

Rahul, Shreyas And Tilak
 Make It To India's Asia
 Cup Squad

Pj12

All India Radio To Host
 Level Pahadi Poetic
 Symposium At LoC In
 Karnah

Pj3

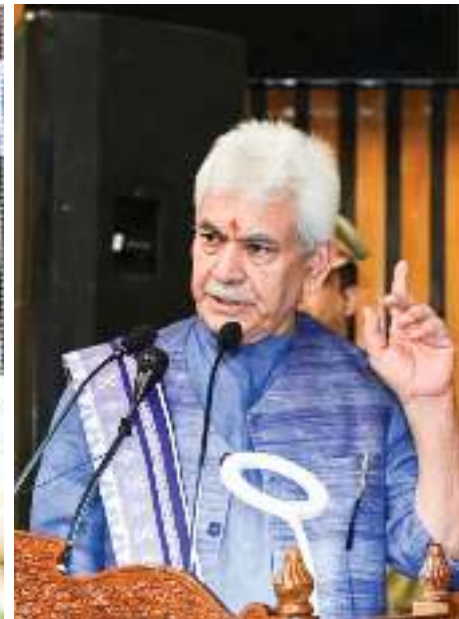


"Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji has given us a vision of 'Gram Uday se Bharat Uday'"

Panchayats Playing Pivotal Role for Prosperity in Rural India: LG Manoj Sinha

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 21: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the inaugural session of the 3-day National Workshop on 'Panchayat with Good Governance' earlier today. Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh, joined the conference virtually. "Meri Panchayat App"-an integrated and unified m-governance platform was also launched on the occasion. Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh commended the UT Administration for its efforts in strengthening the three-tier Panchayati Raj System in J&K. He said initiatives like "Meri Panchayat" App are the new form of good governance and digital India to empower rural India.



TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Era Of "Corruption And Scams" Before 2014: PM Modi

HT News Network

BHOPAL, AUG 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said there was an era of "corruption and scams" before 2014 and the rights of the poor and their money were robbed, but now every penny is reaching into their accounts directly. The data shows an increasing number of people are paying taxes, which shows their faith in the government that their money is being put to good use, Modi said. He was virtually addressing the training-cum-orientation programme of newly appointed teachers at the CM Rise Government Mahat-



ma Gandhi Higher Secondary School in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal. The PM said positive news has started coming up in the first year of "Amrit Kaal" itself, which shows the increasing prosperity and decreasing poverty. "The NITI Aayog report said that 13.50 crore Indians have come out of BPL (below poverty line) category in five years. The number of Income Tax returns shows that the average income of Indians has increased during the past nine years to Rs 13 lakh from Rs 4 lakh in 2014," he said.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Infiltration bid foiled in Balakote, 2 terrorists killed

JAMMU, AUG 21: Indian Army on Monday foiled an infiltration bid by neutralizing two terrorists in Balakote Sector of Poonch district in Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu based Defence Spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel, Suneel Bartwal said that based on inputs received from multiple intelligence agencies and police revealed the presence of terrorists waiting to cross the Line of Control (LoC) from opposite own Balakote Sector.

"Based on these inputs own surveillance grid was placed on heightened alert and multiple ambushes were sited at suitable location," said the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

ACB Arrests 2 Persons Including FCI Godown Owner In Budgam For 'Accepting Bribe'

SRINAGAR, AUG 21: Anti-corruption Bureau on Monday said to have arrested an FCI godown owner alongside a weigher for "accepting bribe in lieu of unloading of a truck".

"A complainant approached the Anti Corruption Bureau with a written complaint against the office bearers of FCI Godown Chandpora Budgam, alleging demand of bribes from the complainant for unloading his truck. The truck is associated with transportation of food-grain for FCI and had arrived at FCI Godown, Chandpora

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

'The Kashmir Walla' blocked by IT Ministry

SRINAGAR, AUG 21: News outlet 'The Kashmir Walla' has alleged that the government has blocked its website and other social media accounts including the 'X' platform, formerly known as Twitter.

The Kashmir Walla in a statement said that it is an independent news site based in Srinagar that has been covering developments in Jammu and Kashmir without fear or favour for more than 12 years.

"For the past 18 months, however, we've lived a horrifying nightmare - with the arrest and imprisonment of our founder-editor, Fahad Shah, and the harassment of our reporters and staff, amid an already inhospitable

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

'Eye flu' rises with over 21,000 cases in J&K

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 21: Hospitals in



Jammu and Kashmir continue to receive patients complaining of irritation, redness, swelling and itching in their eyes with rise in 'eye flu' patients.

Doctors from Kashmir and Jammu divisions told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that cases of conjunctivitis, popularly known as 'eye flu', are on the rise.

They, however, said there is no need to worry as it goes away in one to two weeks.

An official from the Directorate of Health Services Jammu told KNO that 12,598 cases of conjunctivitis were reported in Jammu division including GMC Jammu.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Some vested interest elements hell-bent to deface natural beauty of Sonamarg

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, AUG 21: Despite clear-cut orders from the top court that no construction should be permitted at the picturesque tourist resort of Sonamarg, the illegal constructions are going on dozens of influential people have occupied the state land.

Local sources said that scores of 'dhokas' have come up in the middle of the Sonamarg. "Adjacent the path leading towards Thajwas Glacier has been occupied by some influential people who not only have erected dhokas but are intend-



ing to construct hotels as well. They have unloaded the construction material and even have erected a washroom," they said adding this place is known as 'Gada Kuli'.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Field visit/ Survey on Current Status of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner Infestation in Kashmir held

Team observes varying levels of infestation of ALBM in managed/ unmanaged apple orchards

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 21: A team from Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, Faridabad, Ministry of Agricul-

ture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India along with team of Scientists from Division of Entomology, Faculty of Horticulture, and SKUAST-K; Head KVK Pulwama; Head KVK Anantnag and Department of Horticulture, J&K visited ACHD Zainapora, Babapora, Awaneera and Wachi villages of Shopian and Kangukullah village of Kulgam on 17th August, 2023, Gopalpora, Achabal, Kulgad villages of Anantnag and Khandeypora, Chakoora, Wasoora villages of

Pulwama on 18th August, 2023, Nasrullah Pora village of Budgam on 19th August, 2023 to check the occurrence/infestation of apple leaf blotch miner (ALBM) under special survey.

The team from Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, Faridabad, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India comprising Dr. V.D. Nigam, DD RCIPMC Faridabad, Dr. Mithlesh Kumar Arya, AD CIPMC Jammu,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Labourers Find Ak-47 rifles in Surankote Poonch, Handover it to Police

HT News Network

POONCH, AUG 21: Labourers on Monday found a rusted Ak-47 rifle while extracting sand from a river and handed over it to police in Surankote area in Poonch district. Official sources told that at 1830 hours, some labourers were extracting the sand from Surankote river near Dhundak bridge and all of sudden they found the old rusted AK-47. Subsequently, they said, the labourers informed the police station Surankote and a police party alongwith Army reached on spot and took possession of the rifle. (GNS)

India, China Continue Discussions To Resolve Issues In Eastern Ladakh

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, AUG 21: In what could be a positive signal towards resolution of long pending issues between them, armies of India and China are holding 'marathon discussions' to resolve the long pending issues in Demchok and Depsang plains.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Need For Greater Coordination Between Gram, Block, Zila Panchayats: Giriraj Singh

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, AUG 21: Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh on Monday called for greater coordination between village, block and district panchayats, and called upon representatives from the local bodies to ensure that sustainable development goals are met.

Virtually addressing a National Thematic Workshop on Localization

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Bandipora woman emerges as beacon of success in Sheep farming, inspires others

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, AUG 21: A 33-year-old Mumtaza Begum from the Watrina in North Kashmir's Bandipora district has emerged as a beacon of success in the realm of sheep farming.

Overcoming adversity and the challenge of leaving college at a young age, her journey is an embodiment of turning dreams into reality through

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Panchayats.....

In his address, the Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha welcomed the representatives of Panchayats, stakeholders and domain experts from across the country to Jammu Kashmir.

He said the deliberations on exemplary strategies, convergent actions and best practices aligned with Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals over the three days will make the governance at Panchayat level more effective and efficient.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has given us a vision of 'Gram Uday se Bharat Uday' and it should be our sincere efforts to realise the limitless potential and possibilities of rural areas, to change the destiny of the country," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor shared the efforts of the UT Government in the last three years to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

"Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved through transforming the villages and making them Aatma-Nirbhar. It is our firm resolve to make the PRIs empowered, stronger and ensure their increased participation in development initiatives," the Lt Governor said.

We are making endeavours to transform Panchayats into the centers of economic activities and prosperity, he said.

The development projects are being taken as per the needs of the people and completed at a faster pace. Infrastructure development is bridging the gap between rural and urban J&K and timely completion of projects shows our rural society is becoming prosperous and growth is inclusive and sustainable, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor also appealed to the people and all the stakeholder departments to work together on Panchayat Level indicators for the good governance. He said the government is ensuring necessary resources as well as giving Panchayats the responsibility of implementation to strengthen the solid foundation of inclusive development.

The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration towards the welfare of the last man in the queue and improving the standard of living of rural population.

We are working together to take necessary steps for effective and seamless public service delivery as well as benefits of government schemes and programmes to fulfill the aspirations of all the villages, he said.

Self-employment schemes and Self Help Groups founded and run by rural women have immense potential for making rural society self-reliant and to increase household incomes by creating more opportunities for employment and self-employment at the grassroots level, the Lt Governor said.

In order to meet the housing needs of the poor, we have taken a concrete initiative to provide land to landless and a pucca house, he added.

Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Sh Kapil Moreshwar Patil, in his address stressed on the collective efforts of all stakeholders towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The occasion also marked the release of Operating Guidelines of National Capability Building Framework for PRIs, and Service level Benchmarks and Model Contracts for Gram Panchayats for Water Supply and Sanitation.

DDC Chairpersons; Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Sunil Kumar, Union Secretary, Panchayati Raj, Ms. Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and PRI members from J&K and across the country were present.

Era Of.....

People are shifting from lower to upper income groups, he added..

Modi said that data shows all sectors are getting strength and generating employment opportunities.

"The faith of citizens has been increasing. They are coming up to deposit their tax with the faith that their every penny will be spent on the country's development," he said.

The country's economy has now reached the 5th spot in the world from 10th position in 2014, he said.

"The rights of the poor and their money were being looted even before reaching their accounts before 2014 in the era of corruption and scams. Now, every penny is reaching their accounts directly," the PM said.

The stopping of "leakage in the system" means more money being spent on the welfare of the poor, he said. (Agencies)

'Eye flu'.....

Giving further details, he said so far 3,481 cases have been reported in Jammu district, 575 in Doda, 1,714 in Kathua, 485 in Kishtwar, 799 in Poonch, 913 in Rajouri,

731 in Ramban, 380 in Reasi, 1,352 in Samba, 765 in Udhampur and 1,403 in GMC Jammu.

The spokesperson of Directorate of Health Services Kashmir Dr Mr Mushtaq told KNO that so far 8,533 cases of 'eye flu' have been reported in Kashmir hospitals coming under the DHSK's control.

Giving further details, he said that so far 399 cases have been reported in Kulgam district, 545 in Kupwara, 1,380 in Pulwama, 798 in Shopian, 1,043 in Srinagar, 1503 in Anantnag, 31 in Bandipora, 1415 in Baramulla, 1,004 in Budgam and 415 in Ganderbal.

The doctors said it is a "self-limiting infection" and each individual's immunity will have a role to play in the course of the disease.

The monsoon's humid and damp conditions provide an ideal breeding ground for viruses or bacteria responsible for these infections to spread rapidly, they said.

The flu can infect any person of any age group and to stop the spread of the infection, touching eyes should be avoided, especially unwashed hands. They advised for maintaining optimal hygiene and frequent hand washing with soap for at least 20 seconds, particularly after touching the face or contaminated surfaces

They added that with timely treatment and preventive measures, the eye flu spread can be stopped.

They further added that an ophthalmologist must be consulted if there is severe eye pain, blurring of vision, sensitivity to light associated with throat pain and fever and if the symptoms go worse and don't improve after 24 hours.

Some vested.....

Sources told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that earlier the authorities had demolished these structures, however, these people they said enjoy the patronage of a politician and are now again trying to construct the hotels on state land.

"This is a no construction zone and still vested interest elements take advantage of their connections and deface the beauty of this tourist resort," they said and sought intervention from the LG administration.

They said a vast chunk of state land has been grabbed by influential people.

Local sources said if the authorities don't wake up, in coming years, Sonamarg tourist resort will lose its sheen. This year the natural beauty of Sonamarg attracted the attention of thousands of tourists but the unscrupulous elements are hell-bent to deface this natural beauty for their own benefit.

Field visit/ Survey.....

Sh. Haroon Rashid Hakla, APPO (PP) CIPMC Srinagar and Kawal Nain Singh, SA CIPMC Srinagar along with a team of Scientists from Division of Entomology, Faculty of Horticulture, and SKUAST-K; Dr. Barkat Hussain (Professor); Dr. Abu Manzer (Professor); Dr. Khurshid Ahmed Assistant Professor, ARS Pahnoo; Dr. Mudasir Gani Assistant Professor ; Head KVK Pulwama; Head KVK Anantnag and Department of Horticulture, J&K (Mohd Shafi Dar and other officials) took stock of the situation and interacted with farmers about the level/year of infestation, management strategies adopted and the involvement of Govt. agencies in eradication of this insect pest.

The team observed that there are varying levels of infestation of ALBM in managed/unmanaged apple orchards of these areas, maximum infestation was observed in unmanaged orchards while as less infestation in managed orchards and farmers are adopting management strategies as per SKUAST-K and Department of Horticulture.

India, China.....

Sources in the defence establishment said that the Major General-level talks at Daulat Beg Oldie and Chushul to resolve the ongoing stand-off in Eastern Ladakh have been on since Friday morning with breaks with an objective to address the pending issues.

The two sides have held 19 rounds of talks so far to address the boundary issues in Eastern Ladakh since 2020 post-Chinese aggression there.

As part of the follow-up on discussions at Corps Commander level talks, the Indian Army and their Chinese counterparts are holding the Maj Gen-level talks.

The Indian side is being represented by Trishul Division Commander Maj Gen PK Mishra and Uniform Force Commander Maj Gen Hariharan at two different locations.

The talks are based on the outcome of the 19th round of Corps Commander-level talks held between the two sides on August 13,14 at the Chushul Moldo border meeting point.

The two sides are discussing points about resolving legacy issues including resumption of patrolling in the Depsang plains and the issue of Chinese military presence at the CNN junction.

India and China have been in a stand-off situation for the last three years and

relations at all levels have deteriorated due to the tensions on borders.

India and China have deployed over 50,000 troops in the Eastern Ladakh sector across the Line of Actual Control.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval had held extensive talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and after that, only the 19th round of corps commander talks were held after a four-month gap. (Agencies)

Need For.....

of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) in panchayats being held in Srinagar, Singh said the 'Meri Panchayat Mobile app' launched on Monday will help increase transparency in the work of panchayati raj institutions. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Kapil Moreshwar Patil attended the event.

Singh lauded Sinha for the panchayat polls being held in the Union territory, and said local governance institutions will play a major role in writing India's development story. "We want our panchayats to be technologically enabled. This app is a new beginning in this direction," the minister said.

"The Modi government has a target to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations by 2030. It is also the responsibility of panchayat representatives. People who voted for you are looking at you," he said. Singh said making a panchayat prosperous is the responsibility of the sarpanch, and said information of all activities being undertaken by a panchayat should be uploaded on the App.

The minister also stressed on increasing the coordination between the different tiers of the panchayati raj system, adding that it has never been done before. The panchayati raj system in India has three tiers – the gram panchayats at the village level, the mandal parishad or block samiti or panchayat samiti at block level and the zila parishad or district panchayat at district level.

The rural development minister also said panchayats will play a huge role in making India carbon neutral by 2030. Around 1,000 elected representatives and functionaries of panchayati raj institutions from across the country, including from Jammu and Kashmir, will attend the national workshop. Panchayats that have taken initiatives in thematic areas have been invited to participate in the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop will be exhibiting the best strategies, approaches, convergent actions and innovative models in the context of capacity building & training. The workshop also aims to reflect on the themes of SDGs in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

Speaking on the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day, the minister said the aim is to meet the target of the scheme by December 2023.

The government is planning skill development training for two crore women under the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme that aims to encourage them to start micro-enterprises. (Agencies)

Bandipora woman.....

her flourishing sheep farming venture. "My desire to lead a fulfilled life was never quelled, despite having to leave college early. The flames of my aspiration to create a successful career continued to burn," Mumtaza told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). She said that despite limited options due to financial and societal constraints, her attention turned towards sheep farming, a field her family dabbled in modestly with around 10-15 sheep.

"Yet, her ambitions stretched beyond this modest scale. Her vision encompassed expanding her flock size and establishing a thriving commercial livestock enterprise," she said.

Guided by the Department of Sheep Husbandry in Bandipora, she said that she took a pivotal step by applying for the Subsidy-based State-sponsored scheme called 'Mini Sheep Farms.' "In February 2019, I was selected for the sheep unit under this program and allocated a unit of 50 sheep," she said.

"My journey began with a series of challenges stemming from the labor-intensive nature of sheep farming and my limited experience," she said, adding that yet, her unwavering dedication, resilience, and hard work propelled her forward, leading to significant accomplishments over the years.

Mumtaza, the educated lady, attributes a substantial portion of her success to the consistent support of her husband, a steadfast source of motivation and emotional strength throughout her entrepreneurial voyage.

"Behind every successful woman stands a supportive husband. Much of my achievements wouldn't have been feasible without his steadfast encouragement. Through thick and thin, he's been my rock," Mumtaza expressed.

She highlighted the crucial role a

supportive spouse plays, especially for female entrepreneurs who juggle both business endeavors and the responsibility of raising a family.

In her journey, Mumtaza recognizes the indispensable role played by the Department of Sheep Husbandry in helping her surmount the obstacles along her path to triumph.

Venturing into sheep farming has substantially enhanced her life, bringing a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction. With her family's unwavering backing, she tirelessly works to encourage other women, urging them to seize every available opportunity to uplift their socio-economic status.

"I've found profound contentment. I work tirelessly, leveraging the full support of my family. My message to all women is to harness the opportunities presented to them and strive for a better socio-economic standing. The satisfaction lies in proving to oneself and others that one can indeed improve their circumstances," she said.

Presently, she presides over a thriving sheep farm with more than 210 sheep, generating an annual net income of over five lakh rupees. "The majority of my sheep are sold as sacrificial animals during Eid ul Azha, contributing to her success," she added.

Furthermore, her enterprise has generated job opportunities for several young people, fostering local economic growth and community development.

Infiltration bid.....

spokesman. He said that on Monday morning, two terrorists were detected by alert troops to be making attempts to cross the LoC onto own side making use of inclement weather, dense fog, thick foliage and undulating ground in Hamirpur area of Balakote Sector.

"As the terrorists approached own ambush sites, they were challenged and then engaged with effective fire," he said.

Suneel Bartwal added that this forced the terrorists to flee from the ambush site by making use of weather and ground conditions and however, effective fire resulted in one terrorist falling down on the ground near the LoC.

"Additional troops were then moved into the area and search operations commenced in the afternoon after improvement of weather conditions and visibility," he said.

The Spokesman said that the search of the area, it led to the recovery of an AK-47 rifle with two magazines, 30 rounds, two grenades and Pak origin medicines.

"During the search, blood trails leading towards LoC were also detected. As per intelligence inputs, the two terrorists who attempted to infiltrate were injured due to fire from own troops, but still managed to return across the fence and later they succumbed to their injuries," he added.

Own troops continue to remain on alert and maintain vigil to foil any attempts of infiltration.

ACB Arrests.....

with a load of rice on 12-08-2023. Since then the truck had not been unloaded and the office bearers had finally told the complainant to approach Godown owner and Tajamul Hassan Shah, Weigher", said.

The complainant, the statement said, accordingly approached the Godown Owner, who told him to deposit an amount of ₹1500 into his bank account. Further, the Weigher told him to pay a bribe of ₹3500 before his truck could be unloaded. The complainant however, chose not to pay a bribe and approached ACB Srinagar for taking legal action against the accused as provided under law.

"On receipt of the complaint, a Case FIR No. 16/2023 U/S 7, 7A of PC Act 1988 was registered with PS ACB Srinagar and investigation taken up", read the statement.

"During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted by this Bureau. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused Weigher red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of ₹3500 from the complainant. The money was recovered from the accused on the spot. Moreover, before receiving a receipt of transported food-grain, the driver was asked by the Godown Owner to deposit an amount of ₹1500 into his bank account."

"The accused Godown Owner has been identified as Ab Majeed Sheikh S/o Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh R/o Firdousabad, Batamalo Srinagar,

Proprietor Sheikh Suppliers and Contractors while as weigher has been identified Tajamul Hassan Shah S/O Ghulam Hassan Shah R/O Dharmuna Budgam", read the statement.

"On the spot, there were several other drivers available, who transport food-grain for FCI. They were examined and it came to the surface that all the drivers were forced to pay bribes before their trucks were unloaded. The drivers on the spot complained that they are extorted money at all the Godowns of FCI especially Lethpora, and otherwise their trucks are not unloaded timely and are made to wait long. Almost all the drivers available on the spot have paid some amount to the Godown owner and weigher by one or the other way".

"Some of the drivers showed mPay screen shots depicting transfer of ₹3000 each into the bank account of accused Abdul Majeed."

"It is pertinent to note that the Godown owner Ab Majeed Sheikh, is accused in ₹30 crore fraud of J&K Bank. In connection with bank fraud ACB has charge-sheeted the accused in ACB case FIR No. 06/2019 of PS ACB Anantnag", read the statement.

"Further investigation into the case is going on. Role of the other involved persons associated with FCI Godown Chandpora is being investigated. More arrests are expected to follow in the instant case", concluded the statement.

'The Kashmir.....

climate for journalism in the region," the news outlet stated.

The statement reads that "on Saturday, August 19, 2023, we woke up to another deadly blow of finding access to our website and social media accounts blocked."

"When we contacted our server provider on Saturday morning to ask why thekashmirwalla.com was inaccessible, they informed us that our website has been blocked in India by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under the IT Act, 2000."

"Next, we discovered that our Facebook page – with nearly half a million followers – had been removed. As had our Twitter account. "in response to a legal demand." In tandem with this move, we have also now been served an eviction notice by the landlord of our office in Srinagar and we are in the process of evicting the office."

"Fahad Shah, our founder-editor, was arrested in February 2022 over the coverage of a gunfight. It was the beginning of the saga of his revolving door arrests. He went on to be arrested five times within four months. Three FIRs under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and one Public Safety Act have been registered against him."

"In April 2022, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) raided our office and Shah's home in Srinagar for an investigation into an opinion piece published 11 years ago, in 2011. During the raid, most of our gadgets were seized, reporters were interrogated, and all documents were scrutinized. Since then, our interim editor has been summoned and questioned by the SIA multiple times. Shah remains imprisoned in this case in Jammu's Kot Bhalwal jail - 300 kms away from home."

"The statement from The Kashmir Walla states that Sajad Gul, who worked briefly with us as a trainee reporter, remains in a prison in Uttar Pradesh under the Public Safety Act. He was initially arrested in January 2022.

"We are not aware of the specifics of why our website has been blocked in India; why our Facebook page has been removed; and why our Twitter account has been withheld. We have not been served any notice nor is there any official order regarding these actions that is in the public domain so far."

"This opaque censorship is gut-wrenching. There isn't a lot left for us to say anymore. Since 2011, The Kashmir Walla has strived to remain an independent, credible, and courageous voice of the region in the face of unimaginable pressure from the authorities while we watched our being ripped apart, bit by bit."

"The Kashmir Walla's story is the tale of the rise and fall of press freedom in the region. Over the past 18 months, we have lost everything except you - our readers. The Kashmir Walla is beyond thankful that we were read avidly for 12 years by millions. As to what the future holds, we are still processing the ongoing events," the statement concludes.



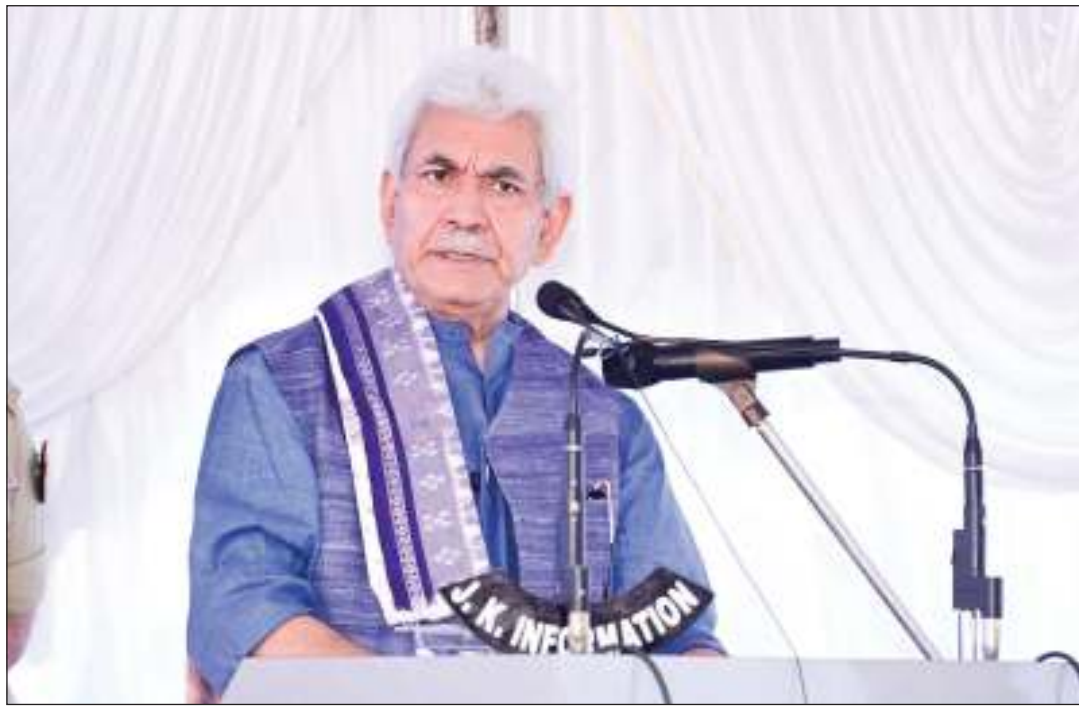
Lt Governor lays foundation stone for Areesha Royal Hospital & Medical College at Medicity, Srinagar

SRINAGAR, AUG 21: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha laid the foundation stone for Areesha Royal Hospital & Medical College at Medicity, Srinagar.

Addressing the gathering at the ceremony, the Lt Governor said the 500-bedded health facility with investment of Rs 558.66 Cr, will provide modern medical facilities, generate employment opportunities for youth and healthcare professionals and create additional 100 MBBS seats.

It will serve as a hub for medical education and research, he added. "This is a significant achievement in our endeavor to encourage private investment in medical infrastructure and to create modern, integrated and quality healthcare facilities in J&K UT," the Lt Governor said.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, J&K is creating a people-centric healthcare ecosystem that is more inclusive, equitable and



accessible to all, especially in the far-flung areas, he said.

We have given priority to the health of every section of society.

The Medicity project is not just a milestone in terms of investment,

but a significant step towards accessible, affordable and quality healthcare, medical education and bringing J&K at the forefront of healthcare innovation, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor congratulated the entire team of Areesha Royal Hospital & Medical College and everyone associated with the project.

This is the third Hospital coming in J&K in the private sector and two more such projects will come in the future, one each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions, it was informed.

Sh Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary Health and Medical Education; Sh Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Sh Vijay Bhidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Sh Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce; Sh Arshid Ahmed Bhat, MD Areesha Royal Hospital Private Limited, senior officials and prominent citizens were present.

Sports cultivate healthy lifestyle, should be preferred by all: Secy J&KSC

GANDERBAL, AUG 21: AT-20 cricket tournament organised by Hafiz Group of Hotels in collaboration with Kangan Cricket Board concluded on Monday at Sheikh-ul-Alam Stadium here. Around 48 teams from Kashmir participated in the tournament in which 37 matches were played between different teams.

Royal Rangers Kangan won the final by defeating Starland Warriors by 6 wickets. Later, trophies were distributed among the winner and runner-up teams.

The organisers told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the main aim of the tournament was to send a message against drugs and suicides. The theme was 'Say No To Drugs And Suicide And Say Yes To Life', they said.

Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul and international cricketer Parvez Rasool were the chief guests while the officers from District Administration Ganderbal, SDPO Kangan, DDC Chairperson Kangan-A, CEO Sonamarg Development Authority were present on the occasion.

The Secretary Sports told media persons that she appreciated the initiative and expressed gratitude towards civil society, businessmen and elders who took steps to encourage youth towards sports. She said the infrastructure provided by the government is attracting youth towards sports activities.

"Our children are getting addicted to mobile phones and unhealthy food. So, the inculcation of sports paves the way towards a healthy lifestyle and it should be preferred and most liked by one and all," she said.

Nisar Ahmad, a cricketer, told KNO, "We are glad and feel encouraged that this tournament took place. Such kinds of tournaments keep our youth on the right and creative path, and prevent them from falling to drugs and other social evils."

The entire team is thankful to Hafiz Group of Hotels and Youth Services & Sports department, Nisar said, adding that such tournaments must be organised every now and then.

Kadfeen hails Mir's induction in INC's highest decision-making body

SRINAGAR, AUG 21: Congress leader Kadfeen Choudhary on Monday hailed the party high command for making senior Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir part of the highest policy decision-making body of the Indian National Congress, the Congress Working Committee (CWC).

The position, said Kadfeen accorded to Ghulam Ahmad Mir is unquestionably well-deserved. "Mir is an asset for the Congress party in Jammu and Kashmir. His selfless contribution towards the upliftment of the party is well known to all," he said adding that Mir has skillfully navigated challenges, leading the party to safer shores.

Kadfeen hoped that Mir will continue to be a guiding force.

Kadfeen said that INC had earlier inducted Tariq Hameed Karra in CWC and now Mir's inclusion will give more representation to the party in Jammu and Kashmir.

Man dies after hit by speedy tipper in Pulwama; locals demand action against 'reckless drivers'

SRINAGAR, AUG 21: A man died after he was hit by a speedy tipper in the Goosu-Rohmoo area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a tipper laden with macadam hit a motorcyclist Manzoor Ahmad Wani from Goosu Pulwama, who received critical injuries.

He said Wani was shifted to a nearby hospital from where he was referred to Srinagar; however, he succumbed on the way.

Soon after the incident, the locals from Goosu and Rohmoo area staged a protest and alleged that despite the existing ban, the tippers and dumpers continue to brazenly transport uncovered bajris, boulders, sand and other materials that too at very high speeds.

They alleged that over 200 tippers are extracting minerals from Romshi Nallah in Rohmoo on a daily basis but no action is being taken against them.

"Tipper drivers have no regard for safety and consistently maintain their breakneck pace. This reckless behav-

our forces us to hastily stop our vehicles on the side whenever we spot one of the tippers approaching," said a local.

Another local said, "The situation is particularly concerning on Rahmoo-Newa road where pedestrians find themselves on the edge due to the lightning speed of these vehicles."

The locals said the administration must take immediate and resolute measures to effectively tackle this critical issue. They requested the DC Pulwama to personally intervene in the matter that concerns human lives.

Inter-Institutional meeting held at NIT Srinagar; key initiatives discussed

SRINAGAR, AUG 21: With an aim at fostering comprehensive growth and empowerment, an inter-institutional meeting between Prof. Sudhakar Yedla, Director NIT Srinagar, Terry Durnnian, Chief of Education at UNICEF India, Danish Aziz, Education Specialist UNICEF India, Dr. Saad Parvez, Head IIEDC and Sheikh Inayat Ullah, CEO Move Beyond was convened at NIT Srinagar.

During the meeting deliberations on various initiatives aimed at enhancing career guidance, bolstering institutional

innovation, addressing pressing socio-economic concerns and nurturing the potential of the region's children and youth.

Within the scope of the tripartite "Statement of Intent" (SoI) signed by IIEDC, NIT Srinagar, UNICEF India, and Move Beyond—Centre for Career Guidance, Counseling, and Consultation, the meeting intended to investigate new pathways and strengthen existing activities.

The tripartite SoI sets the foundation for multi-faceted initiatives aimed at enhancing the educational landscape and career prospects for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The discussions were centered on initiatives in career guidance and counselling, interventions for augmenting institutional innovations ecosystem, pressing issues of socio-economic importance like solid waste management, urban planning, and development, creation of astrophysics

labs, wetland management, and mobilizing the inter-institutional infrastructure for holistic development of the region, especially children and youth.

The Director NIT Srinagar demonstrated his deep interest and support in carrying out activities of intense social impact. He suggested that the projects which can strengthen the parent-children's relationships must be taken up which has a huge bearing on the student's career development.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Yedla further discussed the first-of-its-kind initiatives that NIT Srinagar is contemplating implementing in the UT of J&K that can inspire research, and development and can attract huge talent across the country.

Terry Durnnian, Chief of Education, UNICEF India also presented a detailed account of activities UNICEF India is undertaking in other parts of the country.

Sheikh Inayat Ullah, CEO Move Beyond spoke about the career guidance and counselling initiatives taken by their organization in collaboration with IIEDC, NIT Srinagar. He expressed his gratitude to the Director for the support and assistance NIT Srinagar has been extending in joint implementation of the projects.

Dr. Saad Parvez, Head IIEDC Centre, NIT Srinagar discussed the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) a flagship program of the Ministry of Education, GoI and the adoption of villages by NIT Srinagar under this program.

He also mentioned the career guidance and counselling ecosystem created by the IIEDC and Move Beyond jointly by working together for years. He further said that IIEDC and Move Beyond have been the first in undertaking the mega initiatives in career guidance and counselling in J&K.

Shopian Apple Growers Expect Rich Dividends As Harvest Of High Density Variety Begins

SRINAGAR, AUG 21: Kashmir's first apple crop is off to a great start as High Density apple variety is being harvested in full swing in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Local farmers of the district, also known as Apple district, started planting high density apple plants several years before and the move has brought immense happiness to the growers as harvesting season kicks off. People are particularly fond of high density plants because they bear fruit just one year after being planted, commanding a higher price in the market compared to other apple varieties

like 'Delicious'.

Typically, the apple season in the region starts from mid-October to November. However, the high density apple crop is being harvested earlier than expected and the growers are filled with enthusiasm. They are hopeful for a bumper season and expect a good turnover.

One local grower, Parvaiz Wani, while talking to this GNS shared his excitement about the progress of the apple crop. He expressed his satisfaction with the ongoing harvesting process and credits the hard work and dedication of the farmers for the successful yield of their high



density apple plants.

"The abundance of apples not

only brings joy to the growers but also contributes to the agri-

cultural economy of the region", he said.

The success of this first apple crop sets a positive tone for the rest of the season, highlighting the potential for a bountiful harvest and economic growth in the Kashmir Valley.

The apple crop in Kashmir is not only a source of pride for the local growers but also a delight for apple enthusiasts across the region. The sweet and juicy apples from Kashmir are known for their exceptional taste and quality. Whether enjoyed fresh or used in various culinary creations, Kashmiri apples are a treat for the taste buds.

Sopore town cleared of street vendors

Sopore, Aug 21: Authorities have relocated street vendors from the busiest market of Sopore town. Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, SA Raina said the move has been taken in order to decongest the town.

"The street vendors have been relocated to other places in order to decongest the town. Especially Iqbal Market was often gridlocked due to the congestion as vendors had occupied roads," he said.

Identified locations will be utilized to rehabilitate the street vendors in an organized manner allowing them to continue their livelihood, he added.

PAG visits Bandipora, presides over Special Pension Adalat

Pensioners deserve a dignified life: PAG

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 21: The Principal Accounts General (PAG) J&K, Dr. Abshik Gupta Monday presided over a special Pension Adalat at Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The Adalat was held to address grievances faced by pensioners and family pensioners, while fostering awareness among pension sanctioning authorities and Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) regarding their responsibilities. The Pension Adalat was attended by Deputy AG, Sudhakar Pinglay; District Nodal Offi-



cer Coordination, Mohamad Ashraf Hakak; District Treasury Officer Rafiq

Ahmad Shah, ACR Bandipora besides retired government employees, family

pension beneficiaries and representatives from various pension sanctioning authorities and DDOs. During the programme, the pensioners were given the opportunity to express their concerns, seek resolutions for pending issues and receive information about their rights and entitlements. On the occasion, Dr. Gupta stressed on the importance of a hassle free and timely pension disbursement process, recognizing that pensioners deserve a comfortable and dignified life after their years of dedicated service to the nation. He said, conducting the Pension Adalat, bridges the gap between pensioners

Awareness programme under NMBA held at Anantnag

Senior Citizen's Day also commemorated

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 21: An awareness programme under the aegis of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) was today organized by the District Administration Anantnag and District Social Welfare department at Town Hall Anantnag.

The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag was the chief guest at the event.

Among others, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education officer, District officer Excise and Taxation participated in the programme. Moreover students and teachers from various educational institutions also participated in the event.

Distinguished resource



persons from various departments spoke extensively on the Drug related issues.

Thematic NMBA based culture programmes were presented by students from various institutions. Raja

clutches of substance abuse. The program fostered networking and mutual cooperation among educational leaders, promoting a united front against this pressing societal challenge.

District Social Welfare Officer, Anantnag extended his sincere gratitude to the expert resource persons and program attendees for their active involvement in this initiative. He emphasized his office's dedication to providing continuous support and resources to educational institutions in their mission to create drug-free campuses.

Many felicitations were carried to acknowledge the efforts of those who have done commendable jobs in the field.

Later, National Senior Citizen's Day was celebrated at Town Hall Anantnag with great enthusiasm.

International Senior Citizens Day celebration held at Ahat-e-Waqar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 21: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in association with the Social Welfare Department and Department of Health, orchestrated a heartwarming celebration of International Senior Citizens Day at Ahat-e-Waqar, the Day Care Centre for Senior Citizens Chanpora, Srinagar.

The event was graced by the presence of Justice (Retired) B. A. Kirmani, who honored the occasion as the



chief guest. Senior Citizens Day is a global observance that aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by senior citizens and to celebrate their contributions to society. The celebration commenced on a

serene note with the captivating recitation of Tilawat-e-Quran, followed by the soul-stirring Naat-e-Shareef, both elegantly performed by the members of Ahat-e-Waqar. These spiritual offerings set the tone

for a day of reflection and gratitude, paying homage to the wisdom and resilience of our senior citizens.

Justice (Retired) B. A. Kirmani delivered an inspiring address that resonated deeply with the audience. He emphasized the indispensable value of moral education, highlighting how it serves as the bedrock of a harmonious society. Justice Kirmani underlined the need for a collaborative effort involving government institutions, NGOs, and every member of society to ensure the well-being

State Taxes Department Kashmir conducts drive against Illegal & Unregistered Brick Kilns at Budgam

HT News Network

BSRINAGAR, AUGUST 21: Special Search Teams of the State Taxes Department Kashmir today raided dozens of brick kilns in Budgam district. The operation was supervised by Additional Commissioner State Taxes Department (Administration and Enforcement) Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool. During the search, these

intered with the GST department despite having crossed the threshold and thus were evading huge tax dues. Most of them were also found to be operating without licenses from the District Administration. The Additional Commissioner during the drive directed the Brick Kilns owners to get registered with the District Administration and with the Goods and Service Tax Department. He also asked

without suppression of actual sales. Meanwhile the Additional Commissioner directed the special search teams to continue the drive against the illegal brick kilns and take action under law against those operating without licenses. The Additional Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement Central Kashmir, Pervaiz Raina and other officers of the Department.

Capacity Building Programme on Drug Abuse held at Budgam

HT News Network

BUDGAM, AUGUST 21: The District Administration Budgam in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Office today organized a pivotal Capacity Building Program for the Heads of Higher Secondary Schools in the district at Town Hall Beerwah.

The programme aimed at underscoring commitment to the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction.

On the occasion, experts from the Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience, Srinagar shared their knowledge and insights on the psychological aspects of addiction, offering invaluable guidance on early detection and intervention strategy.

Resources persons from Addiction Treatment Facility, Budgam also provided a comprehensive understanding



of the regional nuances in addiction treatment and rehabilitation, ensuring a targeted approach to the problem.

During the programme, engaging workshops facilitated open dialogues, equipping school leaders with practical tools to address substance abuse concerns among students.

A robust resource kit, featuring educational materials, guidelines, and contact details for support services, was distributed to empower schools

in implementing effective drug demand reduction measures.

This collaborative initiative underscores the resolve of District Budgam to shield its youth from the clutches of substance abuse. The program fostered networking and mutual cooperation among educational leaders, promoting a united front against this pressing societal challenge.

District Social Welfare Officer, Budgam emphasized on dedication and providing continuous support and resources to educational institutions in their mission to create drug-free campuses. This collaborative initiative underscores the resolve of District Budgam to shield its youth from the clutches of substance abuse. The program fostered networking and mutual cooperation among educational leaders, promoting a united front against this pressing societal challenge.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Research Forest Division Srinagar.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
e-NIT NO: - 14 OF 2023-24 DATED: 19-08-2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work: -

S. NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Rs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document. (Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	Upgradation of B.O. Hut Seer Nursery Anantnag	0.90	Rs. 1800/=	"D"	Rs. 200/=	30 calendar days.

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract (Tender Document) which form the part of the Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: -www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of Funds: Budgeted
Position of AA/TS: Accorded
Scheme: CAPEX
Receiving/ Opening Committee: Tender Opening Committee

Publishing Date: -	19-08-2023
Download Start Date:	19-08-2023 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	19-08-2023 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	30-08-2023 Up to 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	31-08-2023 at 03:00 PM in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer Research Forest Division Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	To be opened (Online) at any convenient date & time after complete Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- The date of opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Deposit in shape CDR/FDR of for requisite amount and pledged to Divisional Forest Officer, Research Forest Division, Srinagar. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current financial year 2023-24, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan (cost of Tender Document) and Bid Security Deposit in shape CDR/FDR of for requisite amount and pledged to Divisional Forest Officer, Research Forest Division, Srinagar and Undertaking / Affidavit by Bidder as per Annexure.
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

NO: -JKFRI/R/S/2023-24/472-79
DIPK-7523/23
Date: Aug 21 2023

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Research Forest Division, Srinagar.

Brick Kilns were found to be unreg- them to file their returns regularly

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Mechanical & Hospital Division, Srinagar

(Phone No: 0194-2496089, www.medkmr.org, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

Subject: - i. Supply of batteries for 500 kva D.G set in boiler house at Govt. LD Hospital Srinagar

ii. Repairs/servicing of Air conditioners of various capacities and makes at CT Scan Section, SICU, HOD Anesthesia and other locations of Govt. SMHS Hospital, Srinagar.

iii. Repairs/replacement of batteries and other items required for D.G. sets and laundry section at Govt. LD Hospital Srinagar.

Ref : This office e- NIT no: MHCHD/TS/2023-24/78/e-tendering Dated 14.08.2023

EXTENSION

In view of poor/no response, the Critical dates of above subject work(s) tendered vide above referred e-NIT(s) are extended as follows: -

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	25.08.2023 (12:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	25.08.2023 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

DIPK-7518/23

Date: Aug 21 2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical & Hospital Division,
Srinagar

Agriculture Department, SKUAST organise Seminar cum Training Programme on 'Promotion of Niche Crops' at Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR: The Agriculture Department Kishtwar in collaboration with SKUAST Jammu and SKUAST Kashmir, conducted a one-day seminar cum training Programme on the 'Promotion of Niche Crops' here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

This event was organized as part of the ongoing Holistic Agriculture Development Programme and aimed to highlight the economic potential and commercial value of niche crops, such as Kala Zeera and Saffron, in the region.

During the inaugural session, Chief Agriculture Officer, Amjad Hussain Malik emphasized the importance of niche crops in contributing to the economic

development of Jammu and Kashmir, with particular significance for District Kishtwar. He urged field functionaries to educate the farming community about the economic prospects of these crops, contributing to their livelihood security. Furthermore, he directed their efforts towards diversification and expansion of niche crops, especially Saffron and Kala Zeera, in District Kishtwar.

In addition to the Power Point Presentations were presented by Dr Vishal Gupta Scientist/ Head Division of Plant Pathology, Dr MH Khan, Scientist/ Plant Breeder, Dr Gh Hassan Scientist Zeera Research, Dr NA Dar Scientist Biotechnology, Er Basharat the distinguished resource persons and senior scientists from SKUAST-J&K delivered comprehensive presentations, shedding light on the best cultivation practices and strategies for the promotion of niche/heritage crops (such as Saffron and Kala Zeera) specific to Jammu & Kashmir, with a focus on District Kishtwar.

They highlighted the major challenges associated with extensive cultivation of these crops, including the scarcity of quality seeds and planting material, suboptimal post-harvest management practices, and limited market linkages.



The experts also advocated for the establishment of Saffron Spice and Kala Zeera parks, alongside the creation of laboratories. These initiatives, they explained, would foster quality enhancement and value addition, ultimately leading to enhanced market access and profitability.

Furthermore, the speakers underscored the substantial demand and commercial value of these niche crops, emphasizing their potential to be awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag similar to the recognition granted to Kashmiri Saffron & other Niche crops. This recognition would serve as a branding mechanism, elevating market value both at the national and international levels.

Participants in the seminar included the Saffron Development Officer, District Agriculture Extension Officer, District SMS's, SDAO's as well as Agriculture Extension Officers, Junior Agriculture Extension Officers, Agriculture Extension Assistants and other field staff from the Department of Agriculture. Dr Narinder Paul Scientist/ Head KVK Kishtwar was also present on the occasion.

The event succeeded in fostering knowledge exchange and strategic planning for the future development and promotion of niche crops in the region.

Similar training programme will be organized tomorrow on 22-08-2023 for the Farmers of the district. They highlighted the major challenges associated with extensive cultivation of these crops, including the scarcity of quality seeds and planting material, suboptimal post-harvest management practices, and limited market linkages.

The experts also advocated for the establishment of Saffron Spice and Kala Zeera parks, alongside the creation of laboratories. These initiatives, they explained, would foster quality enhancement and value addition, ultimately leading to enhanced market access.

The event succeeded in fostering knowledge exchange and strategic planning for the future development and promotion of niche crops in the region.

Similar training programme will be organized tomorrow on 22-08-2023 for the Farmers of the district. They highlighted the major challenges associated with extensive cultivation of these crops, including the scarcity of quality seeds and planting material, suboptimal post-harvest management practices, and limited market linkages.

GCW Parade all set to start Skill Course in 'Mass Communication and Media Production'

HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 21: Government College for Women, Parade Ground is going to offer Four Year Undergraduate Programme with Majors in Mass Communication and Media Production from the 2023-24 academic session.

It is pertinent to mention that GCW, Parade Ground is the only Government College in Jammu Division to offer majors in this course. The MCMP centre of the College has been set up under Hub and Spoke model, with GCW Parade Ground being the HUB College for starting Skill/Regular courses in MCMP.

A state-of-the-art infrastructure for the same has been successfully set up by the College, with all the facilities required to start the course for the female candidates. The purpose of this course is to enhance employability/entrepreneurship skills among the students.

Two Days Anti Drugs and Cannabis demolish Drive at Bhalessa Gandoh By District Police Doda and Raja Sarfaraz Concluded.

HT News Network

In a contemporary Drive by Jammu and Kashmir, police Against drugs District Police Doda under the Supervision of DC Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan, SSP Abdul Qayoom, Actor, Director and Youth Icon Raja Sarfaraz and SDPO Gandoh Adil Rishu Had a two days mega Drive in Bhalessa Gandoh. The drive comprised destroying Cannabis Sativa Plants which are actively used by locals for addiction. The drive wrapped several villages including Thalaran, Samai, Sarlai, Bharti, Kakoo, Halore, Bus Stand Gwari, and Butt Market Kilhotran. The entire Drive was formulated to Council Youth and make them cognizant of Drugs addiction. Raja Sarfaraz interacted with several youths during the drive and lent short counselling sessions promoting fitness, sports, culture and how youth can play the lead role in building peace and brotherhood in society. He added that our youth is nowadays getting involved in drugs and other evils, our priority is to love them and bring them back on track. Our Police and civil administration is there for us constantly for good cause. Chowki Officer Abdul Shakoor who was incredibly active along with police personnel during the drive had an incredible effort to showcase performance and Make directions of SSP applicable on the Ground level. Raja Sarfaraz Will be hauling forward the same Campaign along with District Police in other areas in future, he also thanked SSP Abdul Qayoom, DM Vishesh Mahajan, SDPO Gandoh and local police for Collaboration.

Rashtra Ka Naam Paryavaran Saptah Govt SPMR College concludes Weeklong environment conservation activities

HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 21: Eco Club, Department of Environmental Sciences, NSS and NCC units of Government SPMR College of Commerce, under the aegis of IQAC and Mission LiFe, celebrated One Week for Nation, "Rashtra ke Naam Paryavaran Saptah" from 15th August to 21st August, 2023.

During the celebrations a series of environment conservation activities were organized on the College Campus in which students and faculty members participated enthusiastically.

The week-long programme started on Independence Day, 15 August with the hoisting of National Flag followed by Plantation Drive and Cultural Programme. A poster-making and Slogan writing competition on the topic "Protect Environment, Protect Humanity" was organized on 16th August, 2023.

Udhampur Administration accords warm farewell to outgoing DC

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 21: District Administration Udhampur on Sunday evening organised an impressive function to bid farewell to outgoing Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya on his transfer as Deputy Commissioner Jammu.

While extending their best wishes to the DC, the officers applauded the working of the DC and also shared that they will miss the guidance and support of the DC in Administrative matters. The officers present in the function lauded the working style and leadership qualities of the Deputy Commissioner and extended their best wishes for his new assignment.

The DC thanked the officers for organising an impressive farewell and also appreciated the officers for putting in their best efforts in carrying out the official duties and assignments and also for their active support and cooperation during his tenure.



He also expressed his gratitude to the people of Udhampur for the respect and love showered by them on him. Later, the ADC and other officers presented a gift to the DC as a token of love. Among others present Senior Superintendent of Police, Dr Vinod Kumar; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral; Additional SP, Anwar-Ul-Haq; Chief Planning Officer, Mudassar Yaqoob Zargar; SDM Ramnagar, Shishir Gupta; DFO, Rushal Garg; Deputy District Election Officer, Gurdev Kumar and other senior officers.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya takes over as Deputy Commissioner Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 21: Sachin Kumar Vaishya assumed the charge as Deputy Commissioner Jammu from the incumbent Avny Lavasa here today.

The outgoing Deputy Commissioner was accorded a warm farewell at a function attended by officers and staff of the DC office and Revenue Department including Additional District Development Commissioner, Ramesh Chander; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh; Additional Commissioner General and Assistant Commissioner Revenue.

Speaking on the occasion, Avny Lavasa talked about



the challenges, and lessons learnt during her tenure as the DC Jammu. She remarked that Jammu serves as the foundation for pivotal activities at the Union Territory level, contributing a major portion to its revenue generation. "Alongside this, the district also receives its share of grievances, which requires coordination and teaming work for effective administration" she added.

Avny Lavasa expressed her deep appreciation for the dedicated officers and staff of the district, emphasising their relentless efforts in handling a substantial workload. She extended her heartfelt gratitude to her personal staff, which also includes drivers and security personnel, for their unwavering support throughout her

tenure. Avny Lavasa warmly welcomed her successor, Sachin Vaishya and conveyed her optimism for his leadership.

In response, Sachin Vaishya, the incoming DC, expressed his commitment to build upon the foundations laid by his predecessor. "We will work together, following in the footsteps of the former administrator to address the challenges and harness the strengths of Jammu for its collective betterment," he stated.

The event concluded with expressions of goodwill from the district staff, including Patwaris and Girdwars, who extended their thanks to Avny Lavasa and wished her the best of luck for her future endeavours.

R K Tikoo Represents JK in Regional Symposium at BHU.

FAROOQ RATHER

Jammu, 21-Aug: National commission for protection of Child Rights, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India Organized one day Regional Symposium at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. R KTIKOO, illustrious socio-cultural activist of Jammu Kashmir and alumni of Banaras Hindu University was invited to this symposium on child protection, safety and child welfare.

Tikoo while addressing various issues that related to children including cultural education with aim to create an ecosystem where children are able to



develop with out threat to their safety and well-being, briefed about measures being taken by UT of Jammu Kashmir.

While discussing, 256 NGO representatives from different states and authorities from National Commission for protection of Child Rights, he informed that further more measures need to be taken for child protection along with

observation Home for women in distress, those are; establishment of library, recreational room, enhancement of mess facilities, weekly visits by a female doctor, boundary wall are not secure, to provide female security, rights to education under section 125 CrPc and appointment of chairperson and members as per the act S.O No 542, UT rules 2022.

It is pertinent to mention here that R KTIKOO as an Ento-Agrostology Specialist, Jammu Kashmir Government, has many social and scientific papers to his credit. He has presented / published six papers at National and one in International scientific conferences.

"Meri Maati Mera Desh": Sheep Husbandry Department Kathua felicitates Families of Martyrs

HT News Network

KATHUA, AUGUST 21: Sheep Husbandry Department Kathua today felicitated families of the martyrs as part of "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign, organised under the supervision of District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Dr Ajay Sudan.

The members of Sainik Welfare Board Kathua, including President Manohar Singh, Cap Gyan Singh Pathania (Chairman), Cap Balbir Singh Pathania (Vice Chairman) spoke on the



occasion and threw light on the inspirational stories of martyrs who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Families of Martyr RFN. Surinder Kumar (19 Grenadier), Martyr HAV. Subash Singh (28 Punjab Regiment)

and Martyr RFN, Mangal Singh (15-JAK- RIF) were honored on the occasion. District Sheep Husbandry

Officer said that "Meri Maati Mera Desh" Campaign aims at honoring the families of the Martyrs/Freedom fighters who have made ultimate sacrifices for the motherland, besides expressing gratitude to their selfless services and acknowledging their valour, fortitude which will inspire others to follow their footsteps. Sheep Husbandry Department Kathua today felicitated families of the martyrs as part of "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign, organised under the supervision of District Sheep Husbandry

Officer, Dr Ajay Sudan. The members of Sainik Welfare Board Kathua, including President Manohar Singh, Cap Gyan Singh Pathania (Chairman), Cap Balbir Singh Pathania (Vice Chairman) spoke on the occasion and threw light on the inspirational stories of martyrs who laid down their lives in the line of duty. Families of Martyr RFN. Surinder Kumar (19 Grenadier), Martyr HAV. Subash Singh (28 Punjab Regiment) and Martyr RFN, Mangal Singh (15-JAK- RIF) were honored on the occasion.

Nowshera Forest Division organises one day grooming session for associated SGHs

HT News Network

RAJOURI, AUGUST 21: To improve livelihood opportunities for local people living on peripheries of Nowshera Forest Division, a one day grooming session on making of handicrafts with chir needles and their value addition was held at Sunderbani. The session was attended by chairpersons and women members of all 15 SHGs associated with Chir handicrafts. The grooming session was started by Divisional Forest Officer, Nowshera Satyendra Maurya by shedding light on the use of chir needles for making handicrafts and creating livelihood opportunities for women and girls in addition to their routine work. Expert from GIRI Foundation Komal Koul informed the participants about various inputs for improving the quality of chir handicraft products. Using good quality material with precision and with good marketing skills, the scope for this emerging handicraft industry can be expanded all over India, she said. At present GIRI foundation is working on marketing.

EDITORIAL

Tourism and Sustainable Development in Kashmir: A Path to Harmony

For decades, Kashmir has drawn tourists from all over the world. However, the delicate balance between tourism and sustainable development in this picturesque region needs our immediate attention.

Tourism undoubtedly offers economic opportunities and cultural exchanges. It creates jobs, boosts local businesses, and diversifies the economy. Yet, the unchecked growth of tourism can lead to detrimental consequences, including environmental degradation and cultural erosion.

One of the pressing issues in Kashmir is the environmental impact of tourism. The serene Dal Lake is choking under the weight of houseboats and pollution. The fragile ecosystem is threatened by unchecked construction, waste disposal, and deforestation. Sustainable practices, such as responsible waste management, stricter construction regulations, and promoting eco-friendly tourism, are imperative.

Moreover, the influx of tourists can disrupt local culture and traditions. Kashmir's unique way of life is a significant part of its charm, and preserving this is crucial. Communities must be involved in tourism planning to ensure that their heritage remains intact. Initiatives to promote local crafts, cuisine, and cultural experiences can both enrich tourists' experiences and benefit local economies.

Sustainable tourism doesn't mean curtailing tourism altogether; it means developing it responsibly. Infrastructure should be built with environmental impact in mind. Investments in renewable energy and waste management facilities are essential. Training and awareness programs can help locals and tourists understand the importance of preserving Kashmir's natural and cultural treasures.

Additionally, diversified tourism offerings can reduce the pressure on a few popular spots. Adventure tourism, eco-tourism, and cultural tourism can draw visitors to less-explored areas, spreading the economic benefits more evenly.

Kashmir's allure should not become its downfall. Balancing tourism and sustainable development is not only possible but necessary. The government, local communities, and tourists all play a role in this delicate equation. By embracing sustainable practices, respecting local culture, and preserving its unparalleled beauty, Kashmir can truly become a harmonious and sustainable tourist destination for generations to come.

Himalayan Region Needs More Infra Development And Industrial Growth

In North Eastern States, Some Progress Has Been Made, But Still Not Enough

■ KR Sudhaman

A balanced socio-economic and women development of Himalayan states is critical for India to become a developed economy in the next decade or two. The Indian Himalayan region is spread across 13 Indian States/Union Territories (namely Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Assam and West Bengal), stretching across 2500 km.

Nearly 50 million people reside in this region, which is characterized by a diverse demographic, and versatile economic, environmental, social and political systems. As far as Human Development Index is concerned, some of the north eastern states and Himalayan states have not done all that bad. For instance, states like Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram have done well as their HDI is above national average but their socio-economic development is far behind some of the western and southern states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Of course, some of the northern and eastern states too have not done well in this regard.

But the problem with Himalayan states is they are not only backward but also ecologically fragile and that makes it that much more difficult the development process. Development has to be well calibrated so that further damage to the eco-system is slowed down for the common good of the entire nation and the World from environmental disaster, which have become more rampant in recent years. Also the political system is such that it has become breeding ground for corruption making the development process that much slower and ad hoc.

But a significant development that has happened in recent years is the emphasis by the Narendra Modi government on the development of infrastructure in the north-east and the bordering states. Road and rail development is phenomenal and now practically all the north eastern states and Kashmir have rail connectivity beside air connectivity. Several border roads are being built besides several tunnels that would make the road connectivity all weather besides shortening distance between towns in the region.

Northeast India, in a touristic lexicon, is popularly known as seven sisters. However, Sikkim state became part of Northeast India subsequently, and it became seven sisters (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura) and one brother (Sikkim). It shares 98 per cent of its international boundary with China, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar, and only 2 per cent with other states of India. What distinguishes Northeast India from other parts of the country is its unique geopolitical terrain.

The region is home to above 220 ethnic communities spread across eight states (262,179 square km). It contributes 3.76 per cent of India's population (45 million). The region is not a homogenous category.



Each state has its distinct history, varied ethnic communities, structural inequality and power relation dynamics. Northeast India is lacking in infrastructural development index compared to other parts of the country even though it fares well in the human development index.

Infrastructure development is disproportionately distributed within and across the region's respective states. There is poverty and crumbling of infrastructure wherever the ethnic minorities (tribals in Manipur, tribes of Eastern Nagaland, Naga tribes in Arunachal Pradesh, among others) predominately reside. In contrast, infrastructural facilities are fairly developed in urban conglomeration where dominant ethnic communities reside - Imphal, Guwahati, Itanagar, Shillong, among others. The socio-political processes of investing and building infrastructure in Northeast India has certainly been given a push in recent years. But what is now needed is to identify those states and areas where there is poverty of infrastructure and accordingly invest and build resilient infrastructures for peace and progress. The women in northeast enjoy much better status than women in many states of north India. The women are generally educated and they are in all spheres of activity as in some of the states in south India.

In the Himalayan states of North India, particularly Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Women are hardworking than men, but their status in the society is not that much empowered as in northeast-

ern states. They are also not educated. In Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh too women are hardworking but educationally backward. Also in Kashmir, women are discriminated just as in other northern states. Regarding economic development Himalayan states still a lot of catching up to do just as northeastern states even though there is a renewed emphasis on infrastructure development particularly in border areas.

With the abrogation of article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, tourism development too has been stepped giving much needed boost to economic activity. Also security environment too is gradually improving. This will facilitate some trade and industrial activity going forward. Road development in the northeastern states is remarkable in recent years. There are seven bridges are coming across Brahmaputra River, which will vastly improve connectivity to ports and rest of country besides intra-road connectivity among northeastern states.

Overall the Himalayan region is certainly moving forward in socio-economic development but it has still a lot of catching up to do with some of the developed states in the Western and Southern regions. Among the Northern states, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are doing reasonably well and the Himalayan states are certainly progressing better than states like Bihar and West Bengal.

(IPA Service)

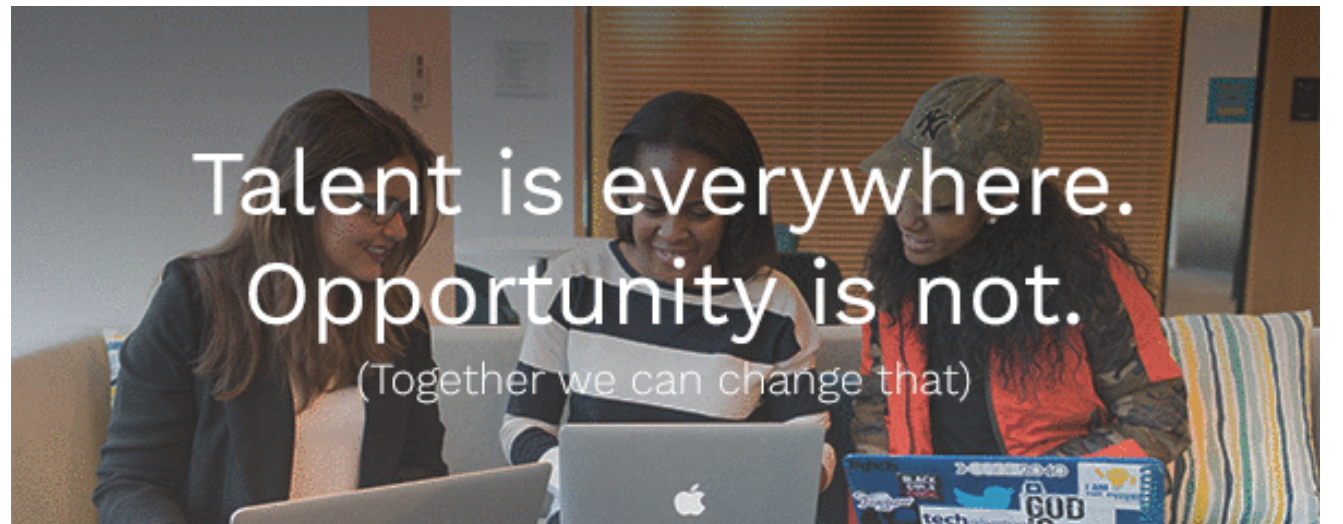
Opportunity for Talent



■ Vijay Garg

There is limitless potential for creativity within any child. If he is confined within a limited framework, then his talent also remains confined within that scope. Therefore, by identifying interests in childhood and adolescence itself, if a child is given an opportunity to learn, understand and do something in the field of his interest, then there is every possibility that the talent of a large number of children will come to the fore and the country and society will benefit from it. Although it is a fundamental aspect in the education system it should be and it has been taken care of to some extent, but now the government is formally going to take a concrete initiative in this direction.

It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Education is going to start the scheme 'Prayas' i.e. 'Promotion of Research Attitude in Young and Aspiring Students' with the aim of providing opportunities for research and discovery to school students by introducing them to scientific methods and experiments. The objective of this scheme is to generate scientific temper among young students and to promote evi-



dence-based science process, innovation and to develop creativity. It is a fact that the process of discovery and learning is very intense in children and adolescents.

Especially if the subject of his interest is allowed to develop freely during his studies, his creativity often brings out something new. But our generally prescribed syllabus is an essential part of the education structure for most of the children and they have to complete their studies accordingly. In this, the talent of many such children remains suppressed, whose interests are not right. Direction and opportunity to understand it is not available. Rather, on the contrary, such cases are common, in which many times during schooling, parents force their children to study such subjects, which they have

to study forcibly.

It is assumed that children should be educated according to the prescribed curriculum and the wishes of the parents, they are discouraged to understand and learn something new in the subject of their choice. This is a condition that has resulted in the failure of many children's creativity during schooling. A talent gets suppressed in a way. Those children who can become carriers of new discoveries in the field of knowledge and science, they remain the travelers of a ready-made path.

From this point of view, the importance of 'Prayas' can be recorded in the form that it emphasizes on the development of the capacity of the students to do research or discovery individually or in groups. In fact, children learn the most by observing and understand-

ing the environment around them. Perhaps this is the reason that the identification and study of any local problem under this scheme Emphasis is placed on researching an idea, idea or concept, while examining the scientific reasons behind it and finding solutions.

Obviously, if opportunities are made available in the right direction under the well thought out guidance of experts who understand the psychology of children and adolescents, then this scheme can prove to be a significant initiative in expanding the horizons of imagination and creativity of the students.

Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational Columnist
Malout Punjab

Brave New World

■ **DEVENDRA SAKSENA**

Built at enormous public cost, inauguration of the new Parliament building, exacerbated differences between the ruling party and the opposition, turning an occasion for national celebration into a mud-slinging row between rival politicians.

The public viewed, with distaste, the sorry spectacle of a slanging match between eminent parliamentarians, which would not have taken place had a statesman-like approach been adopted. The din over Parliament inauguration had barely died down when the ruling party issued a diktat to all ministers to publicly extol its achievements of the last nine years.

With General Elections due in the next twelve months, the opposition responded with its own litany of failures. The compulsions of both sides were clearly visible; the ruling party wanting people to believe that they were living in seventh heaven and the opposition going all out to puncture this narrative.

However, one thing cannot be denied; the concept of India, as imagined by PM Modi, is vastly different from the vision of his predecessors. Mahatma Gandhi saw India as a collection of self-dependent villages, with State power confining itself to the most essential tasks. Jawaharlal Nehru onwards, all Prime Ministers, even Atal Bihari Vajpayee, imagined India as a socialist country, marching ahead at a leisurely pace, where none was left behind. Contrarily, Mr Modi believes in quantum change, capitalism has come to the fore; those not running fast enough have to resign themselves to be left on the side lines. In the new scheme of things, entitlement is anathema, the State is all powerful and individuals are powerless before it; decisions once taken are final. Such tenets run counter to the socialist ideology (though tainted by a desire for the fish and loaves of office), which most other parties follow.

This ideological divide could probably explain the implacable opposition to most of Mr. Modi's ideas. Given the great divergence of perception and opinion, preparing a balance sheet of the last nine years is bound to be difficult. One can say that the flagship initiatives of the Government - Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jan Dhan Yojana, Digital Payments, Aadhaar etc. have been hugely successful.

Opposition parties claim that these were their initiatives, rebranded by the new Government, but it cannot be gainsaid that Mr Modi gave them much needed impetus by espousing them personally. Then, we had changes like abrogation of Article 370 A, which was long overdue, but not attempted earlier because of the possible political fallout. The Government also took some other popular measures, like construction of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. A brilliant foreign minister has successfully steered India's foreign policy to great heights. Mr. Modi himself has been frequently seen

in the company of top world leaders, with the Presidency of G-20, being the icing on the cake.

However, China's incursion in Indian territory, which it shows no signs of vacating, is an ugly blot on our national honour. Our dependence on cheap Chinese imports compounds our misery. Infrastructure building is a great priority for the present Government; good roads now exist in most parts of the country. Similarly, many smaller towns are now connected by air.

Vande Bharat trains provide fast and comfortable travel between many places, but the Bullet Train slated to run by 2023, is nowhere in sight. A number of railway stations have been upgraded to the level of airport lounges but train travel for the common man has suffered in the bargain. The prepandemic time-table has not been fully restored. Existing trains cannot cater to the demands of the common man; tickets of 2.72 crore waitlisted passengers were automatically cancelled for want of accommodation in 2022-23, as against 1.65 crore cancellations in 2021-2022. Rail veterans feel that functioning of the railways can be improved only by addressing core issues like adequate maintenance time and funds, punctuality and cleanliness of trains, regular field inspections by officers, meaningful training of staff, rationalization of tariff structure etc. rather than by focusing only on big ticket issues like faster trains, Wi-Fi and modernisation of railway stations. The economic scenario presents a mixed picture with many successes and some failures, and sequential progress rather than the quantum change that Mr Modi had desired. The 'twin balance sheet problem' of overleveraged businesses and banks burdened with bad loans is over now but after a humongous write-off of Rs.10.10 lakh crore.

Underlining poor decision making, and probably corruption also, banks have taken a haircut of 69 per cent in insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) proceedings. Gross Domestic Product (in absolute terms) has grown satisfactorily, clocking a growth of 63 per cent in the last nine years, but belying the Government's claim of accelerated development GDP growth in the immediately preceding nine years (2005 to 2014), was 97 per cent.

We are still poor; despite growth of 47 per cent in per capita GDP in the last nine years, our world rank hovers around 140. Poverty has risen to unacceptable levels; eighty-one crore persons, that is around 60 per cent of our population are surviving on subsidised rations provided by the Government and demand for employment under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is surging.

Even more disturbingly, inequality has increased enormously; World Bank studies, economists Chancel and Piketty, Oxfam etc. all have pointed out this fact. According to the Oxfam International report, "Inequality Kills," the Covid-19 pandemic had diametrically opposite consequences for the rich and poor; for example, high crude prices that made domestic petrol prices surge,

Vande Bharat trains provide fast and comfortable travel between many places, but the Bullet Train slated to run by 2023, is nowhere in sight.

A number of railway stations have been upgraded to the level of airport lounges but train travel for the common man has suffered in the bargain.

The prepandemic time-table has not been fully restored. Existing trains cannot cater to the demands of the common man: tickets of 2.72 crore waitlisted passengers were automatically cancelled for want of accommodation in 2022-23, as against 1.65 crore cancellations in 2021-2022. Rail veterans feel that functioning of the railways can be improved only by addressing core issues like adequate maintenance time and funds

resulted in windfall profits for oil refiners.

No wonder, during pandemic times, the number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142 and their wealth increased from Rs.23 lakh crore to Rs.53 lakh crore. At the same time 84 per cent households suffered a decline in their incomes, with 4.6 crore persons falling into abject poverty. Earlier, too, the "World Inequality Report 2022," and the homegrown PRICE Survey had reached a similar conclusion i.e., the emergence of an unacceptable degree of poverty and inequality in India.

Despite the Government promoting manufacturing through initiatives like Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Production Linked Incentive etc. it is agriculture that has come out as the star performer, showing growth even during the pandemic, and outstripping our rampant population growth. Statistically put: Population has grown from 33 crore in 1947 to 142 crore, that is by almost 4.3 times, while our wheat production increased by almost 17.2 times (from about 6.5 million tons in 1951 to 96 million tons in 2014 to 112 million tons in 2023).

Rice production has gone up by more than 6.3 times (from 20.6 million tons in 1951 to 106.5 million tons in 2014 to 130.8 million tons in 2022-23), and milk production by more than 12 times (from 17 million tons to 137 million tons to 207 million tons). Agricultural exports have also grown proportionately. Some challenges remain. Sometime in 2023, we will achieve the dubious distinction of becoming the most populous nation in earth. Disturbingly, our population is projected to grow for the next forty years, reaching a peak of 166.8 crore in the mid 2060s. Uninhibited growth in population has proved to be a millstone around our necks, straining resources to breaking point. The most visible manifestation of unbridled population growth are our overcrowded cities and villages, bursting at the seams with deficient infrastructure and minimum civic amenities, and in absence of proper planning, our demographic dividend has turned into a nightmare.

To explain: We are projected to have one hundred crore people in the working age group (15-64) by 2030, but with an employment rate (percentage of persons employed in working age population) of around 37 per cent, unemployment may rise to unacceptable levels. But, even with a billion challenges before us, there is no need to feel overawed; the spirit of India always bounces back. As poet Mohammed Iqbal had written in 'Saare jahan se achcha': Yunan-o-misr-o-roma sab mit gaye jahan se, Ab tak magar hai baqi namonishan hamara, Kuch bat hai ki hasti mitati nahin hamari, Sadiyon raha hai dushman daur-e-zaman hamara. (Greek, Egyptian and Roman civilizations, all have perished but the Indian civilisation lives on. There is something in us that we always rise up, even though everyone has been against us through the ages).

The writer is a retired Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-Tax. Courtesy The Statesman

Developing talent portability to maximise managerial success

To build talent density, management's focus must be on the quality and quantity of talent recruited.

■ **R Gopalakrishnan**

In my experience of management talent development (distinct from specialist talent vis-à-vis doctors or scientists), portability is a very important feature. What does the portability of talent mean? Portability refers to the ability of a successful manager to be moved around the organisation and for that person to depart from his or her zone of comfort to work with different products in different areas and with different teams of people.

To build great talent in an organisation—as Tata Steel, Titan, Infosys and Mahindra have demonstrated—there must be an organised process to: first, build talent density; second, develop talent portability; third, clarify talent responsibility; and finally, hold talent accountable.

To build talent density, management's focus must be on the quality and quantity of talent recruited. Talent recruitment must be dense but planned well. The sequential step is to develop such recruited talent through portability. This is the subject in this article.

The dimensions of portability are functional, geographic, domain, and team. Portability should be practiced with judgment, intuition, review and common sense, for otherwise, an organisation will inadvertently disable its recruits through a high-speed centrifuge. Timing, frequency and distance of porting are important determinants. Variety is an important test bed for talent, just like a top tennis player should get experience of playing on grass, clay and synthetic courts. Similarly, a top cricketer should learn to perform on different pitches. It is the same with managers too.

Functional portability does not mean testing a biochemist in finance and accounts. It means offering a stint in, for example, sales to an accountant, or offering a stint in supply chain to an HR resource. It is a matter of judgment about how unconventional or long the jump should be while developing a candidate. I recall that in the 1970s, Ashok Ganguly, a researcher in biochemistry, was given a chance in



manufacturing. He must have excelled, as he rapidly moved on to become chairman of Hindustan Unilever. In my early career, when I joined as a computer systems analyst and programmer, I was tried as a sales manager for a few years. It so happened that I liked the change, and that gave me the opportunity to switch my career path.

Geographic portability refers to changing the place of work. If you are a good sales manager in Karnataka, will you make a good sales manager in Punjab? After all, the language of doing business differs, the retail and distributor universe is different, and attitudes to credit and trade differ.

Some managers perform the same role in the same place for 15 years and may even boast that they "have 15 years of experience". They have possibly had the same annual experience repeated fifteen times.

Suresh Narayanan was the general sales manager in Nestle India. He was then moved to work in foreign subsidiaries of Nestle. When the Maggi noodles crisis hit Nestle India, Suresh was moved back as chairman of Nestle India. From all accounts, he did a great job of getting Nestle India back on track.

Domain portability is the third vector. It is not essential to switch companies to get domain experience. Multiple domain

experiences may be available within a company, but dramatically different domain experiences may be available across companies. I discovered this when I moved from fast-moving consumer goods (Unilever) to industrial manufacturers (Tata). One corporation may have multiple domains, as Unilever has home care, personal wash, food, and refreshments. It is a great development experience to work in more than one domain. For example, the business model and ways are different in home care as opposed to foods. During my own career in Unilever, I moved back and forth from home care to foods. I believe domain moves

accelerated my learning propensities.

Before being appointed as president of World Bank, Ajay Banga worked in Nestle India, PepsiCo and Mastercard. Debu Bhattacharya, a chemical engineer by training and experience, successfully headed HINDALCO, a metallurgical behemoth, for the Aditya Birla Group.

Team portability: Every manager is strengthened by his team, and he or she strengthens the team. There is an organic relationship between an individual and how that person gets along with a team, principally because of the dynamics of human interaction. A top-class general manager should be flexible enough to work to the best of his or her capability with all sorts of teams.

I have seen leaders who have worked in the same location with the same product line and with the same people for several years. Such leaders are almost specialists because their ability to gel with an alternative team in an alternative location has not been tested. The best among such leaders may well adapt, but I fear that many may not. That is why companies push emerging managers to work with different teams. When I moved from the comfort of working in Hindustan Unilever to the discomfort of a different and international team while heading Unilever Arabia, I learnt a lot. If one reviews the career of top business leaders, one invariably notices evidence of that person having worked their way up while working with many teams—for example, Indra Nooyi at PepsiCo, Natarajan Chandrasekaran at Tata, Sanjiv Mehta at Hindustan Unilever, to name a few.

Talent density and talent portability are two sides of the same coin, just as planting and harvesting are two sides of the same coin in agriculture.

Author and business commentator. His fifty-year professional career was spent in HUL and Tata (rgopal@themindworks.me) Courtesy New Indian Express

PM Modi to embark on 4-day visit to South Africa and Greece on Aug 22

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, Aug 21 (UNI) Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Greece will help in further deepening the relationship between the two nations.

In a special briefing ahead of Modi's trip to South Africa and Greece, Kwatra said "The visit (to Greece) would give both sides an opportunity to discuss the regional and global issues of mutual interest and help broaden and deepen our bilateral engagements".

He said both India and Greece will look forward to expanding and diversifying cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, defence and security partnership, as also infrastructure cooperation.

Calling Greece one of India's "important European partners", the Foreign Secretary said it was the gateway to Europe and also to the EU market.

He said both India and Greece are not just modern democracies but also share historical and cultural relations, and pointed out that



it has been a supporter of India's permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council.

"During his visit, he (Modi) will hold a meeting with his Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis and discuss ways to further deepen the ties between the two nations. He will also interact with business leaders from both countries. He will also have an interaction with the Indian community in Greece" he added.

Kwatra said after completing his engagements in Johannesburg, the PM will travel to Greece for an official visit on August 25 at the invitation of his Greek counterpart He said, the last Prime Ministerial visit from India to Greece was in 1983

when Indira Gandhi had gone to the European nation.

On Modi's trip to South Africa, the Foreign Secretary said the Prime Minister will depart on Monday morning for Johannesburg, where he will participate in the 15th BRICS Summit from August 22-24.

He said on August 22 evening, PM Modi will participate in the BRICS Leaders' Retreat where discussions are expected to be held on global developments of concern.

Kwatra said on August 23, the Prime Minister will participate in the BRICS Summit which will focus on Intra BRICS Cooperation, reform of the multilateral system and counter-terror-

ism. The theme of the BRICS summit this year is "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for mutually accelerated growth, sustainable development and inclusive multilateralism."

He said, on the last day of his stay (August 24) the Prime Minister will attend BRICS Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue. UNIJA SSP Following his visit to South Africa, the Prime Minister will pay an official visit to Greece on August 25 at the invitation of his Greek counterpart, Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

"This will be the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Greece in 40 years," It said.

Narendra Modi will hold talks with Mitsotakis to discuss ways to further deepen the relationship.

He will also interact with business leaders from both countries as well as with the Indian community in Greece. The Ministry of External Affairs said India and Greece enjoy civilizational ties, which have strengthened in recent years through cooperation in areas like maritime transport, defence, trade and investments, and people-to-people ties.

Manipur violence: 3-Judge Committee submits reports, SC to pass orders on Aug 25

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, Aug 21 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Monday said that it would pass orders on Friday to facilitate the proper functioning of Committee headed by Justice (Retd) Gita Mittal which was set up to monitor relief work, rehabilitation, compensation and healing of violence-hit Manipur.

While taking into record Justice (Retd) Mittal report, the Apex Court bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dr Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud said that we have received three reports from the committee headed by Justice (retd) Gita Mittal in the Manipur violence matter.

During the course of the hearing, Justice Mittal panel, which was constituted on the orders of the Top Court, told the SC that the essential documents of many victims of Manipur violence need to be reissued as they have lost their Aadhaar cards, Ration cards, driving licenses etc.

The panel said that a nodal officer needs to be appointed for helping victims to get lost documents be restored. The victim



compensation rules be made in conformity with NALSA. More domain experts need to be appointed.

Justice Mittal panel sought further directions from the SC, in these issues, to which, the Apex Court said, it would pass directions on August 25 Friday.

Certain procedural directions would require to be issued for administrative assistance, to meet financial expenses of the committee etc, said the Top Court.

The bench hearing the Manipur violence cases said that certain procedural directions would require to be issued for administrative assistance, to meet financial expenses of the committee etc.

It said three reports submitted by the Committee be given to advocates in the case. The Committee further highlighted that Manipur victim compensation scheme may be updated and proposal of the committee for the appointment of domain experts. After reviewing the reports, the bench also underlined that the committee had bifurcated the cases under several heads such as compensation, violence against women, mental health care, medical health care, relief camps, data reporting and monitoring etc.

The apex court had set up the three-member committee of former High Court judges — Justice Gita Mittal, former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Shalini Phansalkar Joshi.

Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Shalini Phansalkar Joshi, former Judge of the Bombay High Court and Justice Asha Menon, former Judge of the Delhi High Court.

A three-member committee was set up to look into humanitarian aspects of the issue including relief, remedial measures, rehabilitation measures, and restoration of homes and places of worship. The Committee further highlighted that Manipur victim compensation scheme may be updated and proposal of the committee for the appointment of domain experts. After reviewing the reports, the bench also underlined that the committee had bifurcated the cases under several heads such as compensation, violence against women, mental health care, medical health care, relief camps, data reporting and monitoring etc.

The apex court had set up the three-member committee of former High Court judges — Justice Gita Mittal, former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Shalini Phansalkar Joshi.

Anti-Sikh riots case: Delhi court directs CBI to reply on deficient documents sought by Tytler

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, Aug 21 (UNI) A Delhi Court after hearing the request on behalf of Congress leader Jagdish Tytler, an accused in a case related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots seeking supply of the deficient documents, sought reply from Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Counsel for the Accused moved an application u/s 207 Cr.P.C r/w Section 91 Cr.P.C seeking supply of deficient documents along with a list of it.

Public Prosecutor for CBI sought some time for filing reply to the aforesaid application. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Vidhi Gupta Anand after hearing the request said, "Reply be filed by next date of hearing with advance copy to Ld. Counsel for Accused". "Matter be now put up for reply, if any/ arguments on the application u/s 207 Cr.P.C./ further proceedings on 29.08.2023 at 02:30 P.M." the court said.

SC allows rape victim from Gujarat to terminate pregnancy

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, Aug 21 (UNI) Supreme Court on Monday allowed a rape victim from Gujarat to terminate her pregnancy. A two-judge bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice B V Nagarathna and also comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan in its order allowed the woman's plea to terminate her pregnancy. The Apex Court was informed by the counsel for the petitioner (Victim, woman) that the 25-year-old woman had approached the Gujarat High Court on August 7. The MTP (Medical Termination of Pregnancy) Act of 2021 has given woman a sufficient period of 24 weeks of gestation to abort the pregnancy. It also leaves a scope of termination even after 24 weeks by filing a writ petition before an appropriate court.

Kejriwal orders suspension of a Delhi govt official

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, Aug 21 (UNI) Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday ordered suspension of the Delhi government official accused of raping his friend's daughter. Kejriwal has sought a report on the matter from the Chief Secretary by 5 pm on Monday.

While talking to media persons, Delhi Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj said the Chief Minister has ordered to suspend an official of Women and Child Development department in Delhi government accused of raping a minor girl. The CM has also asked the Chief Secretary to submit a report on this matter. Recently, Delhi Police filed a case against this official under relevant sections at Burari Police Station on the basis of a complaint of victim, Delhi Police said. She alleged that she was repeatedly raped by the official under whose care and guardianship she was staying at his house, Delhi Police said. Taking to twitter, Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maniwal wrote, "A government officer sitting on the post of deputy director in Women and Child Development department has been accused of sexually abusing a girl child.

Works of former UP CM Kalyan Singh completed by PM Modi: Amit Shah

■ HT News Network

Aligarh, Aug 21 (UNI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that whatever works were started by former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh whether it was welfare of poor, recognition for backward classes or construction of Lord Ram temple all have been completed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last nine years.

Addressing Hindu Gaurav Diwas organised on the death anniversary of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Shah said, "Whatever works were started by Babuji whether it was of poor welfare, recognition for backward classes or incomplete work of the construction of Ram temple, PM Modi has taken them to their logical end in the last nine years."

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, CM Yogi Adityanath, senior BJP leader Vasundhara Raje, Deputy CMs Keshav Prasad Maurya, Brajesh Pathak, state president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary and several other party leaders were present on the occasion.

On the occasion, he also appealed to the people to ensure the victory of BJP in all the 80 seats in the state in the next Lok



Sabha election and give a message to the country that UP is an impregnable fort of the party where it cannot be defeated.

Shah said that taking forward the works started by Kalyan Singh, PM Modi did a large number of works for the upliftment of the entire backward community in the last nine years. "On the one hand, he started a 'yagya' for the welfare of the poor, on the other hand, he worked for the advancement of the backward society," he said.

The Home Minister said that the third incomplete work was construction of Lord Ram temple. "Since independence, Congress was stalling, diverting and procrastinating the Ram Mandir issue. As soon as the Supreme Court's decision came.

UP has become prime investment destination: Yogi

■ HT News Network

Lucknow, Aug 21 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said that in a marked departure from its reputation just six years ago, the state has become a prime investment destination within the country, drawing substantial domestic tourism and securing significant funds from banks for industrial growth as per the latest reports of RBI and NITI Aayog.

The CM highlighted these developments while launching the Micro Entrepreneur Accident Insurance Scheme on the occasion of the World Entrepreneurship Day.

Under the scheme, a financial support of up to Rs 5 lakh will be provided to the micro entrepreneurs.

He also disbursed a cheque of Rs 1,137 lakh, the first instalment, to developers overseeing private



industrial park projects in Jhansi, Hapur, and Sambhal under the Pledge Park initiative.

Yogi extended his greetings on World Entrepreneurship Day and Nag Panchami as well.

Highlighting the remarkable growth in UP's exports, the CM said that this transformation was not abrupt, but a result of well-guided efforts. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inspiration and direction along with the state government's inclusive approach

that assured security to all investors without discrimination.

Yogi said, "The foundation for this progress was laid in 2018, when PM Modi inaugurated the state's inaugural Geographic Information System (GIS). Another pivotal step was the initiation of the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme on the state's first foundation day. This scheme aimed to rejuvenate neglected sectors that were grappling with issues such as pollution, power short-

ages and neglect from various departments. The strategic decision to tap into UP's strengths, particularly its MSME clusters, played a key role in reinvigorating the economy."

The CM pointed out that these clusters were on the verge of decline in various sectors. "However, the concentrated efforts over the last six years have borne fruit with a threefold increase in exports. This achievement, even amidst the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic, further solidifies the state's trajectory toward potentially becoming a trillion-dollar economy within the next five years," he said.

Referring to recent RBI and NITI Aayog reports, he said that these reports, received within the last week, significantly demonstrate the ongoing transformation in UP. Yogi urged sceptics to recognise that the state has become.

Minister S Jaishankar Takes Oath As Rajya Sabha Member After Re-Election

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was among nine MPs who took the oath as members of the Rajya Sabha on Monday. The oath was administered by Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in the Rajya Sabha chamber in Parliament House.

Mr Jaishankar took the oath in English. This is his second term as a Rajya Sabha MP. He was first elected in 2019.

Besides Mr Jaishankar, the other BJP members who took the oath are Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai (Gujarat), Kesridevsinh Digvijaysinh Jhala (Gujarat), and Nagendra Ray (West Bengal).

Five Trinamool Congress MPs -- Derek O'Brien, Dola Sen, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Prakash Chik Baraik and Samirul Islam -- also took the oath. O'Brien, Sen, Islam and Ray took the oath in Bengali.

Of the nine members who took oath on Monday, five are newly elected - Nagendra Ray, Prakash Chik Baraik, Samirul Islam, Kesridevsinh Digvijaysinh Jhala and Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai. Four members took the oath in Bengali, three in Hindi and two in English, a statement from the Rajya Sabha secretariat said.

Leader of the House and Minister of



Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha P C Mody and other senior officials of the secretariat were also present on the occasion. The oath was administered by Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in the Rajya Sabha chamber in Parliament House. Mr Jaishankar took the oath in English. This is his second term as a Rajya Sabha MP. He was first elected in 2019. Besides Mr Jaishankar, the other BJP members who took the oath are Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai (Gujarat), Kesridevsinh Digvijaysinh Jhala (Gujarat), and Nagendra Ray (West Bengal).

Five Trinamool Congress MPs -- Derek O'Brien, Dola Sen, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Prakash Chik Baraik and Samirul Islam -- also took the oath. O'Brien, Sen, Islam and Ray took the oath in Bengali.

Ashok Gehlot Appears Virtually Before Delhi Court In Defamation Case

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday appeared virtually before a Delhi court in a criminal defamation complaint filed against him by Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

During the brief hearing, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Harjeet Singh Jaspal directed the complainant to supply certain documents to the accused and adjourned the matter for a week.

The direction was given on an application moved by the counsel appearing for Mr Gehlot seeking supply of the documents.

"Counsel for the accused has moved an application for supply of deficient documents/ illegible documents. Copy supplied to the complainant. The complainant undertakes to supply the deficient/ legible copies by the next date of hearing," the judge said and adjourned the matter for August 28.

The court had on August 7 summoned the Congress leader following Mr Shekhawat's complaint over Mr Gehlot's remarks linking him to the alleged Sanjivani scam. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

The 'scam' is related to thousands of investors allegedly getting duped of about 900 crore by the Sanjivani Credit Cooperative Society on the promise of highly lucrative returns. The direction was given on an application moved by the counsel appearing for Mr Gehlot seeking supply of the documents.

"Counsel for the accused has moved an application for supply of deficient documents/ illegible documents. Copy supplied to the complainant. The complainant undertakes to supply the deficient/ legible copies by the next date of hearing," the judge said and adjourned the matter for August 28.

Zelensky hails 'historic' F-16 deal

HT News Network

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday hailed on a visit to the Netherlands a "historic" decision to supply F-16 fighter jets to strengthen Ukraine's Soviet-era air force.

Zelensky landed at a Dutch air force base in Eindhoven at around midday, a Dutch government spokesperson said, and inspected the aircraft shortly afterwards. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte rubber-stamped the deliveries, saying: "The Netherlands and Denmark commit to transfer F-16s to Ukraine once the conditions for such a transfer have been met." The decision is "absolutely historic, powerful and inspiring for us," Mr Zelensky said at a press conference with Rutte.

Details of the aircraft delivery to Ukraine have not been unveiled. The Dutch and the Danes are leading a plan to train Ukrainian pilots to fly the US-made aircraft as part of an 11-nation coalition, with training potentially complete by early 2024.

Russia thwarts drone attack on Moscow; strike on railway station in Kursk leaves five injured

Nuclear threat
Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said Moscow will regard Western F-16 fighter jets sent to Ukraine as a "nuclear" threat because of their capacity to carry atomic weapons.

Russia said it thwarted Ukrainian drone attacks on Moscow and its region on Sunday, the second such incident in two days. "At around 4am, an attempt by the Kyiv regime to carry out a terrorist attack by drone on infrastructure in Moscow and



the Moscow region was thwarted," the Russian defence ministry claimed in a statement.

The Moscow-bound drone was destroyed by "electronic warfare" and crashed into an uninhabited area after losing control, the ministry added, reporting no victims or damage.

A Ukrainian drone raid also hit a railway station in the western Russian city of Kursk, injuring five people, the regional governor said on Sunday. In the southern region of Rostov that borders Ukraine, Russian air defence intercepted two Ukrainian drones, the governor added.

Answer to Chernihiv attack
Zelensky has vowed "a tangible answer"

to Saturday's attack on the northern Ukrainian city of Chernihiv, which came during the Orthodox holiday of the Transfiguration of the Lord as some attended morning church services.

Vyacheslav Chaus, governor of the Chernihiv region, announced "seven people dead, 148 people received injuries" in an update on Sunday.

Zelensky had noted the dead included a six-year-old girl and that there were 15 children among the wounded. President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday hailed on a visit to the Netherlands a "historic" decision to supply F-16 fighter jets to strengthen Ukraine's Soviet-era air force.

Zelensky landed at a Dutch air force base

in Eindhoven at around midday, a Dutch government spokesperson said, and inspected the aircraft shortly afterwards.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte rubber-stamped the deliveries, saying: "The Netherlands and Denmark commit to transfer F-16s to Ukraine once the conditions for such a transfer have been met." The decision is "absolutely historic, powerful and inspiring for us," Mr Zelensky said at a press conference with Rutte.

Details of the aircraft delivery to Ukraine have not been unveiled. The Dutch and the Danes are leading a plan to train Ukrainian pilots to fly the US-made aircraft as part of an 11-nation coalition, with training potentially complete by early 2024.

Russia thwarts drone attack on Moscow; strike on railway station in Kursk leaves five injured

Nuclear threat
Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said Moscow will regard Western F-16 fighter jets sent to Ukraine as a "nuclear" threat because of their capacity to carry atomic weapons.

Russia said it thwarted Ukrainian drone attacks on Moscow and its region on Sunday, the second such incident in two days. "At around 4am, an attempt by the Kyiv regime to carry out a terrorist attack by drone on infrastructure in Moscow and the Moscow region was thwarted," the Russian defence ministry claimed in a statement.

The Moscow-bound drone was destroyed by "electronic warfare" and crashed into an uninhabited area after losing control, the ministry added, reporting no victims or damage.

Erdogan travels to Hungary for talks on Nato

HT News Network

BUDAPEST: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Budapest on Sunday, with energy security and Sweden's membership of Nato on the agenda for both countries.

Hungary has still not voted to approve the Nordic country's entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, having aligned itself with Turkey which had long blocked Sweden's membership before lifting its veto last month. Both countries' parliaments are currently on holiday. "We can come back to the issue at the autumn session," Hungary's Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto said on Facebook, "We have agreed to stay in touch." The two countries have also discussed strengthening their energy cooperation, given that Hungary already receives a large proportion of its gas via the TurkStream pipeline, which transports Russian gas across the Black Sea.

Budapest and Ankara will



also be deepening their "strategic partnership", an announcement due to be made official during a visit by Erdogan scheduled for December. The Turkish leader's visit is part of a series of diplomatic meetings organised by Orban to mark the World Athletics Championships, which opened on Saturday.

Among other dignitaries welcomed on Sunday were the presidents of Serbia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan as well as President Serdar Berdimukhamedov of Turkmenistan.

Szijarto welcomed "the close cooperation between Central Asia and the Western Balkans", which he said

was especially important given the energy crisis.

Serbia has promised to "provide the necessary transit capacity" if Ukraine decides to stop allowing Russian gas to pass through its territory to be transported to European countries, he added. The Turkish leader's visit is part of a series of diplomatic meetings organised by Orban to mark the World Athletics Championships, which opened on Saturday.

Among other dignitaries welcomed on Sunday were the presidents of Serbia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan as well as President Serdar Berdimukhamedov of Turkmenistan.

Canada wildfires force tens of thousands to flee

HT News Network

KELOWNA: Officials in western Canada's British Columbia implored tens of thousands of residents to heed warnings and evacuate on Saturday as "rapidly evolving" wildfires threatened large parts of the scenic Okanagan Valley, including the city of Kelowna.

The situation in the popular boating and hiking destination was "highly dynamic," said Bowinn Ma, the province's minister of emergency management.

Around 30,000 people were under evacuation orders while another 36,000 were under alert to be ready to flee, she said.

"We cannot stress strongly enough how critical it is to follow evacuation orders when they are issued," Ma said at an afternoon news conference. Blazes in the Northwest Territories have led to evacuation of regional capital Yellowknife. "They are a matter of life and death not only for the people in those properties, but also for the first responders who will often go back to try to implore people to leave." Kelowna, a city of 150,000, was choked with thick smoke as it became the latest population centre hit in a summer of dramatic wildfires across Canada that has left millions of acres scorched. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he had spoken with British Columbia Premier David Eby about the "rapidly evolving and incredibly devastating wildfire situation" and pledged federal resources in responding to the disaster. Blazes far away in the neighbouring Northwest Territories have meanwhile prompted the



evacuation of regional capital Yellowknife, leaving the remote city of some 20,000 largely a ghost town. Winds have been fanning the wildfires towards Yellowknife, but Saturday saw some relief after overnight rain brought a sharp dip in temperatures.

However, "a little rain does not mean it's safe to come back home," warned Northwest Territories environment minister Shane Thompson at a Saturday evening press conference. "Though the surface may not show fire, it's still active and it's huge," he said, noting that temperatures are expected to rise again on Sunday.

Yellowknife official Chris Greencorn praised the work crews were doing to build defences around the city, with large areas cleared to create firebreaks and pipes laid for sprinklers and water cannons.

"Basically this represents approximately two full Yellowknife construction seasons completed in less than six days," he said.

"Incredible" exodus Tony Whitford, a former commissioner for the Northwest Territories and a longtime resident of Yellowknife, arrived in the city of Calgary on one of the first flights out and gave the evacuation high marks.

Niger coup ruler offers transition in 3 years

HT News Network

NIAMEY: Niger's new military ruler has said a transition of power will not go beyond three years, and warned that any attack on the country "will not be the walk in the park" for those involved.

"Our ambition is not to confiscate power," General Abdourahmane Tiani said in a televised address. Any transition of power "will not go beyond three years", he said before warning that if an attack were to be undertaken, "it will not be the walk in the park some people seem to think".

The warning came after a delegation from Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), led by former Nigerian leader Abdulsalami Abubakar, met ousted president Mohamed Bazoum in a bid to make a



final diplomatic push before deciding whether to take military action against the Niger's new military rulers.

Last week, ECOWAS defence chiefs had met to fine-tune details of a potential military operation if negotiations with Niger's military rulers fail.

However, thousands of people demonstrated in Niamey on Sunday in support of the military coup. They chanted slogans agai-

nst ECOWAS and France, former colonial power.

The Sahel state's new military leaders have officially banned demonstrations but in practice, those in support of the coup are allowed to go ahead.

The demonstrators waved placards saying "Stop the military intervention" and "No to sanctions", in reference to the financial and trade restrictions imposed by ECOWAS four

days after the coup on July 26. Niger's new military ruler has said a transition of power will not go beyond three years, and warned that any attack on the country "will not be the walk in the park" for those involved.

"Our ambition is not to confiscate power," General Abdourahmane Tiani said in a televised address. Any transition of power "will not go beyond three years", he said before warning that if an attack were to be undertaken, "it will not be the walk in the park some people seem to think".

The warning came after a delegation from Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), led by former Nigerian leader Abdulsalami Abubakar, met ousted president Mohamed Bazoum in a bid to make a final diplomatic push before deciding whether to take military action.

UK child-killer nurse facing life sentence

HT News Network

A British nurse will be sentenced on Monday for murdering seven newborn babies and attempting to kill six others while they were in her care.

Lucy Letby, 33, was convicted of killing five baby boys and two baby girls, making her the UK's most prolific child serial killer in modern history.

She was arrested following a string of baby deaths at the neonatal unit of the Countess of Chester Hospital in northwest England between June 2015 and June 2016.

The prosecution said Letby attacked her young and often prematurely born victims by either injecting them with air, overfeeding them with milk or poisoning them with insulin. Following a trial that started in October, a jury at Manchester Crown Court ended more than 100 hours of deliberations on Friday. The jury cleared Letby of two counts of attempted murder and were unable to reach decisions on six other counts of attempted murder.

But the multiple guilty verdicts for murder mean Letby faces the prospect of never being released from prison.

Letby fought back tears in the dock as the jury returned their first guilty decisions earlier in August. But she was not in court for the final verdicts and was absent from court at the start of her sentencing on Monday.

Letby's absence means she will not hear the families' victim impact statements about how her crimes affected them.

BRICS nations eye global geopolitical shift

HT News Network

JOHANNESBURG: Leaders of the BRICS emerging economies, which account for about a quarter of the world's wealth, meet in Johannesburg this week looking to widen the bloc's influence and push for a shift in global geopolitics.

South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa is expected to host China's President Xi Jinping, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva for the annual three-day summit, starting on Tuesday. Russia's President Vladimir Putin also will join remotely.

Putin decided against attending in person as he is the target of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant that South Africa is in theory bound to enforce if he sets foot in the country. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will travel to Johannesburg instead.

"The traditional global governing system has become dysfunctional, deficient and missing in action," Chen Xiaodong, the Chinese ambassador to Pretoria said at a briefing, adding that BRICS are "increasingly becoming a staunch force in defending international justice".

China supports BRICS expansion process

HT News Network

Beijing, Aug 21 (UNI) China supports the BRICS expansion process and welcomes the early entry of new partners into the organization, the press service of the Chinese Foreign Ministry told Sputnik on Monday. "China has always been convinced that BRICS is an open and inclusive mechanism, Beijing supports the BRICS expansion process and welcomes the early entry into the BRICS 'big family' of more like-minded partners," the ministry said ahead of the BRICS summit, which would be held in Johannesburg from August 22-24.

The ministry also noted that China is ready to work with BRICS partners to support the work of South Africa as the chair country, jointly organize various BRICS events, "promote the qualitative development of BRICS cooperation and make greater contributions to strengthening peace, stability and prosperity in all over the world."

The BRICS summit in Johannesburg is expected to be attended by the leaders of Russia, China, India, Brazil and South Africa. Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to participate in the summit via video link.

On Sunday, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said that over 20 countries had formally applied to join BRICS, while several others had expressed an interest in joining the organization.

Bus crash in Turkey claims lives of 12 people, 19 others receive injuries

HT News Network

Ankara, Aug 21 (UNI) At least 12 people died and 19 others were injured in an accident with a passenger bus in the central Turkish province of Yozgat, Turkish media reported on Monday.

The injured were taken by ambulances to the Sorgun State Hospital, the A Haber broadcaster reported.

Turkish Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said that law enforcement services began an investigation into the accident.

One Israeli killed, one injured in drive-by shooting in West Bank

HT News Network

Jerusalem, Aug 21 (UNI) An Israeli woman was killed, and a man was badly injured on Monday by a Palestinian gunman in a drive-by attack in the occupied West Bank, according to the Israeli military.

The couple was fatally shot by the gunman from a passing vehicle while driving a car outside the Jewish settlement of Beit Hagai, south of the West Bank city of Hebron, the military said in a statement.

The woman in her 40s died shortly after sustaining deadly gunshot wounds, and the injured man in his 40s was taken to a hospital in serious condition, Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said in a statement.

A six-year-old girl was also in the car but sustained no injuries, Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported.

The military said a manhunt for the suspect is underway, and "blockades have been set up in the area."

S Africa receives over \$5bln from BRICS Bank for infrastructure projects

HT News Network

Bloemfontein, Aug 21 (UNI) South Africa has received 100 billion rands (\$5.27 billion) from the New Development Bank created by the BRICS countries for the construction of roads, water supply and energy, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Sunday.

"South Africa has benefited from the New Development Bank, which was established by the BRICS countries in 2015. Our country has been funded by the bank in several infrastructure projects to the value of R100 billion in sectors such as roads, water and energy," Ramaphosa said, speaking to the nation ahead of the BRICS summit.

Shopian Apple Growers Expect Rich Dividends As Harvest Of High Density Variety Begins

HT News Network

Srinagar, Aug 21 (GNS): Kashmir's first apple crop is off to a great start as High Density apple variety is being harvested in full swing in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Local farmers of the district, also known as Apple district, started planting high density apple plants several years before and the move has brought immense happiness to the growers as harvesting season kicks off. People are particularly fond of high density plants because they bear fruit just one year after being planted, commanding a higher price in the market compared to other apple varieties like 'Delicious'.

Typically, the apple season in the region starts from mid-October to November. However, the high density apple crop is being harvested earlier than expected and the growers are filled with enthusiasm. They are hopeful for a bumper season and expect a good turnover. One local grower, Parvaiz Wani, while talking to this GNS shared his excitement about the progress of the apple crop. He expressed his satisfaction with the ongoing harvesting process and credits the hard work and dedication of the farmers for the successful yield of their high density apple plants. "The abundance of apples not only brings joy to the growers but also con-



tributes to the agricultural economy of the region", he said. The success of this first apple crop sets a positive tone for the rest of the season, highlighting the potential for a bountiful harvest and economic growth in the Kashmir Valley. The apple crop in Kashmir is not only a source of pride for the local growers but also a delight for apple enthusiasts across the region. The sweet and juicy apples from Kashmir are known for their exceptional taste and quality. Whether enjoyed fresh or used in various culinary creations, Kashmiri apples are a treat for the taste buds. (GNS)

Director Agriculture visits Vegetable growing areas of zone Qamarwari in Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 21: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited Vegetable Growing areas of Zone Qamarwari in Srinagar district. During the visit, the Director interacted with the progressive vegetable growers of the area. He expressed satisfaction and said that the 3rd batch of different vegetable crops

produced under controlled conditions is ready to reach the markets. He said this would fetch the concerned farmers a good return for their produce. He said the interventions by the department for the promotion of vertical expansion is gaining ground and more and more farmers are getting attracted towards the vertical expansion. Director asked the concerned officers to work for the effective implemen-



tation of different projects under the Holistic Agricul-

ture Development Programme for socio-economic transformation of the farming community of J&K. The department and farmers must work in close coordination as a team so that the set targets under different projects could be achieved time bound, he added. Director said that amid inclement weather conditions in different states of the country there is huge demand for Kashmir vegetables outside the

union territory. He asked the farmers to put in all the efforts for maximising the production of different vegetable crops. He impressed upon the concerned field officers to ensure that every technical guidance is provided to the farmers during their endeavours. He said the interventions by the department for the promotion of vertical expansion is gaining ground and more and more farmers are getting attracted towards the vertical expansion.

JKPDP President Mehbooba Mufti Mourns the Passing of Imam e Ziyarat Makhdoom Sahib

HT News Network

Srinagar, August 21st: The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP) is deeply saddened to learn about the sad demise of Imam e Ziyarat Makhdoom Sahib, Peezada Haji Ali Muhammad Makhdoomi. An esteemed spiritual leader and religious scholar, Imam e Ziyarat Makhdoom Sahib's departure has left a profound void in the hearts of countless individuals who were touched by his teachings and guidance. Paying homage to the life and legacy of Peezada Sahib, JKPDP President Mehbooba Mufti expressed her heartfelt condolences and stated, "We are deeply saddened to hear about the sad demise of Imam e Ziyarat Makhdoom Sahib, Peezada Haji Ali Muhammad Makhdoomi. He was a pious soul and religious scholar whose guidance has left an indelible mark on countless lives. His teachings and spiritual wisdom have been a source of inspiration and solace for many." "We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and followers of PEERZADA Sahib during this difficult time," Mehbooba said.

Piping Ceremony held at DPL Sopore

HT News Network

August 21: Piping ceremony of recently promoted Sub-inspectors & Assistant Sub-inspectors was held during an impressive ceremonial function at District Police Lines Sopore. Senior Superintendent of Police Sopore Shri Shabir Nawab-JKPS decorated seven officers with their new ranks of Sub-Inspectors and fourteen officers with their new ranks of Assistant Sub-Inspectors. The event was attended by SDPO Sopore, DySP DAR Sopore and DySP PC Sopore among other officers. The event celebrated the recent promotions of Zakir Hussain Wani, Popinder Singh, Bopinder Singh, Ab. Rashid Mughal, Gh Hassan Malla, Muhammad Ayoub Ganie and Gulzar Ahmad who were elevated to the new ranks of Sub-Inspectors besides, Muhammad Maqbool, Gulam Nabi, Abdul Hamid, Muhammad Ashraf, Mushtaq Ahmad, Jitender Singh, Khushal Ahmad, Gulam Nabi Lone, Muhammad Shafi, Nasir Ahmad, Tariq Ahmad, Muhammad Gulab, Riyaz Ahmad Mir, Showkat Ahmad were elevated to the new ranks of Assistant Sub-Inspectors by the Police Headquarters (PHQ) of Jammu & Kashmir.

SWD Observes 'National Senior Citizens Day' At Bhadarwah

Amir Iqbal Khan



Bhadarwah, August 21: The Social Welfare Department (SWD) district Doda today observed 'National Senior Citizen Day' here at Bhartiya Vidya Mandir (BVM) ground Ganpat Bazar Bhadarwah. Mast Nath Yogi a Socio-political leader and Chief patron Senior Citizen Council Bhadarwah was the Chief guest on the occasion. The programme witnessed a series of activities including a medical checkup camp, distribution of Ayush medicine, kits, Psycho-social counselling and a yoga session which were hosted by the Department (AYUSH) and Sub District Hospital Bhadarwah. On the occasion, more than 300 Senior Citizens from across the Additional District Bhadarwah participated in the Programme. "We have sensitized the youth about the need for care of the elderly persons including their parents, grandparents and old age people in general by engaging them in different acts of kindness and prominently advised them to spend quality time with the elderly persons to give them company and learn from their experiences," Mast Nath Yogi informed.

Inter-Institutional meeting held at NIT Srinagar; key initiatives discussed

HT News Network

Srinagar, 21 Aug: With an aim at fostering comprehensive growth and empowerment, an inter-institutional meeting between Prof. Sudhakar Yedla, Director NIT Srinagar, Terry Durnnian, Chief of Education at UNICEF India, Danish Aziz, Education Specialist UNICEF India, Dr. Saad Parvez, Head IIEDC and Sheikh Inayat Ullah, CEO Move Beyond was convened at NIT Srinagar.

During the meeting deliberations on various initiatives aimed at enhancing career guidance, bolstering institutional innovation, addressing pressing socioeconomic concerns and nurturing the potential of the region's children and youth.

Within the scope of the tripartite "Statement of Intent" (Sol) signed by IIEDC, NIT Srinagar, UNICEF India, and Move Beyond Centre for Career Guidance, Counseling, and Consulta-



tion, the meeting intended to investigate new pathways and strengthen existing activities.

The tripartite Sol sets the foundation for multi-faceted initiatives aimed at enhancing the educational landscape and career prospects for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. The discussions were centered on initiatives in career guidance and counselling, interventions for augmenting institutional innovations ecosystem, pressing issues of socio-

economic importance like solid waste management, urban planning, and development, creation of astrophysics labs, wetland management, and mobilizing the inter-institutional infrastructure for holistic development of the region, especially children and youth.

The Director NIT Srinagar demonstrated his deep interest and support in carrying out activities of intense social impact.

He suggested that the projects which can strengthen the parent-

children's relationships must be taken up which has a huge bearing on the student's career development.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Yedla further discussed the first-of-its-kind initiatives that NIT Srinagar is contemplating implementing in the UT of J&K that can inspire research, and development and can attract huge talent across the country.

Terry Durnnian, Chief of Education, UNICEF India also presented a detailed account of activities UNICEF India is undertaking in other parts of the country. Sheikh Inayat Ullah, CEO Move Beyond spoke about the career guidance and counseling initiatives taken by their organization in collaboration with IIEDC, NIT Srinagar.

He expressed his gratitude to the Director for the support and assistance NIT Srinagar has been extending in joint implementation of the projects.

Senior Citizen's Day: SWD organizes day-long Awareness Camp at Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUGUST 21: To celebrate National Senior Citizen Day, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) Kulgam Monday organized a day-long Awareness Camp, aiming to acknowledge the contributions of senior citizens in various aspects of social life and to educate them about different government programs and schemes designed for their well-being.

The event was attended by officials from the Social Welfare Department, as well as resource persons from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kulgam, District Hospital Kulgam, Lead Bank Kulgam, and



various non-governmental organizations.

During the program, representatives from the Social Welfare Department and other resource persons provided information about various government programs and schemes specifically designed for the benefit of senior citizens.

Additionally, a complimentary geriatric health camp was held in collabora-

tion with the Chief Medical Officer Kulgam.

This health camp assessed nearly 200 senior citizens for various health indicators, with a focus on issues commonly experienced by this demographic.

The event concluded with an interactive session, combined with a grievance redressal component, to address the specific concerns of the participants.

7-Day Multi Lingual Festival featured Punjabi and Pahari short stories.

HT News Network

Srinagar 21st August 2023. On the fourth and fifth day of 7-Day Multi Lingual Short Story Festival at JKAACL premises in Jammu Punjabi and Pahari writers presented short stories. In this 7 Day Festival writers of Dogri, Hindi, Punjabi, Gojri, Pahari and Kashmiri languages will present their short stories. The festival will feature senior writers along with young budding writers of J&K. Besides this an exhibition of various publications of JKAACL in all languages was also displayed during the festival. On the fourth day total of nine Punjabi stories were read by prominent authors including young budding writers of Punjabi. In the inaugural session the writers who presented Short stories included Jasmit Singh presented story "Khanabadosh", Manjit Singh Kamra presented story "Untitled", Amarjit kour Neer presented story "Vapsi", Prof. Anmole Singh presented story "Mehla Divas" and Smt



Antarjeet Kour presented story "Lala". This session was chaired by Dr. Baljit Singh Raina, Dr. M.K Waqar Gojri Short story writer, Popinder Singh Paras editor Sheeraza Punjabi and Dr. Anuradha Astt. Prof. Punjabi in the Presidium. In the beginning of the session S. Popinder Singh Paras Editor Sheeraza Punjabi welcomed the audience on behalf of Secretary JKAACL Sh. Bharat Singh. In the second session the stories read included Dr. Monojit presented story "Mukti", Surinder Kaur Neer presented story "Ram Sunehi", Jang Singh Verman presented story "Famba".

From Office Of The Advocate Maroof Muhammad
Lic. No.532/21 J&K HIGH COURT SRINAGAR

Ali Mohammad laway
S/o Mohammad laway
Ronoorbagh (Caveator)

V/S

Ghulam Nabi laway
S/o Ghulam Mohammad laway
R/o Noorbagh (Non-Caveators)

PUBLIC AT LARGE

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C The caveat has reason to believe/ apprehension that non caveat may file a suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble court and on the ground or Distorted facts/misrepresent and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that caveat is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Electricity connection with Consumer ID No 020301005307 installation No 363 R1 Registered in the name of Ghulam Nabi Bangroo R/o Rampora Veer Qamarwari Srinagar Informs general public that this Electric connection should not be transferd in other name.

Ghulam Nabi Bangroo
R/o Rampora Veer Qamarwari Srinagar

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The undersigned is in need of a passport, I want to add my surname "Baba" with my name on passport. Therefore my name on passport shall be as Zahoor Ahmad Baba. Any body having any objection in this regard my contact passport office Baramulla Kashmir up to 23-08-2023 from the publication of this notice.

ZAHOOR AHMAD BABA
S/o GH HASSAN BABA R/O. SHEERPOA PATTAN

How Biological Differences Between Men And Women Alter Immune Responses

Birmingham: Most people will have heard the term "man flu", which refers to men's perceived tendency to exaggerate the severity of a cold or a similar minor ailment. What most people may not know is that, generally speaking, women mount stronger immune responses to infections than men. Men are more susceptible to infections from, for example, HIV, hepatitis B, and Plasmodium falciparum (the parasite responsible for malaria).

They can also have more severe symptoms, with evidence showing they're more likely to be admitted to hospital when infected with hepatitis B, tuberculosis, and Campylobacter jejuni (a bacteria that causes gastroenteritis), among others.

While this may be positive for women in some respects, it also means women are at greater risk of developing chronic diseases driven by the immune system, known as immune-mediated inflammatory diseases.

Here we will explore how biological factors influence immune differences between the sexes and how this affects women's health. While we acknowledge that both sex and gender may affect immune responses, this article will focus on biological sex rather than gender.

Battle of the sexes

There are differences between the sexes at every stage of the immune response, from the number of immune cells, to their degree of activation (how ready they are to respond to a challenge), and beyond.

However, the story is more complicated than that. Our immune system evolves throughout our lives, learning from past experiences, but also responding to the physiological challenges of getting older. As a result, sex differences in the immune system can be seen from birth through puberty into adulthood and old age.

Why do these differences occur?

The first part of answering this question involves the X chromosome. Females have



two X chromosomes, while males have one X and one Y chromosome. The X chromosome contains the largest number of immune-related genes.

The X chromosome also has around 118 genes from a gene family that are able to stop the expression of other genes, or change how proteins are made, including those required for immunity. These gene-protein regulators are known as microRNA, and there are only two microRNA genes on the Y chromosome.

The X chromosome has more genes overall (around 900) than the Y chromosome (around 55), so female cells have evolved to switch off one of their X chromosomes. This is not like turning off a light switch, but more like using a dimmer.

Around 15-25% of genes on the silenced X chromosome are expressed at any given moment in any given cell. This means female cells can often express more immune-related genes and gene-protein regulators than males. This generally means a faster clearance of pathogens in females than males.

Second, men and women have varying levels of different sex hormones. Progesterone and testosterone are broadly considered to limit immune responses. While both hormones are produced by males

and females, progesterone is found at higher concentrations in non-menopausal women than men, and testosterone is much higher in men than women.

The role of oestrogen, one of the main female sex hormones, is more complicated. Although generally oestrogen enhances immune responses, its levels vary during the menstrual cycle, are high in pregnancy and low after menopause.

Due in part to these genetic and hormonal factors, pregnancy and the years following are associated with heightened immune responses to external challenges such as infection.

This has been regarded as an evolutionary feature, protecting women and their unborn children during pregnancy and enhancing the mother's survival throughout the child-rearing years, ultimately ensuring the survival of the population. We also see this pattern in other species including insects, lizards, birds and mammals.

What does this all mean?

With women's heightened immune responses to infections comes an increased risk of certain diseases and prolonged immune responses after infections.

An estimated 75-80% of all immune-

mediated inflammatory diseases occur in females. Diseases more common in women include multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, Sjogren's syndrome, and thyroid disorders such as Graves disease.

In these diseases, the immune system is continuously fighting against what it sees as a foreign agent. However, often this perceived threat is not a foreign agent, but cells or tissues from the host. This leads to tissue damage, pain and immobility.

Women are also prone to chronic inflammation following infection. For example, after infections with Epstein Barr virus or Lyme disease, they may go on to develop chronic fatigue syndrome, another condition that affects more women than men.

This is one possible explanation for the heightened risk among pre-menopausal women of developing long COVID following infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID.

Research has also revealed the presence of auto-antibodies (antibodies that attack the host) in patients with long COVID, suggesting it might be an autoimmune disease. As women are more susceptible to autoimmune conditions, this could potentially explain the sex bias seen.

However, the exact causes of long COVID, and the reason women may be at greater risk, are yet to be defined.

This paints a bleak picture, but it's not all bad news. Women typically mount better vaccine responses to several common infections (for example, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A and B), producing higher antibody levels than men. One study showed that women vaccinated with half a dose of flu vaccine produced the same amount of antibodies compared to men vaccinated with a full dose.

However, these responses decline as women age, and particularly after menopause.

All of this shows it's vital to consider sex when designing studies examining the immune system and treating patients with immune-related diseases.

NEWS

Mouthwash can detect early cardiovascular disease: Study



Periodontitis, which is connected to cardiovascular risk, results from gum inflammation. The study was published in 'Frontiers in Oral Health.' The team tested whether white blood cell counts, an indication of gum inflammation, in the saliva of healthy persons may be connected to cardiovascular disease warning signs using a straightforward mouth rinse.

They discovered that elevated levels were associated with impaired flow-mediated dilation, which is a precursor to vascular disease. "Even in young healthy adults, low levels of oral inflammatory load may have an impact on cardiovascular health — one of the leading causes of death in North America," said Dr Trevor King of Mount Royal University, corresponding author of the study published in Frontiers in Oral Health.

Periodontitis is a common infection of the gums which has previously been linked to the development of cardiovascular disease: scientists suspect that inflammatory factors may enter the bloodstream through the gums and damage the vascular system. King and his colleagues set out to study currently healthy young people without diagnosed periodontal issues to determine whether lower levels of oral inflammation can be clinically relevant to cardiovascular health.

"We are starting to see more relationships between oral health and risk of cardiovascular disease," said Ker-Yung Hong, first author of the study, now studying dentistry at the University of Western Ontario.

"If we are seeing that oral health may have an impact on the risk of developing cardiovascular disease even in young healthy individuals, this holistic approach can be implemented earlier on."

The team chose pulse-wave velocity, which can measure the stiffness of arteries, and flow-mediated dilation, a measure of how well arteries can dilate to allow for higher blood flow, as key indicators of cardiovascular risk. These measure arterial health directly: stiff and poorly functioning arteries raise patients' risk of cardiovascular disease. The scientists recruited 28 non-smokers between 18 and 30, with no comorbidities or medications that could affect cardiovascular risk and no reported history of periodontal disease. They were asked to fast for six hours, except for drinking water, prior to visiting the lab.

At the lab, participants rinsed their mouths with water before rinsing their mouths with saline which was collected for analysis. Participants then lay down for 10 minutes for an electrocardiogram and stayed lying down for another 10 minutes so that the scientists could take their blood pressure, flow-mediated dilation, and pulse-wave velocity.

There is no vaccine, medicine with zero side effects, says former AIIMS chief

Dr Randeep Guleria spoke about the misconceptions of Covid vaccines causing blood clots, heart attacks and other diseases during the pandemic, in an interview with The Lallantop's Sarwat.

While the war against Covid is still raging, there was a lot of misinformation about the use of vaccines almost two years ago.

The former AIIMS Director highlighted that there's no data or research that proves Covid vaccines that could cause major changes in the body. "We have



to first consider this: there is no vaccine or medicine that will have zero side effects. Every medicine or a vaccine will have

some side effects. But there's no concrete data that says heart attacks are caused by vaccines or sudden deaths are caused by vaccines," said Dr Guleria.

He added that, however, it is possible there were incidences of people contracting certain allergies or some sort of reaction, which is "normal even when you have a regular medicine." The expert also said that in India and even abroad, acute adverse effects of immunisation (side effects of vaccines) were being closely monitored to see if

there were any major side effects.

"In many countries, as soon as there were doubts about a vaccine, the governments paused distribution for a while and then re-started it once there was enough study to prove it was safe for the body. There could be some side-effects of the vaccines but nothing claims lives," said Dr Guleria. Dr Randeep Guleria, former AIIMS chief, debunked Covid vaccine misconceptions, reassuring that there is no evidence linking vaccines to serious health issues such as blood clots

Eczema: How sun exposure during vacation can affect your skin microbiome

Human skin hosts many bacteria, fungi, and viruses, which play a key role in maintaining skin homeostasis.

It is well-established that high doses of ultraviolet radiation (UVR) damage DNA in skin cells and induce inflammation and photaging.

However, research is comparably limited on how UVR affects skin bacteria in vivo.

While some studies suggest that UVR may positively affect the skin by decreasing levels of opportunistic pathogens among other factors, other research reports that UVR-induced microbiota imbalances can lead to chronic inflammation and conditions such as eczema and psoriasis.

How ultraviolet radiation can affect the skin

Researchers recently examined the effects of short-term holiday-related sun exposure on skin.



They report that sun exposure affects the diversity and composition of skin microbiota, but that changes reverse after 28 days of returning home.

The study was published in the journal Frontiers in Aging.

"This study suggests that increased sun exposure, or at least tanning, during a sunny holiday is associated with short-term shifts in the skin microbiome," said Dr. Adela Rambí G. Cardones, MHSc, a professor and chief of the Division of Dermatology at The University of Kansas Health System who was not involved in the study.

"Further studies need to be done to determine what the underlying cause of this shift was and what the underlying

groups included:

'Seekers': Those who picked up a tan while on holiday

'Tanners': Those who already had a tan prior to departure and maintained it while abroad

'Avoiders': Those who did not tan while abroad and maintained the same skin tone before and after

After conducting a genetic analysis of the skin samples, the researchers found that three bacteria made up 94% of all skin microbiota samples at all time points before and after the holiday. They included actinobacteria, proteobacteria, and firmicutes.

Immediately after the participants returned from vacation, the researchers reported that seekers and tanners had significantly lower levels of proteobacteria than the avoider group. By days 28 and 84 however, levels of proteobacteria had returned to pre-holiday levels.

Meanwhile, levels of actinobacteria and firmicutes remained consistent across the groups over all time points.

Mediterranean Lifestyle Can Help Lower Your Risk of Cancer, Early Death

The Mediterranean lifestyle — including factors like diet, eating habits, rest, and physical exercise — has consistently been touted for its myriad health benefits. Trusted Source, being both heart-healthy and protective against cancer. But can those benefits be replicated outside the unique geography of the Mediterranean region?

New research says: yes. In a study published this week in Mayo Clinic Proceedings, researchers found that adherence to the Mediterranean lifestyle by middle-aged individuals living in the United Kingdom reduced all-cause and cancer-related mortality by 29% and 28%, respectively.

"This study adds to the literature that beyond diet, other components of the Mediterranean Lifestyle can play a combined and stronger role in the risk of mortality, cancer and cardiovascular disease, not only in Mediterranean countries but in non-Mediterranean," Dr. Mercedes Sotos-Prieto, PhD, lead study author, Nutrition



Epidemiologist at the University Autonomous of Madrid, Spain, and Adjunct Professor at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, told Healthline.

What is the "Mediterranean Lifestyle"?

Sotos-Prieto and her fellow researchers utilized data from a cohort of individuals from the UK Biobank, a population-based study across England, to analyze the lifestyle and eating habits of 110,799 individuals between the ages of 40 and 75, with a nine-year follow-up period. Using the MEDLIFE system, researchers were able to establish point-based scores for members of the

study, limited sedentary activities, and taking naps. Using self-reported assessments about diet and physical activity, researchers were able to determine how well members of the UK Biobank cohort adhered to the primary components of the Mediterranean lifestyle.

What the Study Found

The results of the study found that those with the highest level of adherence to the Mediterranean lifestyle had the highest protective benefits compared to those with the lowest levels. Those with the highest levels of adherence had reduced all-cause and cancer-related mortality by 29% and 28%, respectively. In fact, researchers determined that every two-point increase in an individual's MEDLIFE score was associated with a 9% lower risk of both all-cause and cancer-related mortality. Kristin Kirkpatrick, MS, RDN, a dietician and president of KAK Consulting, told Healthline that the results of the study weren't surprising.

Rahul, Shreyas And Tilak Make It To India's Asia Cup Squad

Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna make their ODI comebacks, but Yuzvendra Chahal has been dropped from the 17-man squad

MUMBAI: KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer have been selected in India's ODI squad for the Asia Cup after recovering in time from a thigh and a back injury respectively. The 17-man Asia Cup squad announced by chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar in Delhi on Monday included rookie left-hander Tilak Varma, who hasn't played ODI cricket yet.

Fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna, who made their international comebacks during the ongoing T20I series in Ireland after recovering from back surgeries, were also selected. Mohammed Shami made a comeback after being rested for the entire tour of West Indies, while Mohammed Siraj and allrounders Hardik Pandya and Shardul Thakur complete the pace attack.

"In West Indies, we saw some real promise in terms of not just performances but the temperament," Agarkar said of Tilak's selection. "And it gives us an opportunity to take him with the team, give him some more exposure; a left-hander again, looks very promising. So fortunately we can take 17 here, it'll be 15 at the World Cup. So when the time comes we'll take that decision, but at the moment it at least gives the coach and captain an opportunity to have him with the squad."

Experienced legspinner Yuzvendra Chahal was dropped from the squad, with Kuldeep Yadav preferred as the only wrist-spinner along with two fingerspinning allrounders in Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel. There was no offspinner in the squad.

"We thought about an offspinner as well, [R] Ashwin and Washy [Washington Sundar], but right now you see Chahal had to miss out because we could only pick 17 players," India captain Rohit Sharma said at the press conference. "The only way we could have picked him was if one of the seamers was missing. We can't do that because seamers are going to play a big role in the next two months. A few of them are coming back after a long time, so we wanted to have a good look at them, get them in and see what they have to offer. Having said that, no doors are closed on anyone. Anyone can come in anytime. If we feel like we need Chahal for the World Cup, we'll see how we can squeeze him in, same goes for Washy or Ashwin."

Ishan Kishan was chosen over Sanju Samson as the second wicketkeeper in the squad, behind Rahul, with the left-hand batter doubling up as a reserve opener. Samson, however, will travel to Sri Lanka

INDIA SQUAD FOR ASIA CUP

- Rohit Sharma (capt)
- Shubman Gill
- Virat Kohli
- Shreyas Iyer
- KL Rahul (wk)
- Hardik Pandya (vice-capt)
- Ravindra Jadeja
- Jasprit Bumrah
- Kuldeep Yadav
- Mohammed Siraj
- Mohammed Shami
- Ishan Kishan (wk)
- Shardul Thakur
- Axar Patel
- Suryakumar Yadav
- Tilak Varma
- Prasidh Krishna

guys coming back from injury, hopefully all goes well with them. They have a few games now at the Asia Cup. There's a short camp in Bengaluru followed by a couple of games before we announce the World Cup squad, but it's quite obvious it'll be around these guys."

Rahul and Shreyas had spent several weeks undergoing rehab at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and took part in match-simulation exercises in the days leading up to their selection. Rahul has not played any competitive cricket since he was injured during IPL 2023, while Shreyas has been out of action since Australia's tour of India in March. Agarkar said that while Shreyas was passed fully fit, there was still a question mark over Rahul.

"Both are coming off long-term serious injuries. Shreyas has been declared completely fit. Rahul, not his original injury but there's a niggle, which is why Sanju is travelling," Agarkar said. "We'll get a report from the physio at some stage but we all expect him to be fit. If not at the start, by the second or third game, but he's on track. Shreyas has been passed fit, which is good news for us."

Apart from Tilak's inclusion, there were no surprises in the batting unit and Rohit said the team management wanted to be flexible with the batting order.

"One thing I want in this team is to make sure everyone is okay to bat anywhere," Rohit said. "You need flexibility, guys who can step up at any position. No one should say, 'I'm good at this position or I'm good at that position'. You want guys to be able to bat anywhere, that's the message conveyed to every individual."

as a back-up player.

"You don't want to be handicapped or stuck with one player batting in one position. Having said that, you want to get the best out of players in certain positions. All seven-eight [positions] are open to anyone, that's the message we have sent out for so many years now"

"We've picked these 18 guys. It'll be in and around these guys [for the World Cup squad]," Agarkar said. "A few important

معروف افسان نگار سر کردہ صحافی اور براڈ کاسٹر
مشاق احمد مشاق کے ساتھ دہلی مرکز کراچی جموں کشمیر کا اظہار تعزیت...

ادبی مرکز کراچی جموں کشمیر کی ایک تعزیتی میننگ مرکز کے صدر جناب محمد امین بٹ کی صدارت میں منعقد ہوئی جس میں معروف بزرگ صوفی شاعر غلام محمد تانتر سے المعروف غلام محمد خاموش کی رحلت پر گہرے رنج و غم کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ واضح رہے کہ غلام محمد صاحب سر کردہ افسان نگار صحافی اور براڈ کاسٹر مشاق احمد مشاق کے والد محترم بیٹھیا مرحوم ایک سادہ لوح انسان ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ انتہائی شریف انفس شخصیت کے مالک تھے۔ مرکز کے نمبر ان نے مرحوم کی ایصال ثواب اور لواحقین خاں مشاق احمد مشاق و دیگر اہل خانہ کے لئے صبر و قرائی دعا کی۔

pixels Pvt.Ltd
EXCELLENCE WITH PERFECTION

Branding • Designing • Printing • Web • Event • Advertising

LARGE SCALE PRINTING

TRANSFORM YOUR GROWING BUSINESS INTO A LEADING BRAND

OUR SERVICES

- Large Format Printing
- Digital & Offset Printing
- Business Display Materials
- Printing
- Signage
- Graphic Design
- Interactivity
- Screen Printing
- Supply of Office Stationery
- Waste Cutting
- Banding
- Printing
- Photocopying
- Scanning
- Binding & Lamination

CALL OR WHATSAPP
7006618090 | 9858086898

Room No 12, Huda Ash Central Market, Abi Guzar Lalchowk, Srinagar
email: srpixels2021@gmail.com

STUDY MBBS IN ABROAD

Become An Excellent Doctor From

- ◆ BANGLADESH
- ◆ KAZAKHSTAN
- ◆ ARMENIA
- ◆ RUSSIA
- ◆ IRAN
- ◆ EGYPT

100% NMC GUIDELINES FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES

MIR EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANCY

+91-7006768887
+91-9797488878

1st Floor, S R Plaza, Hyderpara Chowk New Airport Road Srinagar (190014)

Contact Us: +91-8491031542
+91-9682300109

Career Point
Coaching Institute

INTRODUCING COACHING FOR CUET ENTRANCE EXAM

Offers Coaching
Special For

- Arts & Commerce
- 11th | 12th
- 8th | 9th | 10th
- IAS | KAS | JKSSB | SSC

♀ Crossing Chowk Zakura, Near Womens College

FREE CRITICAL CARE
AMBULANCE SERVICE-24X7

SRINAGAR | BARAMULLA
ANANTNAG | KUPWARA

Call: 9484-100-200, 0194-231-0018

ISSUED IN LARGER PUBLIC INTEREST BY DAILY HEADLINES TODAY

MIDDLE MAN

DAWAT-E-NIKAH
Find Your Perfect Life Partner With Us

UNMARRIED PEOPLE OR PARENTS CAN CONTACT US FOR MATRIMONIAL SERVICES (SHADI KARWANAY KA LIYA)

Call or Whatsapp We Will Visit Your Home

Special Coverage Area
SRINAGAR
BARAMULLA

CALL 7006517694

WHATSAPP YOUR DETAILS WE WILL VISIT YOUR HOME

Coverage Area: Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla, Ganderbal & Anantnag

Special Coverage: **SRINAGAR & BARAMULLA**