



India's future offers immense opportunities for engineering careers: LG Manoj Sinha

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUG 02: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the students of the joining batch of 2023 of IIT Jammu at the inaugural session of the Foundation Program at Jagti Campus, today.

In his address on the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the students embarking on a new journey. The world-class faculty here at IIT Jammu will nurture your talents to transform your dreams into reality, he added.

"India's future offers immense opportunities for engineering careers. As the nation continues to invest in research and devel-



opment, infrastructure and technological advancement, a plethora of opportunities await engineers," the Lt Governor said.

He said, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, India is on the move and is emerging as a technology and services hub powered by knowledge economy.

The 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' initiatives coupled with a burgeoning startup ecosystem, presents a fertile ground for young minds to make their mark and carve a successful career in engineering, he added.

He advised the students to explore new paths and keep re-inventing themselves to keep pace with the change

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Lt Governor inaugurates Affordable Rental Housing Complex at Sunjwan

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUG 02: Lieutenant Governor

Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the Affordable Rental Housing Complex, under PMAY (Urban) Mission, at Sunjwan.

He dedicated the facility to the labour, work force & weaker section of Jammu Kashmir and handed over the keys of the accommodation units to the beneficiaries.

"Workers are the main drivers of J&K's growth and improving their quality of life is our ultimate aim. Today marks the beginning of a new era for the entire working community of Union Territory," the Lt Governor said.

He said the Affordable Rental Housing Complex will provide dignified living to urban poor, migrant workers and weaker sections of society near

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NEWS BRIEF

Bandipora school becomes junk-free

SRINAGAR, AUG 2: A government school in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora has made its premises junk-free, the school announced on Wednesday. Government Girls Middle School Onagam Bandipora on Wednesday announced its transformation into a junk food-free institution, taking a significant stride towards promoting the health and well-being of its students.

"With utmost dedication to fostering a positive learning environment, the school has implemented a comprehensive initiative to eliminate unhealthy food options from its premises, ensuring the nutrition and

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Security forces arrest two LeT hybrid militants in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: Security forces thwarted a possible attack ahead of Independence Day (ID) when they arrested two hybrid militants of Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) along with arms and ammunition in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday.

Police, in a statement, said that "on specific information regarding the movement of terrorists in town Baramulla who are likely to carry out terrorist activities in view of the forthcoming Independence Day 2023, Joint forces of Police, 53 Bn CRPF, and Army 46 RR placed a MVCP at Azadgunj old town Baramulla".

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Homestays continue to flourish in Gurez to cater to growing tourist footfall

GUREZ, AUG 02: Homestays are gaining momentum in Gurez, a renowned offbeat destination in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, to meet the increasing demand for accommodation of tourists and local visitors.

These homestays were established under the 'Umeed' scheme of the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission last year. The initiative aims to "reduce poverty in the region by establishing robust grassroots institutions for the poor, providing them with viable livelihood opportunities, and ensuring sustainable growth in their income".

The picturesque villages

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Peace prevailed in J&K amid planned conspiracy by Pak: DGP

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 2: Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh on Wednesday said that peace prevailed in Jammu and Kashmir amid planned conspiracy by Pakistan.

"In Jammu and Kashmir peace has been hunted for a long time with a planned conspiracy of Pakistan due to which large number of lives of people, Police and Security forces have been lost due to terrorism", DGP said during the flagging off the Police Station teams at



Commando Training Center (CTC) Lethpora, Awantipora on Wednesday.

He said it is our duty to protect the prevailing peace which has been achieved after great sacrifices.

He said that people are living better lives in the changing scenario, adding that boys and girls are focusing on their careers and that protecting and securing their lives is our priority. He hoped that in near future the youth of J&K will perform diligently in every sphere.

DGP said that Pakistan and its

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1.14 Lakh Posts Vacant In Organisations Under MHA: Govt

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, AUG 2: As many as 1,14,245 posts are lying vacant in various organisations under the Ministry of Home Affairs and these include the CRPF, the BSF and the Delhi Police, Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra said in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.



Mishra said in 2023, advertisements for about 31,879 posts have been published, and out of these, 1,126 posts have been filled up.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and its organisations, including the Central Armed Police Forces such as Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, Assam Rifles and Central Industrial Security Force, and central police organisations, including Delhi Police, has approximately

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Give us more time to repay loans: Kashmir's traders to J&K Bank, seek LG's intervention

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR AUG 02: Shahr-e-Khaas Traders and Manufacturers Coordination Committee Wednesday slammed the Jammu and Kashmir Bank for allegedly "harassing" traders of the valley.

Addressing a press conference according to news agency Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS), representatives of Shahr-e-Khaas Traders and Manufacturers Coordination Committee said J&K Bank has earned

Rs 1,22,000 crore from people of J&K over the years.

"However, the J&K Bank has been harassing us deliberately on one pretext or the other. Traders are not in a position to repay loans as we have suffered heavy losses for the last several years. We are not against repaying loans but seek some time," a spokesperson of Shahr-e-Khaas Traders and Manufacturers Coordination Committee said.

He said the J&K Bank has given

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SC begins Hearing of the Petitions Challenging the Abrogation of Article 370, which Guaranteed Special status to the erstwhile State

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, AUG 2: Who can recommend the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir when no constituent assembly exists there? The Supreme Court Wednesday put this question to the petitioners who have challenged the abrogation of the constitutional provision that bestowed special status on the erstwhile state.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud today

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Govt Employee Attached For 'Obnoxious' Social Media Post In Bandipora

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 2: A Data Entry Operator at the zonal education office, Sumbal has been attached to Tehsildar's office in Bandipora with immediate effect. The action comes after a report from field agencies regarding an alleged offensive social media post made by the official, potentially impacting communal harmony.

Quoting officials, that the post in question is said to be in violation of Article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution, and the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (Conduct) Rules 1971.

Meanwhile, a committee, headed by the



Tehsildar Sumbal, has been formed to investigate the matter and asked to submit its recommendations within a week.

Moreover, the attachment & subsequent

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HT IMPACT: 'Discriminatory' final Seniority list of I/c Headmasters

Left-out Aggrieved Headmasters Called on Spl Secretary Education, Nodal Officer, DSE Kashmir

■ Abu Hasnain

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR AUG 02 : Before knocking the doors of honorable Court, the aggrieved Incharge Headmasters (now pensioners) today met higher authorities at Civil Secretariat Srinagar and also called on Director School Education Kashmir and apprised all of them about the stepmotherly treatment to the aggrieved pensioners with regard to the recently published

list of promotion of incharge Headmasters. The aggrieved incharge headmasters had earlier appealed Honorable LG Manoj Sinha to look into the matter of grave concern to them.

A deligation of these headmasters representing about 100 of the dropout incharge Headmasters today met Special Secretary Education, and Nodal officer at civil secretariat and Director School Education at his office. According to the deligation members who visited the

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DC Srinagar visits Bakshi Stadium to take on-site review of arrangements for Independence Day celebrations

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: In connection with celebration of upcoming Independence-Day-2023, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Wednesday visited Bakshi Stadium to take on site review of the arrangements/preparatory activities to be put in place by the respective Departments.

DiG, Police Central Srinagar, Sujit Kumar reviewed the security arrangements during the visit.

SSP Srinagar, Rakesh Balwal, SSP Traffic Muzafar Ahmad Shah, SSP Security, Sheikh Fasal, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul and other senior Officers of Police and Civil Administration were present on the occasion.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner along with Officers went around the Stadium pavilions and VIP Gallery to have first-hand appraisal of the preparatory activities. He took onsite review of the arrangements to be put in place for smooth conduct of Independence Day.

While chairing a meeting on the occasion, the DC directed the Officers of all concerned Departments to ensure all preparations regarding various facilities including seating arrangements, cultural programmes, march past



parade, transport & parking facilities, power supply, deployment of medical & first aid and fire and emergency teams, installation of PAS. Besides Media management, security related matters

and entry of VVIPs, VIPs and other participants were also discussed.

The DC also stressed on making fool-proof security arrangements in and around the stadium to

ensure hassle-free celebrations of the function. He also enjoined upon the officers to maintain close coordination with each other for holding the function smoothly.

The DC asked the R&B Department to make all necessary arrangements for seating arrangements particularly at Central Pavilion, Northern Pavilion and Central pavilion of the Bakshi Stadium. The Department was also asked to install shamiyans at designated spots at the venue.

Regarding parking for vehicles, the DC asked the officers of the Traffic Department to assess the capacity of the parking slots identified for the event and formulate an action plan so that the maximum number of vehicles of the dignitaries and other participants coming to attend the function are accommodated.

While SMC authorities were asked to ensure that all wash-rooms are functioning properly, besides establishing mobile toilets at the venue on August 15. They were also asked to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness in and around the venue.

The DC also stressed on making elaborate arrangements to tackle water logging, if any caused due to rainfall on the occasion of Full dress rehearsal proceedings and the mega event on 15th August. The DC also asked for making adequate transport arrangements for ferrying of participant school students, cultural artists, NCC cadets, contingents and other persons on August 15, in addition to their Boarding and lodging facilities.

Pr Secy Jal Shakti virtually participates in fortnight celebrations of JJM

276 events held across UT since launch of celebrations

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: In the ongoing fortnight celebrations of Jal Jeevan Mission across Jammu and Kashmir, around 89 programmes were organised in the districts on the first day while as 187 programmes were conducted on second day in various parts of the UT which include painting competitions/debates in schools, Gram Shabas FTK trainings, Water testing Har Ghar Jal Certification.

Principal Secretary Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra participated in some of these events through virtual mode in which concerned deputy commissioners also participated in.

Speaking on the occasion, Shaleen Kabra said the officers under these celebrations will have to carry out inspection of on-going JJM works to ensure their quality. He also revealed that it would be obligatory for these officers to give their reports about 100% FHTC villages for declaring them as 'Har Ghar Jal Villages'. He made out that the certification of Har Ghar Jal reported villages should be done through calling of special Gram Sabhas and the local PRI's and people should approve of the same on their part as well.

The main focus of the fortnight celebrations is to generate awareness among the public about water related issues like conservation of water bodies, judicious use of water, sanitation of water source, ownership of the water supply schemes.

The Mission Directorate in-collaboration with Districts and other stake holders has devised an action plan to handhold the Pani Samities for their capacity building and make them ready to take over the water supply scheme for operation and maintenance after completion.

Pertinently, the fortnight long celebrations of Mission Directorate JJM were kick started by Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta yesterday in presence of Principal Secretary Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra.

Over 40% posts lying vacant in medical block Zainapora, lacks MRI, CT scan

SHOPIAN, AUG 02: Around 40 per cent of sanctioned posts in health block Zainapora in South Kashmir's Shopian district are lying vacant, thereby affecting the patient care in the block.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveals that out of 95 sanctioned posts in health block Zainapora, only 56 posts are filled while 39 are lying vacant for years.

He said five gazetted posts are lying vacant in the block including one consultant and four medical officers, which include two deputation reserved posts of medical officers.

The official added that 28 non-gazetted posts are lying vacant in the block including one head pharmacist, one senior pharmacist, four lab technicians, one junior dental technician, one x-ray technician, one theatre technician, six staff nurses, two community health officers, two H.E, one physiotherapist, four assistants, two BHW, one driver and one electrician.

Six class-IV posts are lying vacant in the block including three nursing orderly and one post of Dhobi, Aya and chowkidar is also lying vacant, he said.

Indian Army conducts joint intelligence, security coordination meeting in Rajouri

JAMMU, AUG 02: A joint intelligence and security coordination meeting was conducted by Indian Army in the presence of all the stakeholders of bordering Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir at Palma Garrison in Rajouri.

The conference was attended by senior officials from the Indian Army, local police, intelligence agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.

The primary objective of the meeting was to assess the existing intelligence and security situation in the region and formulate strategies to ensure the successful and peaceful conduct of upcoming events.

During the meeting, the attendees discussed several key issues related to intelligence gathering, threat assessment, and security arrange-

ments.

They also reviewed the security measures implemented in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and analyzed any potential threats that could arise during the anniversary of this event.

Additionally, the participants addressed the security concerns surrounding the upcoming Independence Day celebration and the Shri Budha Amarnath Yatra, an annual pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Buddha Amarnath, said official spokesman.

He stated that they evaluated the potential challenges, such as possible terrorist activities or civil unrest, and devised strategies to mitigate these risks. "The meeting served as a platform for sharing intelligence inputs,

discussing security protocols, and coordinating efforts among different security agencies," he added and said that the participants emphasized the need for seamless coordination, intelligence sharing, and proactive measures to ensure the safety and security of the region during these important events.

Overall, the joint intelligence and security coordination meeting aimed to enhance the preparedness and effectiveness of security arrangements in Rajouri and its surrounding areas.

"By pooling their resources and expertise, the stakeholders aimed to create a robust security framework that would deter potential threats and maintain peace and stability in the region," said an official.

Meet Tabish Khan, a doctor turning waste into art

ANANTNAG, AUG 02: A young woman from south Kashmir's Anantnag district is following her two passions simultaneously by working as a doctor as well as turning waste material into art pieces.

Tabish Aijaz Khan from the Iqbal Abad area of Anantnag town is working in a hospital and has entered the Asian as well as Indian Book of Records.

Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Tabish said she was in 4th standard when she started making painting and since then, calligraphy and making art pieces have become her passion.

"I used to make art pieces on waste material like Chinar leaves, broken cups, stone, wooden blocks and other things as people throw such things away considering them useless. I believe nothing is useless and even such things can be turned into beautiful art pieces," she said.



Khan said that up to 2016, calligraphy was her hobby but when she started uploading art pieces on social media, she was appreciated and it became her passion.

"I have even got entry into the Asian Book of Records as well as the Indian Book of Records for making art pieces on Chinar leaves. I have also won several awards for art pieces," she said.

Tabish said that making art pieces works as a stress releaser for her as she had interlinked both passions. Whenever I feel stressed, I make art pieces and it relaxes me, she said.

"Painting helps me to relieve my stress and I am going to continue my passion under all conditions and circumstances, Tabish said. "I have even sold some of my art pieces while I have kept most of them at my home."

The youth should avoid wasting time in futile exercises rather they must work on those things which empower them, she said.

J&K has 20,000 MW hydropower potential, only 3500 MW tapped in 70 years: Union Minister

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: Union Minister Nityanand Rai informed Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that out of 20,000 MW hydropower potential, J&K had been able to tap only 3,500 MW in 70 years while in last few years alone, projects for about 3,000 MW capacity revived, put on track.

In a written reply as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), he also said that an MoU was also executed between NHPC and JKPCDC on 3rd January 2021 in respect of Execution of Kirthai-II 930 MW Hydro Electric Project (HEP) through the Joint Venture Company CVPPPL, Execution of Stage II of Uri-I 240 MW HEP, Dulhasti Stage-II 258 MW HEP and 1,856 MW Sawalakot HEP by NHPC on BOOT basis

He said that the important HEPs are including Kiru - 624 MW with cost of 4,287.59 crores and 19.05% physical progress, Kwar - 540 MW with 4,526.12 and physical progress 5.89%, Ratle - 850 MW with 5,281.94 and 8.64% physical progress and Pakaldul - 1000 MW with 8,112.12 with 35.58% physical progress.

"Successful completion of 100% electrification under the SAUBHAGYA scheme, ensuring "last mile connectivity" and universal household electrification. Launch of the Smart BS application empowers consumers by providing them with easy access to their consumption and billing records," the minister said.

In another question, he said that the Government of India has notified a New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on 19.02.2021 with an outlay of Rs. 28,400 crore to boost industrial development.

Various policy initiatives have been taken by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the policies including J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30, J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy 2021-30, J&K Private Industrial Estate Development Policy 2021-30 and J&K Wool Processing, Handicrafts and Handloom Policy 2020 are notified for making the UT an investor friendly destination.

He said that these initiatives have led to receipt of investment proposals worth Rs. 80,000 crore with employment generation potential of more than 3.5 lakh. "During 2022-23, an investment of Rs. 2,153 Crore has been materialized providing employment to more than 11,000 persons. This has boosted the local economy and employment opportunities by increasing investment," he said.

The year-wise details of the investments are including 2019-20, 296.64 crore, 2020-21 412.74, 2021-22 376.76, 2022-23 2153.00.

"The G.I registration of products has been started to authenticate Handicrafts & Handloom Products. 08 crafts viz. carpet, Pashmina, Sozni Embroidery, Khatamband, Walnut Wood Carving, Paper Mache, Kani Shawl, Basohli painting have been G.I Tagged. 9,235 carpets and 20,126 Pashmina Shawls respectively have been GI Tagged. Common Facilitation Centers (CFCs) are being set up at Samba and Kathua at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.76 crore for promotion and development of bamboo craft," he said.

DDC Kupwara reviews preparation for conduct of JJM Fortnight campaign

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, AUGUST 2: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the preparations for conduct of 'Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Fortnight' campaign in district Kupwara.

It was informed in the meeting that the JJM Campaign is aimed at building capacities of different stakeholders especially local communities, to own, manage, operate and maintain water supply systems in villages.

On the occasion, the DDC stressed upon all the concerned officers to ensure utmost coordination among themselves for smooth and successful conduct of the



JJM Campaign across the district. She directed the ACD Kupwara to ensure maximum coordination in conducting Special Gram Sabhas in all Panchayats so that awareness about JJM reaches to the grassroot level.

Reviewing the progress of JJM in the district, the

DDC stressed upon the concerned to prioritize the installation of tap water connection in Schools and Anganwari Centres. The Dy. CEO was asked to share list of schools which are yet to be connected.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion regarding the smooth con-

duct of JJM IEC Campaign in the district.

On the occasion, the DDC took a detailed review of the preparations to be made by the concerned officers which include inspection of JJM works by visiting officers, reporting of 100% FHCT villages, Certification of Har Ghar Jal reported villages through Special Gram Sabhas, installation of signages on all water supply schemes, identification of JJM Nodal Person from each village, making Field Testing Kit available in each village and conducting Special Gram Sabhas for discussing JJM.

The meeting also discussed the conduct of debates, painting competitions, rallies, street plays etc to be held in all the Higher Secondary Schools of the district.

Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign held at Baramulla amid series of Activities/ Events

Dr Sehrish presides function at Panchayat Tappar; asks people to contribute in Nation building, its protection

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 02: Continuing its endeavour to implement all the components as envisaged under 'Mera Maati Mera Desh' campaign, a series of activities were held at Baramulla to mark its observance.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar paid visit to Panchayat Ghar Takiya Tappar Pattan where she took part in various activities including Plantation and remembering brave hearts, Memorials, hoisting of National Flag and singing of Rashttra Gaan (National Anthem) and



Panch Pran Pledge.

Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf; Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Sub Divisional Magistrates of Uri, Pattan and Tangmarg,

functionaries of all concerned departments, students and all the concerned stakeholders were present in the programme.

At the outset, the DC inaugurated a memorial board 'Shilaphalakam' to pay tributes to the freedom fighters of the country. While paying salutations,

the DC said that the bravery and patriotism of the freedom fighters will remain an inspiration for ages.

At Panchayat Tappar, Dr Sehrish administered Panch Pran Pledge to all the participants wherein the people affirmed to work for the betterment of the country. Addressing the gathering, the DC underlined the importance of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' (My soil is my country) campaign. She said that the programme, which is being held from August 9 to August 15, 2023, is aimed at invoking a feeling of patriotism and unity in the hearts of people and promoting a sense of respect for the soil of the nation.

DC Budgam holds follow-up Block Diwas in Kandoora Village

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, AUGUST 02: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo today initiated a series of developmental projects including Kandoora Rapid Sand Filtration Plant under Jal Jeevan Mission, Macadamization of major Link Road, development of Volley ball court, installation of new LT Poles during the follow up Block Diwas held at Panchayat Halqa Kandoora in Block Beerwah.

The major WSS scheme has different components including RFP, LG Service Reservoir and pipeline network. The project shall benefit as many as 5000 house-



holds of the area.

Speaking at the Block Diwas function, the DC said that the motive of conducting such programmes is to ensure work on all approved projects is carried out swiftly and quickly on ground and completed in stipulated timeframe.

He said that it is Lieuten-

ant Governor's vision that the work on all approved projects is carried out quickly within the stipulated timeline on the ground and that the program is closely monitored by the Chief Secretary, J&K.

The DC reiterated that the District administration is committed to ensure that

all approved projects are completed in time.

He said under the same vision, a series of projects were inaugurated today at Kandoora for public convenience.

DC appreciated officers for their hard work and dedication in completing projects in time to ensure people get benefited under various government schemes. During Block Diwas programme, locals PRIs, elders and youth appreciated the District Administration for timely redressal of their genuine demands and ensuring completion in stipulated time frame and dedicating these projects to the general public at the earliest.

HT - KASHMIR

Block Diwas: Public Outreach Camps held across Kulgam

Weekly outreach programme strengthens public-administration bond

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUGUST 02: The District Administration Kulgam today organized Mega Block Diwas in three blocks of the district at Devsar, Kulgam and D.H. Pora to take appraisal of the public issues, grievances and demands.

All the concerned officers of different departments remained available for people and listened to issues and grievances for early redressal during these grievances redressal camps.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat presided over the Outreach Camp at Kulgam and listened to the issues and grievances of people.

People from Malvan, Nanibug, Matibug, Srandoo, Aamnoo, Qaimoo and other areas participated in the camp and apprised the DC about their issues and grievances.

Delegations from various other areas also participated in the grievance redressal camp and apprised the chair about developmental requirements of their areas.

On the occasion, Officers on the spot



responded to the queries and demands of people pertaining to their departments. Earlier, ACD Mohammad Imran gave a detailed brief on action taken on grievances and issues raised during previous block diwas.

The weekly grievance redressal programme has gained popularity among the masses and has strength-

ened the grievances redressal mechanism and enhanced public-administration bond, said DC on the occasion.

He asked the concerned officers to redress issues promptly, highlighted on the occasion and assured people about the District Administration's commitment towards the district welfare and development.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (up to Rs. 2.50 Crores)

NIT No: 40/5001-10/SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24

Dated:- 02-08-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Item rate/Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of Doc (Rs.)	Auth. No. Date	TS No. Date
1	Making necessary arrangements on the eve of celebration of Independence day (15th August-2023) and allied activities at Shopian	2053 Deputy Commissioner (Celebration)	4.799	9598/-	DEE	08 Days	200/-	DCS/Celebration/2023/9-94 Dated:-01-08-2023	40-Celebration/Spn of 2023-24 Dated:-02-08-2023.
2	Facilitating one month long Maimnas-Bannas Festival at Kapal Mochan Digan Shopian.	2053 Deputy Commissioner (Celebration)	2.649	5298/-	DEE	08 Days	200/-	DCS/Celebration/2023/9-94 Dated:-01-08-2023	40-Celebration/Spn of 2023-24 Dated:-02-08-2023.

Position of funds:- Committed Project Authority:- DDC Shopian

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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 schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-08-2023
2	Document downloading Start Date.	02-08-2023 From 02.00 P.M
3	Document Downloading End Date.	08-08-2023 upto 2:00 P.M
4	Bid Submission Start Date.	02-08-2023 From 02.00 P.M
5	Bid Submission End Date.	08-08-2023 upto 2:00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	08-08-2023 at 04:00 P.M

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of e-Challan/Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian mentioning reference of NIT and Work.

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1 At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/ FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian. 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 Bid cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original documents related to the bid shall be submitted by L1 before issuance of Allotment in his favour.

6.6 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents EMD, tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

6.6(a) Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found forged/fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be recommended for blacklisting and debarred from taking part in tendering in PWD/Other Departments for a period of one year in the first instance, besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. All bidders have to submit Bid Security money as per the circular of Finance. Non submission of bid security money/EMD shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

9. For item rate method the unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

The %age rate method requires the bidder to quote a percentage above / below / at par at the bottom of the BOQ percentage template for the work. The percentage quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

11. Price escalation and Taxes: No price escalation shall be permissible. The deduction on account of taxes shall be made for the bills of the contractor for the gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. In case of CRF and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines standard bidding document shall be followed.

14. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

14.1 All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/qualification information with the bids:-

a) Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business

b) Cell No. and Correspondence address & e-mail.

c) Scanned copy of e-challan/Treasury receipt and EMD/Bid Security.

d) Scanned copy of Registration Card with latest renewal as well as verification from concerned issuing authority.

e) Scanned copy of Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.

f) Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the latest quarter (April- June 2023-24 / preceding Month (June 2023-24) .

g) All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card in respect of offline renewal registration card.

14.2 The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

14.3 Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder. (Not Applicable)

14.4 All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.

a) Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

15. The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

No: NIT/5001-10

DT: 02-08-2023

DIPK-6229/23

Dated: 02.08.2023

Sd/-

Camp Clerk

Sd/-

Head Assistant

Sd/-

Technical Officer

Sd/-

Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Shopian

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER HAWAL-SRINAGAR-					
Subject: Engagement/Hiring of Helpers / AAYAS under ECCE for the year 2023-24.					
EXTENSION OF DATE					
In view of poor response / (submission of incomplete documents/other deficiencies observed in the already received applications) with regard to applications invited for engagement / hiring of Helpers / AAYAS under Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) in various schools of this Zone vide this office No: ZEO/H/2023-24/511 Dated: 13.07.2023 and published in Rising Kashmir, Global Kashmir & The Daily Uqab on 14.07.2023, the last date for submission of applications is extended till 12.08.2023 upto 4.30 P.M in respect of below mentioned schools only. Other terms & conditions shall remain the same as mentioned in the earlier Notice.					
S.No.	Name of the School	S.No.	Name of the School	S.No.	Name of the School
01	MS Sheeshbagh	02	GMS Kamangarpora	03	BMS Sarafkadal
04	BMS Rajouri Kadal	05	GMS Gulshanabad	06	MS Mehboobabad
07	GMS Alamgiribazar	08	GMS Bachidarwaza	09	PS Botashah Mohalla
10	PS Sikh Bagh	11	PS Arampora	12	PS Dag Kadal
13	PS Umer Colony				
DIPK-6298/23 Date: Aug 2 2023			(Tahira Haffize) Zonal Education Officer Hawal-Srinagar		

DDC Rajouri conducts public outreach camp under Block Diwas at Manjakote; Listens to local concerns & assures timely action

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, AUGUST 02: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, conducted a public outreach camp at Manjakote under the weekly Block Diwas program. The event provided a platform for members of the public and their representatives to raise various local issues and concerns related to power and water supply, healthcare facilities, roads, education, and other areas of public welfare.

During the event, specific issues were raised regarding the inclusion of leftover beneficiaries under PMAY-G, shortage of staff in schools, payment under SBM, road connectivity improvement, speedy implementation

of JJM schemes, completion of work on the road from Dhar to Kesar Gali and sanctioning of a trauma center. The issue of GDC Manjakote was also raised, and the DDC assured the public that he would take up the matter with the concerned authorities to ensure timely action.

The DDC listened patiently to the concerns raised by the community and assured them that their genuine demands would be addressed within a specific timeframe. He emphasized the District Administration's unwavering commitment to development and its efforts to provide government services at the doorstep of the general public. The DDC also urged PRIs to play a crucial role in the development of their areas by ensuring that all developmental works



are completed within the set time frame while adhering to quality parameters.

Furthermore, the DDC exhorted officers to take immediate measures to mitigate the problems raised during the public outreach program. He assured the public that all households in the block would be provided with functional tapped water connections. The DDC also informed the public that work on border bunkers was in full swing, emphasizing the district administration's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the border residents. He also said that the proper development of border areas is the priority of the Government and all possible measures are being taken in this regard.

The DDC also highlighted the

importance of the participation of youth in the development process and encouraged them to come forward and avail themselves of the various schemes and programs launched by the government for their welfare. He emphasized the need to provide them with opportunities to earn a livelihood with dignity and contribute to the development of their communities.

The event was attended by the BDC Manjakote, Shamshad Begum; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid, ACD, Vijay Kumar; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan; CEO Education, Sultana Kouser, CMO, Dr Rajinder Sharma; and DSWO, Wakeel Ahmed Bhatt, in addition to other district and sectoral officers.

Cleanliness drive conducted at BhimGarh Fort to maintain pristine sheen of heritage site

■ M S Nazki

REASI, AUGUST 02: To maintain the clean surroundings at the historical monument, National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Government General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College, Reasi today organized a 2 hours cleanliness drive at Bhim Garh Fort.

Over 30 NSS volunteers participated along with NSS Programme Officer, Prof. Ajay Kumar and the team collected waste material, removed bushes and cleaned the path from the entry gate to the main area of the fort.

Pertinently, for conducting daily cleanliness operations in the fort, the Deputy Commissioner Reasi had issued a monthly schedule involving all the departments. As per the roster, one department is required to clean the Fort on a particular day and date which is clearly specified in the roster.

SDM Gool reviews I-Day arrangements

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, AUGUST 02: Sub Divisional Magistrate, Gool, Tanveer Ul Majid today convened a meeting of Sub Divisional and Tehsil level officers of different departments to review the arrangements for the smooth celebration of forthcoming Independence Day 2023 at Sub Division Headquarter Gool, Tehsildar, Rakesh Kumar, AEEs of different Engineering wings and other officers from civil, Police and Army attended the meeting. It was decided in the meeting that the main function would be held in Government Higher Secondary School, Gool where the VIP would unfurl the National Flag.

Detailed deliberations were held on seating arrangement, barricading, security, water and power supply, sanitation, first aid and fire tenders etc. The SDM directed the AEE, PWD, PHE, PDD for barricading and drinking water arrangements, besides uninterrupted power supply at the venue. Regarding first aid arrangements, the Block Medical Officer was directed to ensure the deployment of one ambulance along with a team of Doctors and necessary medicines till the conclusion of event. A colorful cultural program would also be presented by the educational institutions on the occasion of Independence Day, 2023. Different committees were also constituted for ensuring successful celebrations of the National function. Regarding first aid arrangements, the Block Medical Officer was directed to ensure the deployment of one ambulance along with a team of Doctors and necessary medicines till the conclusion of event. A colorful cultural program would also be presented by the educational institutions on the occasion of Independence Day, 2023. Different committees were also constituted for ensuring successful celebrations of the National function.

Multilingual Mushaira Organised by JKAACL Jammu

■ HT News Network

August 2023: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) organised Multilingual Mushaira in collaboration with Adbi Kunj, J&K here at K.L. Saigal Hall, JKAACL premises Jammu.

Sh. Rashpal Singh, JKAAS, Additional commissioner revenue was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Sh. Bal Krishan, JKAAS Deputy Commissioner (Judicial) Taxes Department was the Guest of Honour. They were shared on dice by Sh. Sham Talib, President Adbi Kunj, J&K and Sh. R.C. Gupta, Senior writer. At the outset, Sh. Bharat Singh (JKAS), Secretary JKAACL, gave a heartfelt cordial welcome to everyone. While addressing the audience, he expressed that poets are the face of society; poets represent the inner thoughts of the social

fabric through their ink; it is indeed a special skill. Chief Guest Sh. Rashpal Singh, JKAS, Additional commissioner revenue in his address told that he comes from a family where he had an exposure to three languages his father is a Dogri writer, he himself studied Urdu and his wife is a Hindi Scholar. He added that his father had a library at home and he used to study all those books which his father used to bring. In his address he thanked Secretary JKAACL Sh. Bharat Singh for inviting him to this literary programme and giving him opportunity to get an exposure to such an intellectual class and nurture himself.

Sh. Bal Krishan, Guest of honour in his address said that writers of all Languages are precious heritage. Development of Culture is as important as development of Science.

DC Reasi visits Panchayat Dera Baba, presides over Public Outreach Prog

■ HT News Network

REASI, AUGUST 02: As part of weekly Block Diwas, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi Babila Rakwal today presided over a public outreach programme at Panchayat Dera Baba.

During the tour, DC visited different spots and houses which were damaged during the recent rains and assured victims and the general public of every possible relief. DC gave directions to the concerned departments on the spot for immediate restoration of roads and other protective measures so that the public may return to their normal life. While highlighting the objective of Block Diwas,



the DC said that the programme aims to listen to public demands and issues at their doorsteps for their redressal. DC also interacted with the general public at Darbar in Dera Baba and listened to the grievances of the general public. Executive Engineer I&FC was directed to prepare a detailed project report so as to prevent any further damage to agricultural lands of the people in the area. Executive Engineer

Weekly Block Diwas: Mega outreach camps held at 6 locations in Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 02: The District Administration Doda today organized Mega Block Diwas programmes at Six (6) locations covering Five (5) Blocks in the district, to take appraisal of the public issues, grievances and demands.

The Block Diwas locations where administration listened to the public grievances and aspirations include Panchayat Ghar Diggi, Block and Sub District Bhaderwah; Panchayat Pora Pain, Block Changa, Sub Division Gandoh; Panchayat Ghar Bulandpur, Sub Division Assar; Tehsil Headquarter (Sewa Chiralla), Sub Division Thathri; Panchayat Beoli; and Panchayat Bijarni Lower A in Bhagwah block.



To take first hand appraisal of public grievances and demands, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Doda, Dr Ravi Kumar Bharti along with other district officers took extensive tour of Bhagwah Block and met public and PRIs at Beoli, and Bijarni Lower A.

Public and PRIs applauded the efforts of District Administration Doda under the leadership of Deputy

Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan in its endeavour for arranging mega Youth Conclave/Lal Draman Festival to be held on 5th and 6th of August 2023 in Lal Draman Meadow. The festival will bring the picturesque Lal Draman Meadow on the tourism map of the UT of J&K.

People apprised the ADC about their issues and grievances besides projecting various developmental

demands of their areas. The demands projected during the tour in Bhagwah Block include removal of rock boulder from Beoli road, early completion of Beer Bagh Sports Stadium, repair of Government Middle School Beoli, construction of defence road from Bhagwah to Dal Draman, shortage of staff in H&WC Bijarni, Building for H&WC Bijarni, early completion of JJM Schemes, Repair of old pipeline and reservoir in Bijarni, week mobile network and demand of new towers, Protection wall for High School Bijarni, Physical Education Teacher at High school Bijarni, upgradation and augmentation of roads and electricity in the area, besides other local individual demands.

DC Kathua presides over public outreach programme at Barnoti

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, AUGUST 02: Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas today presided over a Block Diwas at Kamla Palace, Barnoti as part of a public outreach programme of the district administration.

BDC Chairman Barnoti, Brijeshwar Singh, Chief Planning Officer, ACD, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Mineral Officer, Chief Education Officer, DSWO, XEN Jal Shakti, BDO and other officers and officials of line departments were also present.

On the occasion, PRIs and local populace projected the issues of public importance and sought immediate redress of the same. The major issues highlighted by the number of deputations including PRI representative was provision of protection walls alongside river ujh which caused devastation during recent incessant rain and flash floods. People of peripheral areas also highlighted the problems viz scarcity of water, rejuvenation of Ponds, repair of



handpump, provision of electric poles, pending MGNREGA payments, removal of encroachments etc. While speaking on the occasion, the DC said the issues highlighted by PRIs and others will be addressed on priority. He further directed officers to submit action taken reports to headquarters. He assured full cooperation of the administration in resolution of all the highlighted issues. Referring to the problem of drinking water scarcity highlighted by the inhabitants, the DC assured that the repair of over 100 defective handpumps has already been taken up by the administration which will improve the drinking water scenario in the affected areas.

DC Ramban inspects vulnerable spots at NH-44, directs concerned to ensure free flow of traffic movement

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, AUGUST 02: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam today inspected progress on prestigious National Highway-44 projects from Ramban to Nashri being executed by the National Highway Authority of India, besides reviewing the status of existing roads especially at critical spots.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Traffic, National Highway, Ramban, Rohit Basotra, Project Director, NHAI PIU, Ramban, Parshotam

Kumar, Project Director, NHAI PIU, Udhampur, Anuj Kumar, Chief Education Officer, Devanand, Tehsildar Batote, Vijay Sharma, Tehsildar Ramban, Rafiq Ahmed and various concerned officers and representatives of the concessionaire companies.

Discussing the issues hindering the speed of traffic at Dhalwas and suggestions given by the SSP Traffic, the DC directed the executing agency to maintain the road at critical and other identified spots as discussed to avoid traffic congestion and for free flow of vehicular



movement on NH-44 especially during ensuing fruit season.

After inspecting the spot position, the DC directed the construction companies to

accelerate the pace of work on construction of cut and cover tunnel project, besides maintaining existing road for smooth plying of traffic at Mehar stretch.

Resolving all the issues hindering the pace of progress highlighted by the PD, NHAI, the DC assured that District Administration shall extend full cooperation for timely completion of the National Project to meet the deadline.

Earlier, the DC also inspected progress on restoration work of culvert at Tringla Nallah in Batote and fixed a deadline for comple-

tion of construction work. He also impressed upon the PD, NHAI, PIU Udhampur to maintain the road from Patnitop to Nashri for smooth traffic movement.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also inspected the functioning of Government High School, Dhalwas and directed CEO Ramban to depute adequate teaching staff to provide quality education to students in the school. After inspecting the spot position, the DC directed the construction companies to accelerate the pace of work on construction of cut and cover tunnel project.

Weekly Block Diwas: DC holds public meeting at CFC Ghordi

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 02: Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today visited Block Ghordi and listened to scores of public issues and demands during weekly Block Diwas held at CFC building Ghordi Jagir of Sub Division Ramnagar.

PRI members projected several issues and demands which include Repairing of High School Upper Rasain, Maintenance of Ghordi to Udhampur and other link roads, Shortage of staff in schools of the block, PHC, Ghordi, Repair of foot bridge over Neeli Nallah, shortage of staff in Animal Husbandry, Installation of ATM machine, Establishment of Degree College and KV school for Ghordi, Mobile network problem in Nallah Malian, Opening of JK Bank branch at Barmaan etc. The Deputy Commissioner after patiently hearing the public issues and demands passed on-spot directions to the concerned officers for redressal of public grievances in a time bound manner. Executive Engineers PMGSY and PWD were directed to resolve the issues of the public within 7 days.

EDITORIAL

The Toxic Tides: Unraveling the Impact of Increasing Social Media Use on Kashmiri Youth

In Kashmir, where beauty meets tranquility, a darker storm is brewing, and it comes in the form of escalating social media usage among the youth. Over the past few years, the digital revolution has swept through the region, profoundly shaping the minds of its young inhabitants. While the advent of social media brought promises of connectivity and knowledge, it has also brought along a wave of toxicity that threatens to erode the very fabric of Kashmiri society.

The allure of social media platforms is undeniable. It offers an escape from the harsh realities of the conflict-torn region, providing an outlet for self-expression and creativity. However, as the virtual world engulfs the Kashmiri youth, it is evident that the impact is far from benign. The constant exposure to an onslaught of information, images, and opinions can be overwhelming, leading to heightened levels of stress and anxiety.

The anonymity granted by social media further exacerbates the situation, allowing individuals to hurl hateful rhetoric without facing any real-life consequences. This anonymity has led to the rise of cyberbullying, trolling, and the propagation of harmful ideologies. The youth, once heralded as the torchbearers of hope, have now become victims of a toxic environment, where division and hostility thrive.

The excessive use of social media has also affected the attention spans of the youth. Continuous scrolling and the instant gratification of likes and shares have hindered their ability to focus on important matters. This, in turn, has impacted their academic and professional pursuits, hindering their potential for personal growth and development.

Furthermore, the social media echo chambers have created an environment where dissenting opinions are often dismissed or suppressed, leading to the formation of narrow-minded echo chambers. Instead of fostering healthy debates, social media has become a breeding ground for polarization, stifling intellectual growth and fostering intolerance.

The impact of increasing social media usage on the mental health of Kashmiri youth cannot be overlooked. The incessant comparison with seemingly perfect lives displayed on social media platforms has led to a rise in feelings of inadequacy and self-doubt. The incessant pursuit of validation through likes and shares has turned into a vicious cycle, leaving many feeling perpetually unsatisfied and disconnected from reality.

As guardians of the future, it is crucial for parents, educators, and policymakers to recognize the detrimental effects of excessive social media use on the youth and take proactive measures. Education on digital literacy, mental health awareness, and responsible social media usage should be integrated into the curriculum. Creating safe spaces for open discussions and promoting critical thinking will help in challenging extremist ideologies and fostering empathy among the youth.

Moreover, social media platforms must take responsibility and invest in comprehensive moderation systems to curb hate speech, fake news, and cyberbullying. Striking a balance between freedom of expression and protecting users from harmful content is essential in creating a healthier digital landscape.

In conclusion, the increasing use of social media among Kashmiri youth has undoubtedly shaped their minds, but not without significant repercussions. The toxicity that permeates through their virtual lives poses a grave threat to the well-being of the youth and the harmony of the region. It is high time that collective efforts are made to mitigate the adverse effects and transform social media into a platform for growth, learning, and meaningful connections. Only then can we hope for a brighter future for the youth of Kashmir.

Democracy Vs. Pakistan: A Power Struggle



ABID HUSSAIN RATHER



When we try to find out the meaning of democratic government in books we realize that democracy is a form of government in which power is vested in the people, and decisions are made through elected representatives. Democracy emphasizes the principles of political equality, freedom of expression, and the right to participate in the decision-making process. In a democratic system, citizens have the opportunity and right to vote in regular, free, and fair elections to choose their leaders and hold them accountable. In present times when we have a look around the world we find that many countries who were established on democratic principles have lost the true form of democratic government due to the power hunger of its corrupted political leaders and either dictatorship or Martial Law has replaced the civilian government. When Pakistan gained independence in 1947 from British colonial rule, it was founded as a democratic nation. But the country has experienced periods of military rule and political instability throughout its history. Since the dawn of the country, it has had a cataclysmic relationship with democracy. There have been several instances of military coups and authoritarian regimes that interrupted civilian rule. Over the years, Pakistan has oscillated between military and civilian governments, with military rule dominating for significant periods. Though political elections are held to form the government, but it has always faced the challenges of corruption, weak institutions and a lack of political consensus which have hindered the growth and stability of democracy in the country. While analysing the democracy in Pakistan, we must take into account the historical, cultural, and geopolitical factors that have influenced its political landscape.

Pakistan initiated as a democratic state with its first constitution adopted in 1956. However, the initial years were marked by political turbulence and power struggles between various political forces. The military has played a prominent role in Pakistan's politics, and the country has witnessed multiple

military coups and interventions. It was General Ayoub Khan in 1958, who for the first time assumed the power and became president and marked the beginning of military rule. Later on due to major crises in 1971, when East Pakistan (Bangladesh) got separated, there was an end of military rule due to these crises and civil rule returned when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto became PM and in later stage assumed the charges of President. However as ill fate it had, General Zia Ul Haq assumed power in 1977 and democratic government was again abdicated and military rule returned in the country. It was in this period when Z A Bhutto was executed in 1979. When Zia Ul Haq died in plane crash in 1988, Benazir Bhutto, the daughter of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was able to re-establish the democratic government in the country, but her period was marked by political and economic challenges, and she was dismissed from office twice on corruption charges. Then it was Nawaz Shareef who handled the unstable country but he was also removed from power on two occasions, in 1993 and 1999 due to tensions with military. It was General Pervez Musharraf who carried military coup in 1999, and crumpled the Nawaz's government. He continued his regime till 2008 when he resigned and again there was return of civil rule. Pakistan Peoples Party emerged as largest party in 2008 elections and formed coalition government with other parties but their period was marked by political challenges and criticism from opposition parties. After their period, it was Nawaz Shareef again in 2013 who won with a majority in elections and formed the government. But the general elections held in July 2018 saw a shift in power. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), led by Imran Khan, emerged as the single largest party in the National Assembly. Imran Khan became the Prime Minister of Pakistan with the backing of military. He implemented various reforms, focused on addressing corruption, improving governance, and enhancing economic development. Throughout this period, Pakistan's civilian governments have had to navigate their relationship with the powerful military establishment. The military continues to have significant influence in security and foreign policy matters. Finally Imran Khan was subsequently removed from power in 2022 after losing support from military. The new government was led by the PML-N's Shahbaz Sharif. Shahbaz Sharif's new government has been in a state of decision paralysis and is struggling to find its footing, while the ousted prime minister is leading rallies across the country attacking the government's legit-

imacy and calling for fresh elections.

When we deeply analyse the democratic set up of Pakistan for last seven decades we find that the relationship between democracy and Pakistan has been complex and marked by periods of power struggles through out its history. The most significant power struggle in Pakistan's history has been the recurring interventions by the military. The military establishment has always justified its interventions by citing corruption, inefficiency, and political unrest in civilian governments. The power struggle between democracy and military rule has often led to political instability and uncertainty in the country. Frequent changes in government and the role of powerful military institutions have at times hindered the smooth functioning of democratic processes. In spite of the military involvement in the government affairs, various political parties and leaders have been made attempts to strengthen country's democracy. Pakistan's judiciary has also played a significant role in navigating the power struggle by intervening in political matters, leading to the dismissal of elected governments. Corruption has also been a dominant issue in Pakistan's political system, affecting both civilian and military administrations. It is pertinent to mention here that rampant unchecked corruption within political parties and government institutions has eroded public trust in democratic processes in Pakistan. Pakistan's geopolitical position and relationships with powerful countries have also influenced its domestic politics. International political players have sometimes supported certain factions, leading to interference in the democratic process and aggravating existing power struggles.

Despite the challenges, there have been notable efforts towards strengthening democracy in Pakistan. Civil society organizations, media, and activist groups have played important roles in advocating for democratic principles, transparency, and accountability. The struggle for power between democracy and other forces, particularly the military, has been a defining aspect of Pakistan's political history. The country has made progress in certain democratic aspects, but challenges persist. For a stable and sustainable democracy, it is essential to strengthen democratic institutions, promote transparency and accountability, and ensure civilian control over the military.

The author is a member of Kashmir Writers' Association and can be reached at rather1294@gmail.com

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN ADVENTURE SPORTS INSTRUCTOR



VIJAY GARG



hard work, can get both money and satisfaction along with name and fame now attached to adventure sports.

Adventure Sports Instructor Eligibility Educational Qualification

The desirable qualification required to become an Adventure Sports Instructor is the 12th class with Physical Education as one of the subjects (it is not compulsory although) followed by certification from any Adventure sports institute.

Important: Good swimming skills are mandatory for water-based sports. Also, proficiency in English or some foreign languages can be handy to handle foreign Adventure Sports enthusiasts.

Adventure Sports Instructors Required Skills

Adventure Sports Instructors must have an enthusiasm for sports, excellent communication skills, the ability to inspire confidence and motivate participants.

They should have determination and patience, good organizational skills, a sensitive and supportive approach.

They should have physical stamina and a commitment to sports participation for all.

How to become an Adventure Sports Instructor?

There is no formal qualification required for those aspirants who themselves have been involved with Adventure sports as players. Former and senior adventure sportspersons can get the job as Assistant Sports Instructors (after getting necessary certification or licence) owing to their knowledge and experience of the sport as a player.

With some experience in the field as assistants, they can alleviate to the upper position as main instructors or chief instructors in due course of time. However, those aspirants who have the non-playing background but are energetic and have good knowledge of sport can undergo formal training and get into this field as instructors by following below given steps:

Step 1

Interested candidate has to join some adventure sports institute or clubs like National Institute of Water Sports and Nehru Institute of Mountaineering to do Short Term adventure sports courses offered by them.

Step 2

Once they have done with the training successfully they are provided certification or licenses that enable them to be eligible for becoming Adventure Sports Instructors.

List of Institute providing Course related to Adventure Sports Instructor

- Himalayan Mountaineering Institute Jawahar Parvat, Darjeeling ([www.hmi-darjeeling.com](#))
- Nehru Institute of Mountaineering Uttarkashi ([www.nimindia.net](#))
- Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering IISM, Gulmarg ([www.iismgulmarg.com](#))
- Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Anantnag ([www.jawaharinstitutepahalgam.com](#))
- Directorate of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali, ([www.dmas.nic.in/](#))
- Regional Mountaineering Centre, McLeodganj
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali
- High Altitude Trekking & Skiing Center, Narkanda, Shimla
- Regional Adventure sports Centre, Hatkoti, Shimla (HP)
- Mountaineering Sub Centre Jispa, Lahaul and Spiti (HP)
- Mountaineering Sub Centre Bharmour, Chamba (HP)
- The Ballooning Club Of India, New Delhi
- National Institute of Water Sports Aivao, Goa ([www.niws.nic.in](#))

Adventure Sports Instructor Job Description

Adventure Sports needs not only sporting skills but also require a lot of motivation

to perform adventurous acts as they involve a certain amount of risk taking too. Thus an Adventurous Sports Instructor Job description has much more than teaching sporting skills. His work involves guiding groups through group initiatives, teach proper spotting techniques, teach proper care and maintenance of ropes, carabineers, harness and other life supporting equipment as they are very important for performing any kind of act properly. Besides this, he encourages campers and staff to try new sports, participate in other aspects of camp life. An Adventure Sports Instructor has to perform all those duties that may be assigned to him by the Adventure/Sports Director, Village Director, Program Coordinator or Camp Director.

Adventure Sports Instructor Career Prospects

Enormous employment opportunities are available for Adventure Sports Instructors in private as well as public sector organizations. They can get a job in Excursion agencies, Holiday resorts, leisure camps and commercial recreation centres besides Sports centres and athletic clubs. Tourism Departments, Adventure Sports Club and Hills resorts etc also provide a good opportunity to these professionals. Trained Adventure Sports Instructors can also open their own academies with the financial aid provided to them by corporate houses and various state and central governments.

Adventure Sports Instructor Salary

As far as pay packages and salaries of Adventure Sports Instructors are concerned they can get anything from Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000 as an Adventure Sports Instructor in some good Adventure Sports Clubs or Hill Resorts to start with. If one goes for Personal assignment one can get as high as one can think of, all this depends upon one's own ability and demand in the field concerned.

Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

Gujjar & Bakarwal ST March; Principals of reservation and it's Exclusivity Must be ensured



■ Ghulam Server Shaheen

In advance societies like Europe, the sense of guilt and admitting historical mistakes which have been done by their predecessor, and simultaneously supporting the idea to uplift their marginalised classes and also propagating this in their former colonies is a great lesson for others who subjugated their respective regional marginalized classes for the decades. However what we seeing a total paradoxical example in Poonch Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir, that the upper class Hindus and Muslims of the region are continuously in struggle to repeat that vicious cycle.

Ethically the fight of tribal exclusiveness and their social and political upliftment which should be fought and upheld by Paharis owing to Gujjar & Bakarwal historical suppression and oppression at their hands, besides of century long Hindu Dogra rule is now once again have to be fought by Gujjar and Bakarwals by himself. This should be noted that G&B never protested previously since independence of India for granting ST status. It was solely on the basis of government appointed & commissioned reports which were being implemented in the late 1991 under the 'constitution ST Order Amendment Act 1991'. of course previous to the 1991, they were not politically and socially in a position to bring it in the government notice, due to their long social marginalization, political backwardness and massive unawareness about their own rights.

Opposite to the Manipur tribal group (Kuki) who have an organised way of protesting due to their quite old organizations and activists, The Gujjar and Bakarwal for the first time in the tribal history of J&K are peacefully agitating on roads since last year without any political background or organizational order. They are just few universities students and social activists who volunteering to protest for protecting not just their exclusive right & tribal status (ST) but also to protect the essential principals of the Reservation. Before going to Gujjar & Bakarwal Legitimacy and justification to the reservation for ST, let me ponder the vague and false claim of Paharis for getting the ST status.

Reservation under SC/ST is neither a poverty alleviation program nor any other governmental scheme to support the economi-

cally weaker section of society, rather it is a affirmative action or positive discrimination by the state to uplift a historical marginalised classes. Of course there has been a big socio-political gap between Gujjar & Bakarwal and other castes, not just in employment opportunities, economical activities Or political representation but they had been suffered socially too at the hands of these upper Class Muslims and Hindus. So it has always been modern nation-state priority to not just uplift them politically or economically, but, also to bring social justice by political way, to done away the historical social injustice like stereotypes mind-set towards marginalised classes and stigmatic remarks against them. i.e. SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and FRA(2005) etc. brought into the action. Though as far as justice for tribal and representation of the tribal against the ratio is concerned, it has never been good in India since independence. For example; various data and statics shows that number of seats for the SC/STs in IITs have always been very low or zero in many cases. Even in state now (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir, the higher education institutions like Jammu university and Kashmir university still not giving reservation in higher education courses like PHD and other appointments like assistant professor in their main campuses.

So, Paharis demand as a 'Tribe' instead of demand for OBCs implementation in J&K Or enhancement in the already enjoying quota of (23%) under different reservations against (10%) ST quota is a deliberate plan by joining hands with upper class Hindus of Rajouri Poonch and Jammu region, (who have already more than 80 percent market and businesses control as well as political upper hand in this region) to sabotage and cease the steady upliftment of Gujjar Bakarwal community. Because it is a historical fact that rich or upper strata of society never felt problem or jealous for the same class prosperity, but historically it has always been in nature and genesis of upper class to never tolerate the elevation of lower class or marginalised classes as an equal sharers in the power dynamic.

Now as per reservation rules and certain parameters, how Pahari heterogeneous castes which have been clubbed together including Syed, Mirza, Jarra, Malik, Sharma and Gupta with Nai (barber) Tarkhan (carpenter), Moochi (cobbler) etc. can be assumed as an same ethnic group? How Hindu Varna system and Muslims Syed vs others theological order would be accept the former with later as an same ethnic group? The demand in itself is problematic, vague and infact false in favour of Paharis lower castes who already enjoying reservation quota that is more than ST quota. The demand also against the morality ethics



and principles of the reservation.

Secondly, and the former like Nai (barber) ,Tarkhan (carpenter), Moochi (cobbler) are already enjoying (23%) reservation which have to go, and they will merged with the Gujjar and Bakarwal community, which is a third largest ethnic group of Jammu and Kashmir. The upper class Paharis politicians clearly playing this card for political reservation on the cost of lower class of Paharis to cease their already enjoying (23%) reserved quota for just (10%) reservation, which mean reservation for all and reservation for none.

Later, the upper class Paharis like Syed, Mirza jarra, Malik, Gupta, Sharma who can never show any data , statistic or report to being under representation in any case, either Economically politically or any historical injustice had been done with them or any other type of marginalization. Contrary their total population of (30%) ruled over the (70%) population of state and controlling more than (80%) economy. thus it can never be a justified their claim for ST reservation.

While on the other hand, the participation of Gujjar And Bakarwal in the economic activities of Jammu and Kashmir is less than (5%). Similarly, on the political ground in comparison to other states where equal reservation of seats against the total tribal population of state in political representation for the SC/ST population is properly followed in the states centre respectively. Contrary to that, Jammu and Kashmir yet to implement it as a result, due to no political reservation before 2019 in Jammu Kashmir only 5-6 MLAs were representing the 30 Lakh population of Gujjar and Bakerwal. Which is rare in case of the both Houses of parliament of India since independence.

Therefore, it was a long pending demand

for the exclusivity in political reservation for Gujjar & Bakarwal community in representation to balance their participation, raise their social status and to increase their participation in democratic system was very important. Opposite to it, If government is grants ST reservation to Paharis than the purpose of reservation and it's fundamental principles will defeated and ultimately lost itself. Therefore Gujjar bakarwal March under the slogan 'Tribal Bacho March' and 'No ST to upper caste' is an important and rightful claim for protecting the principles and exclusiveness of the reservation.

The claim of upper class Pahari Muslims and upper class Hindus is as valid as the people of Kashmir would be demand for ST reservation on the ground that they have been living under the violent and disturbing region or Brahman Hindus asks for the same on the ground that their ST neighbours living in same area is a totally Childish argument which can never be justified and nor a justifiable ground for demanding the ST reservation, because neither this the parameter for ST nor the former have been marginalised class of the Jammu & Kashmir or India in later case.

Another popular rhetoric among the Pahari community that Gujjar and Bakarwal are getting employment under the ST category while we are unemployed is totally a baseless argument. Because unemployment is always the failure of government which could not generate enough job against the rising population, also due to government more inclination towards privatization. For instance, as per NSO report, more than (70%) youth is unemployed including both Paharis and Gujjar and for whole India also. It has no relation with reservation. Reserved vaccines always

been allocated as per ratio against the categories which is only (10%) in the case of ST. it is an unethical argument to blame an already marginalised community for job occupancy which should rather be asked to the state government.

In just 30 years of reservation under the 'constitution ST Order Amendment Act 1991'. It has been concentrated in a very few well off families of the G&B as compare to other people of the same community, which would naturally has had to be occur due to their little bit advantages of earlier settlement in lower areas as well as awareness for the same. But that doesn't make a proper sense that among the population of 30 lakh a countable person will be considered to be an overall upliftment of that community. That is the reason for no provision of 'creamy layer' under the SC/ST categories. And of course it need a long time and deliberation to penetrate and infiltrate among the lower class of the community. The fact that half of the population of Gujjar & bakarwal is living in forest areas which are away from schools and settlement areas. still they could not get the proper implementation of FRA of (2005) due to non representation and avoidance by the state government and still facing the threat of mass eviction.

Gujjar and Bakarwal are not just fighting for their exclusiveness and special status (ST) but they also fighting for principles of reservation it's moral and ethical unjustified claim by Paharis. Because community which have already abundance representation is deliberately transgressing to reassert the oppression and suppression viciously.

The battle for the reservation instead protecting the reservations right of Gujjar and Bakarwal, has been started by upper class Paharis by joining hands with upper class Hindus to just kept away the Gujjar and Bakarwal from power dynamic. Thus former are solely responsible for provoking Gujjar and Bakarwal to agitate and March and puncture their every season, and go to supreme Court in any further development, submitting delegation and drawing apprehension to just follow the principal of reservation and it's exclusivity.

Paharis Political class is also responsible for breaking the century old social fabric of the Pir Panjal region as well as unendurable jealous against the steady up surging status of Gujjar and Bakarwal, which has been historical marginalised by the same nexus of power.

The columnist is an postgraduate student in history from Aligarh Muslim University and hails from Surankote, Poonch, J&K.

Justice for All: Empowering the Economically Disadvantaged with Legal Aid

LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS FOUNDED ON THE CORE IDEAS THAT EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO A REASONABLE AND FAIR LEGAL SYSTEM AND THAT NOT JUST THE WEALTHY SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO LEGAL COUNSEL



■ Suhail Ah Khoja



■ Inam Nazir

Context

Access to justice is a fundamental right of every citizen in a democratic society. We often hear about a legal maxim attributed to William E Gladstone, that "Justice delayed is justice denied", which highlights that how courts take a long time to hear and adjudicate cases than they usually should. But what if the case of the aggrieved party never reaches the court for disposal for some reason. One can avail justice only when someone seeks it. However, the reality in many countries, including India, is that a significant portion of the population faces numerous barriers in accessing justice due to various socioeconomic factors. If a person who cannot fulfill his basic needs in present society, how

can he pay hefty amount of money as fee to lawyers to access justice, and that too in a country like India where 135.4 million people are multidimensionally poor as per a latest report by NITI Aayog? When it's hard for them to meet two square meals a day for their family how can they fight for their rights that are violated? They are afraid of the system of court as they are of the opinion that they won't afford the process to attain justice that results in the deprivation of their rights. In this column, we have explored how legal aid evolved in India and how Nyaya Bandhu Scheme can be a game changer in ensuring legal justice to marginalized sections of the society.

The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

The Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 is an Act of the Indian parliament to enforce the provisions of Article 39A of the constitution, guaranteeing the fundamental rights to all the citizens of the country. Article 39A of the constitution is relating to promoting justice on the basis of equal opportunity by providing free legal aid to unaffordable sections of society like poor and economically weaker sections. The act was enacted on 9 November 1987. To commemorate the occasion, 9 November every year is celebrated National Legal Services Day in India. The Act came into effect on

9th November 1995, following the Amendment Act of 1994, which introduced several amendments to the main Act. This act not only talks about legal service but also to aware people about their rights and ways to fight for the violation of the same. So as to take the benefits of the legal service act one should be aware of their rights and also about the said Act. Legal literacy is one of the tool used to educate the people about their rights, how to claim justice in case of the violation of rights and about many others laws of the land

Rationale behind the Legal Aid

For every person to attain justice the concept of legal aid emerged in the society. Legal aid is a service that provides free or low cost legal assistance to marginalized sections of the society, who cannot afford the exorbitant fees charged by private lawyers. In Article 39A of the Indian Constitution, legal aid is mandated by the constitution. Equal justice and free legal assistance are guaranteed under Article 39A for those who cannot pay it. Free legal aid is a crucial part of meeting the state's duty to ensure that the legal system functions in a way that promotes justice based on equal opportunity. Legal assistance is an essential component of ensuring that everyone has access to justice and the ability to exercise their legal rights and remedies, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Legal assis-

tance is the term used to describe the provision of legal services to individuals who cannot otherwise afford them or obtain them. Legal assistance is founded on the core ideas that everyone has a right to a reasonable and fair legal system and that not just the wealthy should have access to legal counsel. The constitution also acknowledges the value of legal knowledge and education, which are crucial for fostering access to justice. Children between the age of 6 and 14 are entitled to free and compulsory education under Article 21A of the Constitution legislated through the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Programmes for legal education and awareness are essential for raising legal literacy levels among the masses and assisting them in understanding their rights and obligations and the procedure to secure them in case they are violated.

Nyaya Bandhu Scheme

In 2017 a scheme named Nyaya Bandu Scheme was launched by the government under the banner of Ministry of Law & Justice, under which legal aid and legal literacy is given to the people and educate them about their rights, ways to protect their rights and how to fight for the violation of the same and help people who cannot file a case because of financial unsoundness. The scheme was based upon the government's

commitment to promoting inclusivity and social justice. It aims to empower the disadvantaged by providing them with the necessary legal aid and guidance to protect their rights and seek redressal of their grievances. The scheme encompasses several features to achieve its objectives like establishment of legal aid clinics at various locations, collaboration with NGO's and law firms and organizing public awareness campaigns.

Nayaya Bandhu Scheme & Kashmir Law College

One of the Law school, Kashmir Law College, which is located at Nowshera Srinagar, is a part of such noble cause, and have been educating people from past 2 years regarding legal issues. The college has constituted a group of students and has visited many places like Behrar colony, Wangath and other place and schools, higher Secondary's and Colleges and educated people about their rights through seminars and one-on-one talks with the people, and also educated girls about how to tackle with the offence they are facing. This initiative provided fruits like many of the girls who are being educated by the volunteers of the said college are now not only ready to tackle the problems facing by the girls today, but they are also ready to educate other girls.

Way forward

The Nyaya Bandhu Scheme is a commendable step towards ensuring equal access to justice for all citizens, regardless of their socioeconomic status. By providing legal aid and support to vulnerable and marginalized sections of society, the scheme empowers individuals to seek justice and protect their rights. The success of this initiative lies in its continued dedication, effective implementation, and collaboration between various stakeholders to create a more just and equitable society for everyone. However, the scheme faces issues at various levels of implementation that needs to be addressed like the quality of legal aid provided to the marginalized sections of the society. Moreover, the provisions of the scheme must be brought to the notice of wider audience and to distant locations. Lastly, we all youngsters in general and lawyers in particular need to educate people about their rights so as to ensure social justice and equality for all in real sense.

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"Not Possible To Protect Everyone": Haryana Chief Minister Appeals For Calm

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar today said the state has no information on Monu Manesar, the man said to be at the heart of the Monday's violence that has sparked communal clashes across the state and cost six lives.

"The case against him is filed by the Rajasthan government," Mr Khattar told the media today.

"I have told the Rajasthan government that if they need help to trace him, we are ready to help. Now the Rajasthan Police is searching for him. We don't have any inputs on his whereabouts. Whether they have or not, how can we say?" he said.

Monu Manesar -- wanted for the murder of two men from Rajasthan's Jodhpur since February -- is on the run. But he is said to have circulated an objectionable video that had infuriated some people.



Rumours that he was seen at the religious procession held by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Nuh, had set off the attack. Some people threw stones at the procession and matters escalated from there. A mosque was torched post-

midnight, more than a hundred vehicles were torched and vandalised.

Ripples from Monday's clash have reached the posh areas of Gurugram, next-door to Delhi, which has been put on high alert.

Gurugram had imposed prohibitory orders banning large gatherings early on. But yesterday, a mob of 200 turned up, violating the rule, and torched a row of

eateries and shanties near a residential society, reducing them to cinders.

The sale of loose petrol or diesel has been banned to prevent incidents of arson.

Today, the right-wing Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal are conducting protest marches across Delhi, sparking massive traffic jams.

Mr Khattar said based on CCTV footage, 116 people have been arrested and 190 people detained. "Those responsible for the violence will be held accountable for the losses... the police are investigating CCTV footage and phone call records," he said.

Citing the population in any state, he said it is not possible for the police to protect everyone and appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony.

Delhi On Alert As Haryana Violence Spreads To Affluent Gurugram Areas

Gurugram: Delhi has tightened security and deployed drones to monitor sensitive areas after the ripples from Monday's communal clash in Haryana's Nuh reached posh areas of Gurugram.

Gurugram has imposed prohibitory orders after several shops and shanties near a residential society in Gurugram were set on fire on Tuesday. Sale of loose petrol or diesel has also been banned to prevent incidents of arson.

Police also urged citizens not to believe rumours, and not give credence to reports on social media.

Violence broke out during a religious procession in Nuh on Monday -- just 50 km from Delhi -- following what many say is an objectionable video that went viral. As a mob attacked the procession with stones, the 2,500-plus participants rushed into a temple to take shelter.

The violence escalated as the evening progressed -- a mosque was torched post-midnight, more than a hundred vehicles were torched and vandalised as mobs went on rampage in Nuh and neighbouring Gurugram.

Right-wing organisations Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal are conducting protest marches in several parts of Delhi against the violence in Haryana. The protests have led to traffic jams in several other parts of Delhi and its neighbouring areas.

Videos on social media showed Bajrang Dal supporters reciting Hanuman Chalisa near the Nirman Vihar Metro Station. Later, they tried to



block Vikas Marg but were removed by police. The Supreme Court has also urged Delhi authorities to deploy heavy force and install CCTVs to prevent any escalation.

The deaths of at least six people, including two police personnel, in clashes between Hindus and Muslims that erupted on Monday around 50 km south of New Delhi, and simmered even a day later, have also brought questions about the role of social media posts and alleged inaction on the part of the authorities in sharp focus.

A Special Investigation Team is being set up to investigate the cases of communal violence and the role of Bajrang Dal member Monu Manesar.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has said he suspects a "conspiracy" behind Monday's clash-

es and called the incident "unfortunate." He claimed that some people conspired an attack on those taking part in the yatra and the police, leading to violence at several places. The Supreme Court has also urged Delhi authorities to deploy heavy force and install CCTVs to prevent any escalation.

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Lok Sabha Speaker Upset, Won't Attend Parliament For Now: Sources

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has expressed deep displeasure with both the ruling party and the opposition over the continued disruption of parliamentary activities, stating he will not attend sessions until lawmakers behave according to the dignity of the house, sources close to him said on Wednesday. Mr Birla was notably absent from the Speaker's

seat when the Lok Sabha proceedings began on Wednesday. Loud protests continued, leading to its adjournment until 2 pm and for the day later. The lower house was adjourned for the day as opposition members continued their protests on the Manipur issue, demanding a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the situation in the state.

Prez Murmu to visit TN, Pondy on Aug 5, 6

■ HT News Network

Chennai, Aug 2 (UNI) President Droupadi Murmu will arrive on a two-day visit to Chennai and Puducherry on August 5 and 6. After her arrival on the evening of August 5, the President will stay overnight at Raj Bhavan.

On August 6, Sunday she will take part in the convocation of the University of Madras after which she will leave for the Union Territory of Puducherry. Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is expected to participate in the convocation event to be held at Kalaivanar Arangam, located a few metres from the University of Madras campus on the Marina beach front. Police have been making tight security arrangements in view of the President's visit.

IAS officer Sandeep Negi passes away at 46

■ HT News Network

Shimla, Aug 2 (UNI) 2016 batch Indian Administrative Officer Solan Sandeep Negi died due to prolonged illness at PCI Chandigarh on Wednesday morning. 47-year-old Sandeep Negi was presently serving as Registrar at Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni. Sandeep Negi had also served as secretary in the State Woman Commission and ADM Solan in various administrative positions. Chief Minister, Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, has expressed grief over the demise of Sandeep Negi. He prayed to the Almighty to give peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss. The Chief Minister said that the state has lost a dedicated and committed administrative officer who always performed his duty efficiently.

Department of post launches 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign for I-Day 2023

■ HT News Network

Mumbai, Aug 2 (UNI) The Department of Posts launched the annual 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign 2.0 for Independence Day, 2023, an official said here on Wednesday. The initiative was started last year to mark the Amrit Mahotsav of India's independence, which got a huge response from the people, said an official.

"Last year, DoP sold over 12 lakh Tricolours in the Maharashtra Circle, which includes Goa," said an official, saying this year the sales will be even more robust.

For this, the government and DoP have called upon all citizens to participate in the campaign by hoisting the National Flag in their homes, offices, societies, etc.

The DoP will sell the National Flags to people at reasonable rates, starting at Rs 25.

Airtel launches Airtel IQ Reach

■ HT News Network

Kolkata, Aug 2 (UNI) Bharti Airtel (Airtel) has announced the launch of Airtel IQ Reach, a first-of-its-kind self-serve marketing communications platform, that will enable brands and companies to drive targeted customer engagements through personalised communications.

"Heavy Force, CCTVs": Supreme Court On Delhi Protest Over Haryana Clashes

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: As supporters of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal hold protests in Delhi over the communal violence in Haryana, the Supreme Court has asked authorities to ensure tight security and CCTV surveillance of the protests to prevent any escalation. The court has said steps should be taken to ensure no violence and hate speeches during these protests. It has also directed authorities to put adequate force, including personnel from paramilitary forces, on the ground. "Please ensure that the authorities take appropriate action that there are no violence and there are no hate speeches. Also deploy CCTVs so that everything is recorded," the court said. Supporters of VHP and Bajrang Dal held protests at nearly 30 locations across the national capital over the violence in neighbouring Haryana that has claimed six lives and caused huge losses to property. The protesters are demanding a probe by National Investigation Agency into the incidents of violence. The matter was placed before the Supreme Court this morning when the petitioners' counsel CU Singh approached the bench of Justice Aniruddha Bose and sought urgent attention. Justice



Bose directed the petitioner to approach Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud. At the point, a five-judge bench led by the Chief Justice was hearing petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. At lunchtime, the petitioner approached the Chief Justice and sought directions on the protest in Delhi.

The Chief Justice, it is learnt, went through the documents and formed a special bench comprising Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice SV Bhatti to hear the matter.

The rioting in Haryana was sparked by a religious procession taken out by VHP and Bajrang Dal in Nuh, about 80 km from the national capital, on Monday. The march came under firing and heavy stone-pelting and a crowd of about 2,500 people had to take shelter inside a temple.

In Blow To Arvind Kejriwal, Centre's Delhi Bill Gains Another Backer

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: In a boost for the BJP-led government at the centre in its quest to override a Supreme Court ruling on who controls Delhi's bureaucrats, Andhra Pradesh's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has announced it will support the parliamentary bill to do so, despite being a former opponent. The TDP, which parted ways with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2018 and brought a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, now also plans to vote in support of the government against the opposition on the motion of no-confidence.

With three MPs in the Lok Sabha and one MP in the Rajya Sabha, the TDP's support will boost the government's tally, which was already set to have the NCT Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023 cleared by parliament. This means that both the regional parties of Andhra Pradesh, the ruling YSRCP and the opposition TDP, are now supporting the government.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) suffered a setback in its fight against the Delhi services bill as Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) support a day ago



assured the bill will comfortably sail through the halfway mark in parliament.

The BJD, with nine MPs in the Rajya Sabha, will help the government cross the halfway mark in the upper house, where the BJP-led NDA does not have a full majority on its own. The YSR Congress Party of Jagan Reddy, with nine members in the Rajya Sabha and 22 in the Lok Sabha, has already announced its support to the government on the critical bill. The halfway mark in the Rajya Sabha is 120, and with support from the BJD, YSRCP, TDP, and Mayawati's BSP, the BJP-led government has 127. Around 109 MPs, including those from the 26-member opposition alliance INDIA and some Independents, are expected to vote against the bill, which will replace the controversial Delhi services ordinance.

Rajiv Gandhi Had 'Mr Clean' Image, PM Modi Has Same Reputation: Ajit Pawar

■ HT News Network

Pune: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has said late Rajiv Gandhi was known as 'Mr Clean', and Prime Minister Narendra Modi enjoys the same reputation.

Pawar, who split the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and joined the BJP-Shiv Sena government last month, was speaking to reporters in Pune on Tuesday after attending a ceremony where PM Modi received the Lokmanya Tilak National Award.

He said the people of Pune welcomed PM Modi by standing on both sides of roads when his convoy was passing.

"I and Devendra ji (deputy CM Devendra Fadnis) were in the same car in the convoy. We did not see any black flags during Modi's journey to the venue. In fact, we saw that people, standing on both sides of the road, welcomed and greeted him," said Pawar, when pointed out that NCP workers (of the rival faction) staged a protest and showed black flags during the prime minister's visit.

"Any prime minister will think of having a good atmosphere in the country from the law and order point of view. Nobody supported whatever that is happening in Manipur. The prime minister has taken cognizance of the issue. Chief Justice of India has



also taken cognizance. Everyone has condemned whatever happened there," said Pawar.

The Centre and the Manipur government are ensuring the culprits of May 3 incident (where two women were paraded naked) are punished, he said.

Modi works for 18 hours a day, Pawar said. "During Diwali, while rest of the country celebrates Diwali at home, he celebrates it with army soldiers on the borders," he said.

"We have been seeing his work for the

last nine years. There is no other leader with popularity like Modi at the international level. The truth is the truth. I want development. Being in an opposition party, we can stage protests and take out morchas, but the decision lies with those who are in power," Pawar said.

The NCP leader said he joined the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance government for all-round development of Maharashtra.

"There is no other personality in the country who has popularity like Modi ji. Look at the work he has done in terms of

infrastructure, the kind of respect India gets at the global level," the deputy CM said.

"Indira Gandhi used to get similar kind of respect (when she visited other countries)... Rajiv Gandhi had an image of Mr Clean. Similarly, we are seeing (that) in the form of Modi," he said. Pawar, who split the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and joined the BJP-Shiv Sena government last month, was speaking to reporters in Pune on Tuesday after attending a ceremony where PM Modi received the Lokmanya Tilak National Award.

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Trump faces deepening legal risks for effort to reverse 2020 election

■ HT News Network

Efforts to hold Donald Trump criminally responsible for attempting to overturn the 2020 election were gaining steam, as the former US president prepared to face federal charges in a Washington courtroom on Thursday while Georgia state prosecutors looked poised to issue their own charges in the coming weeks.

Trump — the front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination — was indicted on Tuesday on four counts, including conspiring to defraud the US by obstructing an official proceeding and conspiring to deprive voters of their right to fair elections.

In the 45-page indictment filed by Special Counsel Jack Smith, prosecutors described a sprawling, multistate conspiracy built upon Trump's repeated false claims that Democrat Joe Biden's victory had been marred by widespread fraud.

According to the indictment, Trump ignored advisers who told him the election was not fraudulent and helped organize fake slates of electors to try to capture electoral votes in states he had lost.

Trump and his allies knowingly pushed those lies as part of a pressure campaign to try to convince state and federal officials to throw out the election results, prosecutors said, culminating in a mob of Trump supporters storming the US Capitol on Jan



6, 2021, in an attempt to block Congress from certifying Biden's victory.

"Despite having lost, the defendant was determined to remain in power," the indictment said.

The Trump campaign issued a statement accusing the Biden administration of targeting him for political gain.

"The lawlessness of these persecutions of President Trump and his supporters is reminiscent of Nazi Germany in the 1930s, the former Soviet Union, and other authoritarian, dictatorial regimes," the campaign said.

Smith, the former chief prosecutor for

the special court in The Hague, was appointed as special counsel by US Attorney General Merrick Garland. Special counsels are sometimes named to handle politically sensitive investigations to insulate the Justice Department from allegations of bias. Trump, 77, the first former US president to face criminal charges, has been indicted on three separate occasions this year. In June, Smith's office charged him in a separate case with illegally retaining classified documents after leaving the White House and obstructing efforts to retrieve them.

Earlier this year, the Manhattan district attorney's office brought charges that he

falsified business records to hide hush money payments to a porn star who claimed to have had an affair with Trump years ago.

Trump has pleaded not guilty in both cases and has portrayed those investigations, as well as the election probes, as part of a coordinated "witch hunt."

In Georgia, the district attorney in Atlanta, Fani Willis, has been investigating whether Trump and his associates illegally interfered with that state's election for more than two years. Willis, an elected Democrat, has signalled she intends to bring charges in that probe within the next three weeks.

Despite the steady drumbeat of scandal, Trump has continued to hold a wide lead over a field of Republican rivals in the 2024 presidential race, according to public polls.

Strategists said that while the indictments could help Trump solidify support among Republican voters, who view the charges as bogus, they could prove more damaging among independent voters in the general election against Biden.

Many Republican officials, unwilling to anger Trump's substantial base of supporters, attacked Biden instead, claiming that the latest charges were politically motivated.

Trump's chief rival for the Republican nomination, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, declined to address the specifics in the indictment but vowed to end "the weaponization of the federal government."

Singapore PM Vows To Uphold "Clean Government" Reputation After Scandals

■ HT News Network

Singapore: Singapore's prime minister mounted a vigorous defence of his long-ruling People's Action Party on Wednesday, even as he acknowledged it had "taken a hit" after a rare spate of political scandals.

Lee Hsien Loong vowed, however, to "show Singaporeans that we will uphold standards and do the right thing, so that trust is maintained, and the Singapore system continues to work well".

Singapore has capitalised on its reputation for clean government to attract massive foreign investments and turn the city-state into a financial and commercial hub.

But that reputation has been threatened by two major furores: a cabinet minister's arrest amid a corruption probe; and two PAP legislators resigning because of an affair.

Before that, two heavyweight cabinet members were investigated for allegedly getting favours in their rental of sprawling colonial-era bungalows, but were



subsequently cleared of any wrongdoing.

"Let me assure Singaporeans that we will protect the integrity of our system of government. For the good of our country, we will carry through what needs to be done in accordance with the law, even if it may be politically embarrassing and painful to the party," Lee said.

"I will not flinch or hesitate to do my duty, to keep our system robust and clean. This is how the PAP government can continue to deserve the trust that Singaporeans have placed in us."

Lee said he could not give further details about the probe into Transport Min-

ister S. Iswaran, who he had ordered to go on leave, because investigations were still under way.

Iswaran was arrested and released on bail last month after powerful anti-graft body the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) launched a probe into him.

Also last month, parliament speaker Tan Chuan Jin and a woman legislator resigned because of an affair. The scandals come as the party -- which has ruled uninterrupted for 64 years -- bounces back from its worst ever election results in 2020, when its share of the popular vote fell to a near-record low and the opposition gained more seats.

Myanmar junta cuts six years from Suu Kyi's 33-year jail term

■ HT News Network

YANGON: Myanmar reduced ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi's 33-year prison sentence by six years in a partial pardon on Tuesday, as the junta struggles to quell bloody resistance to its rule.

The country has been ravaged by violence in the two years since Suu Kyi was deposed in a coup and hit with 19 criminal cases ranging from corruption to breaching Covid-19 rules.

There have been concerns for the 78-year-old Nobel laureate's health and the junta moved her from prison to a government building last week.

"Six years imprisonment will be reduced," junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun told reporters after it was announced she had been pardoned in five cases.

Suu Kyi still faces 14 cases despite the pardon. Rights groups have condemned the legal battle against her as a sham designed to remove a popular democratic leader from the public eye.



Former Myanmar president Win Myint, who was also removed in the 2021 coup, was granted a four-year reduction in relation to two cases, the junta spokesman said.

"Cruel games" Tuesday's announcement was part of an amnesty of more than 7,000 prisoners to mark Buddhist Lent, including 125 foreigners who are to be released and pardoned.

An unspecified number of prisoners facing the death penalty also had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment, the announcement said.

David Mathieson, an independent analyst on Myanmar, said the partial pardon was a "cynical play

to tell the world that there might be some kind of political resolution coming. When we know that there is not".

"I think they are just playing cruel games with a political prisoner," Mathieson said.

"All the charges against her are absurd and shaving six years off 33 isn't mercy," Human Rights Watch's Asia division deputy director Phil Robertson said the junta aimed "to create the impression of moderation and dialogue when in fact there really is none on offer".

Joe Freeman, a spokesman on Myanmar for Amnesty International, said the reductions showed the arbitrary nature of the junta's military courts.

Syria conducts anti-drug trafficking operations along border

■ HT News Network

Damascus, Aug 2 (UNI) Syria on Tuesday carried out anti-drug trafficking operations along its border with Jordan in the southern province of Daraa, newspaper al-Watan said.

Citing a military source, the newspaper said the Syrian army and security apparatuses carried out joint operations in the border region with Jordan "as part of the comprehensive plan" put forward by Syria to hunt down cross-border drug traffickers.

Many suspects were arrested and various types of weaponry and weed confiscated.

The move came a few days after the first meeting of the Syrian-Jordanian committee for cooperation on combating drug smuggling in the Jordanian capital Amman early last week.

China renews alert for Typhoon Khanun

■ HT News Network

Beijing, Aug 2 (UNI) China's national observatory on Wednesday renewed a blue alert as Typhoon Khanun, the sixth typhoon this year, is moving northwest toward the East Sea.

From 8 a.m. Wednesday to 8 a.m. Thursday, strong winds with speeds of 39 to 74 kilometers per hour are expected in the Bashi Channel, areas to the east of China's Taiwan island, most parts of the East Sea, waters near the Diaoyu Island, the Hangzhou Bay, coastal areas of Zhejiang and northern regions of Fujian, northern parts of Taiwan island and coastal areas in the south, with wind gusts surpassing 100 kilometers per hour, according to the National Meteorological Center.

The center has advised the aforementioned regions to make emergency preparations for the typhoon.

China has a four-tier, color-coded weather warning system, with red representing the most severe warning, followed by orange, yellow and blue

Palestinian boy killed by Israeli soldiers during stabbing attack

■ HT News Network

Ramallah, Aug 2 (UNI) A 15-year-old Palestinian boy was killed late Tuesday by Israeli soldiers as he attempted to carry out a stabbing attack near the southern West Bank city of Hebron, Palestinian and Israeli sources said.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said in a statement that it was informed by the Palestinian liaison (security coordination office) with Israel that Mohammed Al-Za'arir was killed by Israeli soldiers near Al-Samou village close to the city.

Palestinian security sources said the Israeli army forces prevented the Palestinian ambulances from reaching the body of the boy.

Israel Radio reported that the incident happened when an Israeli army officer stopped at a bus station to check a Palestinian suspect, who was holding a knife and tried to stab the officer. Another Israeli soldier in the area opened fire and killed the suspect.

Al-Za'arir is the second Palestinian killed in the day by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank.

UN, partners continue providing relief to people in NW Syria

■ HT News Network

United Nations, Aug 2 (UNI) UN humanitarian on Tuesday said the world body is working with partners to continue providing essential supplies and services to people in the northwest of Syria.

Earlier Tuesday, 17 trucks carrying shelter and other humanitarian assistance from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) crossed into northwest Syria from Türkiye through the Bab al-Salam crossing, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Additional truck movements and UN staff missions are planned through the Bab al-Salam and al-Ra'ee crossings in the coming days, the office said in a statement. Also on Tuesday, OCHA and other UN agencies carried out separate missions to Azaz, a city some 30 kilometers north of Aleppo.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and OCHA carried out monitoring and assessment activities, while IOM provided first aid training to local aid workers, according to OCHA

Chile: 5 airmen died in helicopter crash

■ HT News Network

Santiago, Aug 2 (UNI) Five members of the Chilean Air Force died in a helicopter crash in the south of the country Monday night, the Air Force said on Tuesday.

A Bell 412 helicopter crashed in southern Chile's Los Lagos region Monday night, "due to causes under investigation," the Air Force said in a statement.

The aircraft was conducting a night flight training mission with a five-member crew, including two pilots, two air crew members and a rescue paratrooper, and all the crew died at the scene. The Chilean Air Force was providing assistance and support to the families of those who died in the accident, the statement said.

Niger coup raises questions about uranium dependence

■ HT News Network

PARIS: The military coup in Niger raises the question of Europe's dependency on uranium mined in the West African nation for its nuclear power plants.

France's nuclear fuel firm Orano, formerly part of Areva, operates a uranium mine in the north of the country, employing some 900 mostly Nigerian staff.

The company said last week that it was monitoring the situation closely but that the seizure of power by the military had not for the moment affected the delivery of uranium supplies.

Niger accounts for only a small percentage of global production of natural uranium.



In 2021, it produced 4.7 per cent of the world's total, far behind Kazakhstan at 45.2pc, according to Euratom Supply Agency (ESA) that ensures Europe's supply of nuclear materials. "In 2022, Niger was second largest supplier of natural uranium to the EU, with share of 25.38pc," ESA told AFP. "Kazakhstan, Niger, and Canada were the top three countries delivering natural uranium, providing

74.19pc of the total," it added.

On Tuesday, the European Union claimed the bloc was not at risk of supply problems due to the coup. "EU utilities have sufficient inventories of natural uranium to mitigate any short-term supply risks and for the medium and long term there are enough deposits on the world market to cover the EU needs," European Commission spokes-

man Adalbert Jahnz said.

For France, which operates 56 reactors that provide more than two-thirds of the nation's electricity, Niger was the number three source during the 2005-20 period, accounting for 19pc of the total, behind Kazakhstan and Australia. For uranium, Niger "is no longer the strategic partner of Paris as it was in the 1960s or 1970s", said Alain Antil, head of the Sub-Saharan African centre at the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI). France's energy transition ministry said the situation in Niger doesn't pose any risk for natural uranium supplies as EDF, the operator of France's park of nuclear reactors, has worked to diversify its suppliers.

Man charged with abuse crimes against 91 girls in Australia

■ HT News Network

SYDNEY: An Australian childcare worker sexually abused 91 young girls over 15 years, police said on Tuesday, accusing him of documenting his "unfathomable" alleged crimes in thousands of photos and videos.

Seasoned detectives have described it as one of Australia's "most horrific" child sex abuse cases, calling it "beyond the realms of anyone's imagination".

"I know this news will seem unfathomable, and I know there will be many questions," said assistant federal police commissioner Justine Gough.

"There is not much solace I can give to the parents and children who have been identified," she added.

Included within the 1,623 charges are 136 counts of rape, 110 counts of sexual assault with a child younger than 10 — a charge used instead of rape in some Australian jurisdictions — and 613 counts of making child pornography.

Investigators had been hunting for the 45-year-old man since discovering a cache of child pornography shared on the dark web in 2014. But their efforts had been mostly fruitless until they made an unexpected breakthrough in August last year — matching visual clues in the background of the images to a childcare centre in the city of Brisbane.

DC reviews progress recorded under Jal Jeevan Mission at Kulgam

Directs to scale up pace on ongoing works; stresses on conducting more IEC activities

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, AUGUST 02: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today convened a meeting of concerned Officers to review the progress of works recorded under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district. During the meeting, the DC took detailed review of physical and financial progress made on various JJM Works.

S.E Hydraulics informed the chair that there are 218 works and 143 schemes/projects under JJM in the district and work is going on with a good pace. It was also informed that 09 works are completed under JJM. The DC emphasized that every

effort has to be made to ensure that the goal of tap water to all households must be achieved as per the projected timeline. He said that the Mission is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households.

He directed all the concerned officers to scale up pace on works under JJM so that the target can be achieved within the stipulated period.

He asked the officers to regularly monitor the quality and progress on all allotted works for time-bound completion.

The DC said that information dissemination is an important component of the mission and stressed on



conduct of more widespread IEC activities.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the functioning of Pani Samitis and it was informed that all Pani Samitis are functional in the

district. The meeting was attended by ADDC Showkat Ahmad Rather, JD-P, Zahid Sajad; SE Hydraulics, Shabir Ahmad; Executive Engineers from Qazigund and Kulgam, AEEs and other concerned Officers.

DC reviews arrangements for conduct of two day Veshow Literary festival at Kulgam

KULGAM, : In order to discuss the necessary arrangements related to the conduct of two-day Veshow literary festival to be held on 7th and 8th of August 2023, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today convened a meeting of the concerned officers at DC Office, here.

During the meeting, threadbare discussion was held on various aspects of the arrangements related to the successful conduct of the two day festival besides various

decisions were taken in the meeting and responsibilities were assigned to different departments.

The DC directed the concerned departments to work in right earnest to make timely arrangements. He also instructed the concerned officers to ensure adequate measures are taken for smooth conduct of literary programmes. Dr Bilal impressed upon all concerned departments to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in time.

Preparations for “MERI MAATI MERA DESH” campaign reviewed at Kupwara

■ **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, AUGUST 2: Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpori today chaired a meeting of DDC Members and BDC Chairpersons, here to review the preparations for conduct of “MERI MAATI MERA DESH” Campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in the district.

Vice Chairman DDC, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir and Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kup-

wara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat were also present in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the Chairman impressed upon all the Council Members to ensure utmost coordination with the concerned departments in the district to make the Campaign successful.

Earlier, the ADC Kupwara gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation regarding the conduct of Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign in the district. He said every Panchayat will join in offering collective tribute



to the Mitti of the Motherland which envisages Remembering of brave hearts, Veer by erecting Memorial Plaque, taking the Panch Pran Pledge promising to nation building, Renewing

& Replenishing Mother Earth by planting 75 saplings of long-lasting trees in each village, Honouring Defense Personnel/CAPFs and state Police Personnel/ Freedom Fighters and

Hoisting of National Flag, besides, singing of Rashtragaan.

The Campaign website link https://yuva.gov.in/meri_maati_mera_desh was also shared with the PRIs for keeping themselves updated.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, ADC Kupwara convened a separate meeting of District/Sectoral Officers to review the progress of preparations made by the departments for conduct of the Meri Maati Mera Desh

Campaign in the district.

On the occasion, the ADC got detailed feedback from various officers regarding their Plan of activities for smooth conduct of the Campaign. He asked the officers to make a Nodal Official in each department for uploading work including updation of selfies on the website with proper specifications.

ACD, SDM Lolab, SDM Karnah, District Officers, Principals GDCs and other concerned attended the meeting.

Vice Chairman District Development Council Kupwara reviews SAMGRA Shiksha

■ **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, AUG 2: The Vice Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir Wednesday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of projects under SAMAGRA Shiksha in territorial DDC constituency Wavoor.

The Vice Chairman took work wise review of projects under SAMGRA Shiksha (2022-23 and 2023-24)

Vice Chairman asked the concerned officers and Engineers to speed up the work on Allama Anwar Shah Stadium Kulgam so that this important project is completed well in time

On the occasion the Vice Chairman directed the concerned engineers to ensure completion of all ongoing projects within the stipulated time frame.

Vice Chairman directed concerned Tehsildars and BDOs to resolve the land disputes and other issues so that different projects under SAMGRA are executed well in time.

JERC to hold public hearing on tariff petition of JKPDCL at Jammu on 3rd August

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 02: On the Tariff petition of Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Ltd. (JKPDCL), Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) is holding public hearing tomorrow on 3rd August, 2023 from 11:00 A.M to 1.00 PM in at Conference Hall of JERC, Panama Chowk, Railway Road Jammu.

In this connection, general public/organizations interested in presenting their views on the matter before the commission are invited to participate in the public hearing as per the schedule.

FRA: DC Bandipora chairs meeting of DLC; approves 36 cases

■ **HT News Network**

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 02: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad Wednesday chaired a meeting of members of District Level Committee (DLC) to discuss cases and issues related to progress/disposal of claims under Forest Rights Act.

After threadbare discussions and scrutiny of files, the committee approved 36 FRA cases for the grant of Community Rights.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that I Mohammad Amir Bhat want to apply for Date of Birth Certificate of my Son . In this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same in the office of BDO Lalpora Kunzer within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name: Ayaan Amir Bhat
S/o: Mohammad Amir Bhat
R/o: Lalpora Kunzer
Tehsil Kunzer Dist. Baramulla
D.O.B : 20-10-2020 LM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Where as my name In J&K Bank Saving Account Branch Lal Chowk Anantnag presently Mentioned as Mohammad Abid Butt. Now I Want to change it as Mohamad Aabid Bhat as per my Adhaar Card.

Now I intend to make necessary correction accordingly. Any person having any objection to it may please file his/her objections in writing before the Manager J&K bank Branch Lal Chowk Anantnag within a period of 7 days of publication of this notice failing which no any objection shall be entertained.

Name Mohammad Aabid Bhat
S/O Mohamad Yousuf Bhat
R/O Lal Chowk Anantnag



Girdawar placed under suspension at Jammu

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, AUGUST 02: In a resolute display towards zero tolerance on corruption in the delivery of public services, Girdawar, Vijay Kumar, has been placed under suspension for issuing fraudulent revenue extracts.

Following a revelation that mother-son duo in collusion with revenue officials, deceitfully not only sold a property to two different individuals in the Bakshi Nagar area of Jammu city but also raised bank loan against this sold out property, Anti-Corruption Bureau took note of this act. After thorough investigation conducted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, it was found that the then Patwari now Girdawar, was issuing fards in collusion with the private beneficiaries.

Geology & Mining Dept seizes 05 vehicles involved in illegal mining in Kathua

KATHUA, AUGUST 02: A team of Geology and Mining department led by District Mineral Officer Kathua Rajinder Singh paid a surprise visit at different locations here today.

During the visit, a total of one loaded dumper and 04 tractor trollies involved in illegal mining and illegal transportation were seized at Bharwal, Kathera, Taraf Tajwal and Basant Pur areas of the district.

District Mineral Officer informed that routine check ups and raids are being laid down in Khads and river beds during day and night hours to check illegal mining activities in ongoing monsoon season and strict action is initiated against illegal miners.

Secy Revenue interacts with newly posted Tehsildars

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, AUGUST 02: Secretary, Revenue, Dr. Pi-yush Singla today held an interaction with newly posted Tehsildars through video conferencing at Civil Secretariat here. During the interaction, Dr. Singla gave a brief outline of the online services of the department to the Tehsildars, a major initiative towards good governance and ease of conve-



nience to the citizens. He informed the Tehsildars that the department is providing 29 online services including Fard, Mutation, Land Pass Book, CLU, Prop-

erty Card, Extract of Jama-bandi/Girdawri, Domicile Certificate, registration of documents etc through <https://web.umang.gov.in/> <https://jansugam.jk.gov.in/> and <https://krevenue.nic.in/portals> and most of these services are covered under PSGA, 2011. The Secretary highlighted that Revenue department has switched over to delivery of online services to the public which has resulted into less public interface and speedy disposal of the services viz-aviz decline to corrupt practices. He further said that there is a monitoring mechanism to check the disposal viz a viz pendency.

ADDC Ganderbal chairs Bock Diwas at Manasbal

■ **HT News Network**

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 02: To have firsthand appraisal of public grievances, the District Administration Ganderbal today conducted grievances redressal camp as part of weekly Block Diwas for block Safapora at Meeting Hall of Manasbal Development Authority, Ganderbal.

The Grievances camp was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner Gan-

derbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani.

The camp witnessed overwhelming participation of individuals and PRIs of block Safapora including DDC member Safapora and BDC Chairperson Safapora who apprised the ADDC about the problems being faced by the people and genuine concerns of development. The main issues highlighted during the camp were related to augmentation of water supply and electricity infrastructure, permanent repairing of Lar canal,

better healthcare facilities, illegal mining, regularization of mineral rates, repairing of waste segregation plants and other issues of public importance. The ADDC gave a patient hearing to visiting people and passed on the spot directions to the concerned officers for early redressal of their genuine grievances pertaining to their departments. While interacting with locals, the ADDC said that District Administration is serious about resolving the issues.

Delegation Of Theatre Federation Of Kashmir Met With Director Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar.

■ **Surkhab Zehra**

Srinagar, 2nd Aug. 2023 Today, a delegation of 'Theatre Federation of Kashmir', headed by its president Mushtaque Ali Ahmad Khan, met Director Doordarshan Kendra Sinagar Ms. Rabia Rasool in her office. The delegation congratulated Ms. Rabia Rasool on taking the charge of head of the Programs.

The delegation discussed in detail the matters related to the Theatre Artists of the Valley. The response of the Ms. Rabia Rasool was very positive. She said she would do her best to support the artists connected with Theatre.

The meeting ended with the assurance of the



delegation of the 'Theatre Federation' that it would strengthen the hands of Doordarshan authorities and stand with this organisation in all the thick and

thin times. Shaikh Haneef (Vice President), Gul Javaid Khan (Member Executive Body) and Farhat Siddiqui (Treasurer) were also part of the delegation.

School Education Department Organizes Distribution cum Fitment Camp for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) in Poonch

■ **HT News Network**

POONCH, AUGUST 02: In a heartening and inclusive effort, the Department of School Education, in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) based in Kanpur, under the aegis of SAMAGRA Shiksha organized a Distribution cum Fitment Camp for children with special needs (CWSN) in the Auditorium of Degree College Poonch here today. The camp was organised to empower 202 identified Children With Special Needs studying in government schools in Poonch district. The event was graced by the presence of Mohd Ashraf Choudhary,



the Joint Director of School Education for Poonch and Rajouri, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Choudhary expressed his delight and highlighted the significance of inclusive education. He emphasized that every child, regardless of their abilities, deserves an equal opportunity to receive quality education and be an active participant

in society. In Poonch district 202 children with diverse abilities have been identified to receive assistive devices that cater to their specific needs. In today's camp Over 35 students received assistive devices and essential equipment such as wheelchairs, hearing Aids, Tricycles, Walkers, Braille Kits, KAFO (Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthosis),

Tomatoes, potatoes and eggplants are safe foods: Why you must junk online myths about alkaloids in them affecting gut health

With a surfeit of dietary adviso-ries in social media that are not based on nutritional logic or scientific evidence, the latest punditry warns people against the use of nightshades – a family of plants containing alkaloids that comprises potatoes, eggplants, bell peppers, chillies and tomatoes. Although we cannot imagine our diet without them, some celebrities and influencers are recommending that we first reduce and then eliminate them from our diet entirely due to the “toxins” that are causing food intolerance in people. The truth is quite the opposite. In fact, there is no scientific evidence to prove that their consumption has side effects in the body. Besides, they contain two important food groups that are becoming crucial to metabolic health, fibres and micro-nutrients.

POTATOES

Nightshade is a family of plants containing solanine, a bitter-tasting steroidal alkaloid saponin, which plants develop organically to protect themselves from pests. Now some alkaloids have positive effects on human health, and few others can affect it negatively. For example, the chemicals found in tobacco plants can cause cancer. However, the most widely-ingested solanine is through the consumption of potatoes in the diet. The potato stem and leaves contain a series of alkaloid glycosides whereas the tubers and peel contain only a small amount of solanine and the flesh (which we are concerned about) contains none. The only risk comes from eating green potatoes. Greening/ sprouting occurs when the tubers are exposed to light or adverse climatic conditions. Initially, this occurs at sites such as ‘eyes’, also known as potato eye. Common side effects experienced with excessive



There is no scientific evidence to prove that alkaloids in our familiar vegetables, which we consume in their ripest form, are harmful. Besides, frying destroys most alkaloids. Don't overlook their nutritional benefits, says Bhakti Samant, Chief Dietician, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai

consumption of this kind of solanine are nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach cramps, burning of the throat, heart arrhythmia, headache and dizziness.

But in reality, solanine poisoning is very rare as the most common practice is to remove the green peels and sprouts before

cooking, which is the best practice. Besides, our cooking process involves frying that reduces levels of solanine. Even theoretically, a raw green potato just has one tenth of a dose that might be considered toxic in humans. Food safety studies have documented that consumption of up to 5 g of

green potato per kg body weight per day does not appear to cause acute illness.

Why would you then want to eliminate potatoes from your diet considering their other benefits? For example, they have resistant starch and fibre, which lend satiety and slow down post-meal sugar spikes, and hence are good in the management of diabetes. They are rich in potassium and vitamin C, which boosts our immunity.

BRINJAL

The solanine content of ripe brinjal is very low. Boiling decreases the solanine content by up to three per cent. The microwave cooking process may decrease the solanine content by up to 15 per cent. But solanine can be completely destroyed by frying. Besides, one has to really have a very high consumption of semi-cooked brinjal at a time to observe any side effects.

TOMATOES

Influencers argue that the substance called tomatine could cause digestive problems. Just to put things in perspective, the levels of tomatine of a luscious ripe tomato are extremely low, insignificant enough to matter at all. Tomato levels are higher in unripe tomatoes or tomato leaves and you would have to go against your habit and have these in really large quantities and wait to see if they have an effect. Besides, there is no study yet which confirms that even ingesting the green variety and leaves can make you sick. In 2000, a study found that laboratory animals, who ingested tomatine, passed it out of their system unabsorbed. In fact, this alkaloid binds to LDL cholesterol in the digestive system and takes it out through the excreta. Remember that tomatoes are a key source of antioxidants, vitamin C and potassium.

NEWS

The MIND Diet Actually Boosts Brain Health



The MIND diet, short for the Mediterranean-DASH Diet Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay, is a hybrid dietary pattern developed by researchers at Rush University Medical Center. It combines elements of the Mediterranean diet and the DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet, both of which are known for their health benefits.

The MIND diet emphasises specific foods that have been linked to promoting brain health and reducing the risk of cognitive decline and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease. It includes the food groups such as whole grains, leafy and other healthy vegetables, berries, legumes, nuts, poultry, fish, olive oil and even moderate consumption of wine. Read on was we explain the MIND diet's benefits on the brain.

1. Reduced risk of Alzheimer's disease

The MIND diet, which combines elements of the Mediterranean diet with the DASH diet (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension), has been shown to reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease by up to 53%.

2. Antioxidant-rich foods

The MIND diet emphasises consuming antioxidant-rich foods like berries, leafy greens, and nuts that help protect the brain cells from damage caused by free radicals.

3. Omega-3 fatty acids

The diet encourages the consumption of fatty fish like salmon, which is rich in omega-3 fatty acids. These fatty acids play a crucial role in brain health, improving cognitive function, and reducing the risk of neurodegenerative diseases.

4. Reduced inflammation

The MIND diet promotes foods that are associated with reduced inflammation, such as olive oil, green leafy vegetables, and nuts. Chronic inflammation has been linked to an increased risk of cognitive decline and neurodegenerative diseases.

5. Increased intake of brain-healthy nutrients

The diet encourages the consumption of foods rich in brain-healthy nutrients, such as vitamin E, folate, and B vitamins. These nutrients are essential for maintaining cognitive function and reducing the risk of cognitive decline.

6. Improved blood flow

Foods like whole grains and dark chocolate, which are part of the MIND diet, help improve blood flow to the brain. This can enhance cognitive function and support overall brain health.

How nutrition and a healthy lifestyle can prevent NCDs among adolescents

Adolescence is a crucial phase of life where individuals undergo rapid physical, emotional and cognitive changes as it is during this period that habits are formed, shaping the trajectory of one's health and well-being in the years to come hence, the significance of nutrition and a healthy lifestyle plays a pivotal role in preventing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among adolescents. NCDs including diabetes are a really huge and growing problem in India and the latest ICMR

study shows that there are a staggering 100 million diabetics and 139 million pre-diabetics, up from only 4 years ago but we know these diseases are largely preventable and we know from landmark studies and the WHO that 80% of type 2 diabetes is preventable with 3 lifestyle changes – one must eat right, increase physical activity and avoid tobacco. In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Rajeev Gupta, Director - Internal Medicine at CK Birla Hospital in Delhi, shared, “Nutrition serves as the



foundation for optimal growth and development during adolescence. A well-balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains,

lean proteins, and healthy fats provides essential nutrients, vitamins, and minerals necessary for the body's proper functioning.

It not only fuels physical activities but also supports cognitive abilities and emotional well-being.”

Talking about how adopting a healthy lifestyle is pivotal in reducing the risk of NCDs, he said, “Regular physical activity promotes cardiovascular fitness, strengthens bones, and improves mental health. Engaging in activities such as sports, yoga, or even brisk walking not only helps maintain a healthy weight but also reduces the likelihood of developing conditions like obesity, dia-

betes, and hypertension. Equally important is recognising the detrimental effects of unhealthy lifestyle choices.” He cautioned, “Excessive consumption of sugary beverages, processed foods, and fast food, combined with a sedentary lifestyle spent glued to screens, can pave the way for a multitude of NCDs. Empowering adolescents with knowledge about nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices is paramount. By encouraging them to make informed decisions.

Drinking Kombucha May Help Reduce Blood Sugar Levels for People with Type 2 Diabetes

A new small study suggests drinking kombucha every day may help lower blood sugar levels in people who are living with type 2 diabetes.

After drinking a cup of kombucha daily for four weeks, participants' average fasting blood glucose levels decreased from 164 to 116 milligrams per deciliter. Previous research suggests drinking kombucha may have additional health benefits for people living with type 2 diabetes, including reducing cardiovascular risks and insulin resistance. Drinking kombucha every day may help lower blood sugar levels in people with type 2 diabetes. That's according to a new study published in the journal Frontiers in Nutrition.

Researchers at Georgetown University's School of Health the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and MedStar Health report that four weeks of drinking fermented tea (kombucha) is associated with lower (fasting) blood sugar levels in people with type 2 diabetes.

They say in a press release these findings suggest larger trials are warranted to confirm the potential benefits of drinking kombucha to reduce blood sugar levels in people with type 2 diabetes. What the findings from this study suggest about the link between kombucha and managing blood sugar levels? This groundbreaking study unveils the initial evidence



of kombucha's potential to lower blood sugar levels in individuals with type 2 diabetes, however, further research is necessary to validate and build upon these results,” says Kelsey Costa, MS, RDN, a dietician representing the National Coalition on Healthcare (NCHC). “I think the study's findings show a marked improvement in the fasting blood sugar levels of those with type 2 diabetes,” says Amy Kimberlain, RDN, CDCES, a dietitian, certified diabetes care and education specialist, and Academy Media spokesperson. Researchers looked at the effects that drinking a cup of kombucha daily for four weeks had on blood sugar. The data demonstrated that the kombucha lowered average fasting blood glucose levels from 164 to 116 milligrams per deciliter while the difference after four

weeks with the placebo was not statistically significant. The American Diabetes Association recommends blood sugar levels before meals be between 80 to 130 milligrams per deciliter. The study had a total of 12 participants and was a crossover study, so each group received both the placebo and the kombucha for four weeks all while monitoring their levels. The study authors say there was a two-month pause period in between each trial session to ‘wash out’ any biological effects of the beverages. Costa tells Healthline that although this pilot study was small in scale, the findings hold promise and align with the scientific understanding regarding the functional properties and potential of kombucha's components in lowering blood sugar levels.

Margot Robbie and ‘Barbie’ Cast Drank Milk Thistle Tea for Glowing Skin. Does It Work?

Milk thistle may help tackle some skin concerns, including signs of aging and acne.

The plant is also known to be highly beneficial for liver function.

While side effects are rare, people should still exercise caution before drinking milk thistle.

From weekly facials and chemical peels to IPL and laser therapies, Hollywood A-listers use all kinds of treatments to keep their skin fresh and glowing.

But there's a new player brewing in popularity: milk thistle tea.

Jasmine Vico, a London-based skin health specialist, worked with the Barbie movie cast to ensure their skin was beautifully doll-like before and during filming.

In a recent Vogue interview, Vico revealed that part of the skincare routine she established for Margot Robbie and co. involved drinking milk thistle tea.

Originating from the Mediterranean, milk thistle is a plant that's been used in herbal medicines for



centuries.

“What was once thought of as an invasive weed has tremendous therapeutic properties,” said Dr. Nav-Nirat Nibber, ND, senior medical advisor at AOR.

However, the beneficial active compounds are “concentrated in seeds, with some in fruits and leaves,” she explained to Healthline. “So, tea should contain the seed – [and] the longer we steep, the more potent the actives are.” But exactly how can milk thistle benefit our skin and wider well-being?

Ways that milk thistle can help the skin

Milk thistle is far from the first plant to be incorporated into skincare products, but its natural ingredients rival those in

best-selling facial creams and serums.

Found within the plant are myriad active compounds, minerals, and vitamins, all of which can aid in treating concerns such as redness, acne, wrinkles, and dryness.

The key to milk thistle's skin-boosting powers are antioxidants—including a potent and unique antioxidant called silymarin.

“Silymarin is a flavonoid with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties,” said Dr. Allison Leer, a board-certified dermatologist and co-founder of Unity Skincare. Antioxidants are particularly important as they “help reduce the negative effects of free radicals,” she told Healthline. Free radicals are

molecules that damage the body's cells – and, when this occurs in the skin, signs of aging begin to arise.

In addition to acting as an antioxidant, silymarin “can increase the activity of superoxide dismutase and other enzymes in the body,” said Dr. Naana Boakye, MPH, FAAD, a board-certified dermatologist. Superoxide dismutase is found naturally in the body and works to target free radicals.

As for silymarin's anti-inflammatory properties, these “help with certain skin conditions, such as redness or acne,” Leer shared. One study Trusted Source found that taking silybin orally (albeit in supplement form rather than tea) for eight weeks significantly reduced signs of acne. However, silymarin also aids the skin by route of the liver. By helping restore and repair cells in this organ, silymarin can “indirectly impact the skin by improving cell turnover and supporting the health of skin cells,” said Dr. Rahi Sarbaziha, an integrative aesthetics doctor based.

North Kashmir Premiere League Baramulla 2023

Showkat, Imran, Irfaaq Shine
Affarwat-XI Thrash Panthers Tangmarg By 96-Runs

■ Lone Musaib

BARAMULLA: Stunning allround performance of Affarwat-XI Sports Club Baramulla led them to a thumping victory by huge margin of 96-runs over Panthers Tangmarg at Jehlum Stadium Baramulla here.

After being put to bat first, Affarwat-XI Sports Club Baramulla set a total off 172 runs on board for the loss of 9 wickets in allotted 20 overs. Irfaaq Khan was the highest scorer

with knock off 36 runs while Ashiq added 28 runs, Tanveer Ahmad 27 runs Imran Manzoor 25 and Sajid Saleem added 18 runs for Affarwat-XI Sports Club Baramulla.

Majid and Shameem Ahmad took 3 and 2-Wickets respectively for Panthers Tangmarg.

In reply Panthers Tangmarg were bundled out for 76 runs in 12.1 overs. Danish Malik added quick fire 22 runs for Panthers Tangmarg and remain the highest scorer for his team.

Showkat Bhat took 3 wickets, Rizwan Wani 2 Wickets while Faizan Steyn, Bashir Ahmad, Imran Manzoor and Sahir Manzoor one wicket each for Affarwat-XI Sports Club Baramulla. Showkat Bhat was declared player of the match for his great bowling spell while Irfaaq Khan bagged Super Sixer Award and Imran Manzoor received Game Changer Award for their splendid performances. The tournament is organised by Baramulla Cricket Forum.

England lose 19 WTC points and Australia ten for slow over-rates during the Ashes

NEW DELHI: England and Australia have been docked 19 and ten World Test Championship (WTC) points respectively for their slow over-rates over the course of the five-Test Ashes series, which ended 2-2.

At the end of the series, England were found to have been behind the ask in four of the five Tests: by two overs in the first Test at Edgbaston, nine in the second at Lord's, three in the fourth at Old Trafford, and five in the last Test at The Oval.

As for Australia, they did fine in four of the Tests, but were ten overs short at Old Trafford.

As a result, England ended the series with just nine WTC points (24 for two wins and four for one draw, minus 19 for the over-rate penalties), and Australia 18 points (24 for two wins and four for the draw, minus ten). That left Australia at No. 3 on the WTC table, with 30 percentage points, behind Pakistan (100) and India (66.67), while England were at No. 5, below West Indies (16.67) with 15 points.

The latest over-rate sanctions for Test cricket, announced at the ICC annual conference in Durban on July 13 this year, are that a team will be fined five per



cent of their match fee and one WTC point for each over they are found short by.

England also had a rough time of it with the fines. While Australia were handed a 50% (for ten overs) fine for the Old Trafford Test, England were fined 10%, 45%, 15% and 25% for the four Tests they fell short in, respectively.

The penalties have complicated the two team's paths to the WTC final. India, who finished second on the 2021-23 WTC table, qualified for the final having won 58.8% of the points they contested. Keeping in mind

60% as a rough target for qualifying for the 2025 final, England would need 151 further points from their remaining 16 Tests - which would mean roughly 11 wins and three draws, or 12 wins (and no further points penalties, needless to say).

Australia would need 137 points to get to a roughly 60% mark, which would mean 10 wins, or nine wins and three draws, or eight wins and six draws.

In comparison, India - who have won one and drawn one of their two Tests so far in this cycle - will need a further 121

points from their remaining 17 Tests to get to the 60% mark. That's just over seven points per Test, a far less daunting task than England's 9.4 points per Test (A win gives a team 12 points, a tie six points, a draw four points, and a defeat zero points).

Speaking before the final Ashes Test, Pat Cummins had said, "This series has been a bit of an outlier I think. We haven't had any over-rate sanctions over the last few years until this series. It feels like this one has been played at a different pace. It's something we need to speak about in ODI cricket as well, when you're setting fields the time can run out pretty quickly."

"It feels like there's different plans every second over, or every over, every couple of balls. One batter might have a totally different plan to another one. So there's lots of field movement. [There is] a lot more fast-bowling overs than there ever has been. No Nathan Lyon [from the third Ashes Test onwards]. A combination of those things."

"This series is maybe that little bit higher-pressure, and it's not only the fielding side but you see the batters taking that little bit of extra time."

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