane has focused on deriving joy out of the game without setting any expectations. He captained Mumbai across formats in the 2022-23 domestic season, leading them to the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 title, while also throwing in some compelling performances with the bat.

In all first-class cricket since September 2022 until February this year, he scored 884 runs in 16 innings with three hundreds and a half-century at 58.93. The numbers, excellent though not world beating, were a sign that he had kept himself in the hunt should a spot open up.

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