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Lt Governor inaugurates Shinon Meeras, the Shina Cultural Centre at Gurez

## Gurez has witnessed transformational changes in the last three years: LG Sinha

■ HT News Network

**BANDIPORA, AUG 28:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the 'Shinon Meeras', the Shina Cultural Centre, curated and developed by the Indian Army and District Administration.

In his address, the Lt Governor congratulated the people of Dard-Shin community and applauded the efforts of the Indian Army for this extraordinary initiative in Amrit Kaal.

"The centre is a unique tribute to preserve and promote the glorious



artistic heritage of Dard-Shin tribal community and to provide glimpses of its rich culture to the world," the Lt Governor said.

India's first museum for Dardis traces the journey of Shina culture, languages and Gurezi way of life. I believe Shinon Meeras will become the centre of attraction for travelers visiting this best off-beat destination of India, he said.

Various sections of the museum will provide an opportunity to travelers, historians to explore tangible

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## LG hands over Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to father of Martyr Mohammad Umar Dar

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, AUG 28:** Sh Mohammad Umar Dar was conferred with Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak (Post-



humously) by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt.

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### NEWS BRIEF

#### Mishra handed over appointment letter to newly recruits of J&K

**SRINAGAR, AUG 28:** Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra on Monday handed over the appointment letters to newly inducted recruits of J&K under "Rozgar Mela" at BSF campus in Srinagar.

To infuse the flow of young blood into the Central Armed Police Forces & to provide employment opportunities for youth, Mishra handed over the appointment letters to newly inducted recruits of J&K during a function in Srinagar on Monday.

Offers of appointment letters will be handed over to more than 51000 CAPF candidates at 45 venues all over India today.

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#### Police seize property worth Rs 2.1 cr from drug smugglers

**SRINAGAR, AUG 28:** To eradicate the drug menace from society, the police frozen the properties of drug smugglers worth Rs 2.1 crore during the current year in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Taking the war against drug peddlers to an altogether new level, Baramulla police during the current year have frozen the properties of drug smugglers worth Rs 2.1 crore, including 3 residential houses, 3 private vehicles valued at 90.02 lakh, and cash worth Rs 1.2 crore.

The properties of drug smugglers were seized in Pattan, Kreeeri,

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#### With lone WCR, Kulgam records 725 human-animal conflict incidents in past 5 years

**KULGAM, AUG 28:** Following 725 human-animal conflict incidents in the past five years resulting in the loss of 10 lives and injuries to 19 others, demand for setting up of Wildlife Control Room (WCR) in South Kashmir's Kulgam district is getting louder with each passing day.

Official data from the Wildlife Department accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) suggests that Kulgam district has witnessed 725 human-animal conflict incidents in the past five

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#### Srinagarites will be provided with a unique ID number: Budhuri

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, AUG 28:** Jammu and



Kashmir government will provide a unique identity (ID) number to the households of Srinagar which will

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#### Srinagar among top ranking cities under Swachh Vyu Sarvekshan

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, AUG 28:** In a major recognition, Srinagar District has clinched a spot among the top-ranking cities of India under the



Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023, Clean Air Survey.

Srinagar has achieved the milestone in the category of cities with a population exceeding 10 lakhs by scoring the 4th rank across the country, with Indore at the top, Agra at the second, and Thane City at the third rank.

Bhopal City, Madhya Pradesh, has achieved the 5th rank under Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023. The Clean Air Survey was

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## In a major fillip to MICE tourism, global Beauty Divas visit Kashmir

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, AUG 28:** In a major fillip to MICE tourism and in a historic development for the tourism industry of J&K, a group of global Beauty Divas visited Kashmir today, as a prelude to the Miss World pageant 2023 with Tourism Department making all necessary arrangements for the visit.

The group includes Miss World, Karolina Bielawska; Miss World

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## CS tours Ramban, inspects NH-44 works

*Takes holistic review of ongoing projects, directs two-way traffic for all vehicles up to three axles*

■ HT News Network

**RAMBAN, AUG 28:** In an effort to oversee the progress of ongoing four-laning works on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today took a firsthand appraisal of all



critical sections between Banihal and Ramban and also held a holistic review of flagship programmes in the District.

During his visit, the Chief Secretary reiterated his direction to the Traffic

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## Guns fall silent; first ever cultural event held near LoC in Uri

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, AUG 28:** With the guns falling silent at borders, a first ever cultural event was held close to the Line of Control in Nambala village in Uri sector of Baramulla district, which once used to be in line of fire during any ceasefire violation.

The village hosted Jashn-e-Rustam on Sunday and thousands of people from Kashmir flocked to these picturesque mountains to participate in the event.

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## Buoyant ISRO all set for Aditya-L1 maiden Sun Mission on Sep 2

■ HT News Network

**CHENNAI, AUG 28:** After the success of its third Lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 that ensured soft landing on Moon's south polar region, a buoyant ISRO is all set yet another inter-planetary mission—to explore the Sun on September two.

ISRO on Monday announced that Aditya-L1 spacecraft, the first space based Indian mission to study the Sun will be launched from the SHAR Range, Sriharikota at 1150 hrs on September two. ISRO will be using its workhorse and reliable launch vehicle PSLV-C57 for the mission.

Sun is the nearest star and the largest object in the Solar system. In a post on "X", the Indian Space Agency said "PSLV-C57/Aditya-L1 Mission: The launch of Aditya-L1, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun, is scheduled for September 2, 2023, at 11:50 hrs IST from Sriharikota".

The Satellite has already been integrated with the launch vehicle, ISRO Chairman S.Somanath said and the countdown for this prestigious mission is likely to begin on Friday.

This will be the second major

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### SUCCESS STORY

#### Razia Sultan, a Crewel Embroidery Entrepreneur from Kupwara & 'Karkhandar' scheme beneficiary, establishes successful venture

*Trained 200 girls in Crewel Embroidery; earns Rs. 60k to Rs. 70k per month*

■ HT News Network

**KUPWARA, AUG 28:** Razia Sultan, a young crewel embroidery entrepreneur from Trehgam Kupwara never pinned her hopes on Government jobs; instead she took her interest in the handicraft activities and

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# J&K Waqf Board decision to set new criteria for appointing preachers evoke criticism from parties

**SRINAGAR, AUG 28:** The recent decision by Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board to set up eligibility criteria for the selection and appointment of Imams (preachers), khateeb (Quranic reciters) and muezzins (who call for prayers) has evoked sharp reaction from mainstream parties.

The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board which is headed by a BJP leader Darakhan Andrabi has laid down a criteria according to which the candidates for Imams, Khateeb and Muezzins should have at least Class 10 education and hold a Molvi-Faazi course certificate from a Sunni Hanfi institute.

"The Jammu & Kashmir Waqf board is facing a shortage of well-

qualified Imams, Khateeb and Muezzins at most of the Shrines and Mosques under its control.

Furthermore, some of the current Imams and Khateeb posted at some Shrines are too advanced in age to carry out their duties effectively. Representations received from the general public also highlight the demand for the appointment of well-qualified Imams, Khateeb and Muezzins," read an order issued by J&K Waqf Board's Executive Magistrate Tehsildar Ishtiyak Mohi-ud-Din.

The Board has sought applications from Imams, Khateeb and Muezzins stating they should have at least Class 10 education and hold a Molvi-Faazi course certificate

from a Sunni Hanfi institute.

The candidate, as per the order, should use the teachings of the Sufiyah-e-Kiraam (Sufi saints) as a reference for their preaching and practice. The setting of eligibility criteria, however, evoked criticism from all Kashmir based political parties.

The Peoples Democratic Party headed by Mehbooba Mufti termed it an attack on religious freedom.

In a statement, the Party Chief Spokesperson Suhail Bukhari said that it seems to be an attempt to implement the agenda of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which aims to gain control over the pulpit of Mosques and Khanqahs in Jammu and Kashmir.

"...this move might be an effort to regulate and influence the discourse within these religious institutions, thereby infringing upon the religious freedom of the Muslim community," Bukhari said.

He labeled the decision as a direct interference and an attack on the religious institutions of Jammu and Kashmir. Apni Party Chief Altaf Bukhari lashed out at the Chairperson of the Waqf Board Darakhan Andrabi over this order.

"If the recruitment of Imams and Muazins must be based on qualifications and degrees, then let's commence with assessing the qualifications of the Waqf Board Chairperson herself first," the Apni Party chief said on Sunday.

To make his opposition more clear and forceful, Altaf Bukhari named Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and J&K's LG Manoj Sinha and posed a question to these dignitaries, "How would you react if someone suggested appointing degree-holding priests in revered places like the Ram Mandir?"

Hestressed, "Such actions amount to direct interference in religious affairs and are absolutely unacceptable. Don't try to pain our hearts by such moves, and don't try to play with our religious sentiments."

The National Conference had already asked J&K administration to refrain from unilateral decisions with regard to appointment of Imams.

On Saturday, NC Chief Spokes-

person Tanvir Sadiq said for a religious institution like the Waqf board, it's necessary to have religious scholars with expertise not only in their religious domain but also in worldly affairs.

"It's not possible to replace seasoned Molvis, preachers, and Muazins with a simple decision. Even if the situation demands it, new recruits should undergo a probationary period under the guidance of seniors, and gradually transition out of those who are unable to fulfil their responsibilities due to health or other reasons.

However, making unilateral decisions is not only inappropriate but will also fail to achieve the intended purpose," he added. UNI

## Tibetan Parliamentarians call on Kavinder, seek support against China's belligerence

Accuse Dragon Nation of forcing Tibetans to shun Buddhism to embrace communism

**JAMMU, AUG 28:** Tibetan Parliament in Exile delegation on Monday called on Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister and sought support against the Chinese belligerence and its authoritarianism forcing their community to forgo Buddhism and come under the realms of communism.

At the outset of the meeting, the Tibetan Parliament delegation stressed on the need to mount international pressure on China to stop the dictatorial country from forcing the peaceful Tibetan fraternity to embrace communism rather than practicing their indigenous religion—Buddhism.

It is pertinent to mention that the delegation comprising parliamentarians including Ven. Lama Tenpa Yashpal (MP), Dawa Tsering (MP), Yeshe Yarphel (MP), Rajinder Sadotra General Secretary, BTSM, Dr Cherring Tandup President BTSM Ladakh and Sanjeev Manmotra Bharat Tibet Sahyog Mandal, Coordinator, North Zone, India and Convener Core Group of Tibetain were the elected members of the 17th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile which is working from Indian state of Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala city representing over six million members of the Tibetan society both living inside and outside Tibet.

The delegation apprised Kavinder Gupta that Tibetans have been traumatized by systematic violations of their fundamental human rights by the Dragon nation and the oppressor country is a threat to their distinct cultural and national identity since 1949, when China unauthoritely declared claim over Tibet for it being an expansionist country. They said that over the last seven decades, the situation in Tibet has been deteriorating and now its population is facing imminent threat of cultural genocide and total annihilation of native identity.

Giving historical account, geographical status and the democratically elected government, the visiting delegation asked the BJP leader to urge the Indian government to recognize Tibet as an occupied nation with its own independent and sovereign past, backed by historical evidence. The members of delegation also appealed India not to acknowledge China's false narrative by labeling Tibetans as a minority, referring to Tibet's occupation as an internal issue of Beijing, and proclaiming Tibet as a pan of China thereby, aiding China's colonization of Tibet and the subjugation of Tibetans. "Mount pressure on China to ensure access to independent human rights organizations to monitor and report on the human rights situation, and likewise extend invitations to UN's concerned body focusing on freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association to assess and announce the ground situation.

Ask China to release unconditionally all Tibetan political prisoners", the delegation told the former DyCM of erstwhile State of J&K adding that the list of demands is voluminous and we expect a favorable response from India as it used to give in the past. After listening to the points raised by the delegates,

Kavinder assured that he will project all the points highlighted in the meeting before the concerned quarters and anticipated full support from the government.

## CS inaugurates SHG run cafeteria "Srinagar Millet Hub" at DC Office Srinagar

Hands over sanction letters to beneficiary farmers for establishment of Hydroponic Residential Units

**SRINAGAR, AUG 28:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today inaugurated a state of the art cafeteria 'Srinagar Millet Hub', an initiative of District Administration Srinagar in the premises of DC Office Complex, Srinagar.

The Millet Hub Cafeteria was inaugurated in presence of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Mohammad Iqbal Chowdhary and other senior Officers and Officers of the DC office Srinagar.

The Millet Hub has been constructed by R&B Department at the cost of Rs 25.0 lakhs and has been handed over to Women Self Help Group Members of NRLM, Srinagar for enhancing the livelihood opportunities. Pertinent to mention that Srinagar District becomes first in India to establish a Millet Hub in the premises of DC Office to commemorate the International Year of Millets 2023 (IYM-2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary appreciated the initiative of the District Administration and said that the cafeteria namely "Millet Hub" has been inaugurated to provide variety of affordable, home-cooked meals at the DC Office Complex Srinagar and providing employment

opportunities to the self-help group members. He also highlighted the importance of empowering women SHGs with a platform to earn a livelihood.

The Chief Secretary also interacted with the members of SHGs running the Cafeteria.

The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar also spoke on the occasion and said that the initiative aims to empower women SHGs by providing Employment opportunities. He further said that the cafeteria would provide a sustainable source of income for the members of the SHGs.

Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta e-launched maiden Hydroponic System of Soil-less Cultivation for Urban areas, an initiative of District Administration Srinagar in an impressive function held here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

After e-launching the Hydroponic System, the Chief Secretary inspected the Residential Hydroponic Units in the compound of the complex. He was briefed about the functioning and operation of soil-less cultivation system.

The Chief Secretary observed that hydroponics techniques will offer a promising avenue for transforming urban agriculture particularly in highly dense populated areas like Shahr-e-Khaas



of Srinagar. The Chief Secretary said that the creative and innovative approaches such as hydroponic system will also promote self-reliance, food security and environmental sustainability.

Highlighting the concept of hydroponics soilless culture, the Deputy Commissioner said that the concept of hydroponics has been initiated by the District

Administration Srinagar to boost the rural economy through farming/agriculture related activities. They are particularly beneficial in urban areas with scarcity of land. Residential Hydroponic Models offer possibility of year-round soil less cultivation of Vegetables.

It is pertinent to mention that the Hydroponic is a method of

growing plants without soil, where nutrient-rich water is used to deliver essential nutrients directly to the plant roots.

In Srinagar downtown, where land availability might be limited, hydroponics can offer a solution by allowing plants to be cultivated in a controlled environment, vertically or indoors. Hydroponics could be necessary in Srinagar downtown to address land constraints, promote local food production, and improve food security.

Later on the Chief Secretary also handed over sanction letters of Nutrient Film Technique Cascades to 70 beneficiary farmers of Srinagar District for establishment of hydroponic units. The beneficiaries were encouraged by the Chief Secretary to take best advantage of these units to earn their livelihood besides helping urban population to fetch fresh vegetables in their habitations too.

Among others who were present included Additional District Development Commissioner, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Additional Mission Director NRLM, Riyaz Ahmad Beigh and other senior Officers of District Administration and members of the self-help groups.

## DC Doda asks Wildlife Officials to take preventive measures

**DODA, AUG 28:** Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan today asked Wildlife and Forest departments to take preventive measures to avoid Man-Animal conflict incidents being reported from some parts of the district.

The people of Kastigarh area have reported that a female Bear with three Cubs is roaming in the area and have attacked locals, posing a threat to their life. It is reported that Bears move towards the Maize crops and fruit crops for the food during these days, while local farming community also requires to take care of their raised and ripping maize and fruit crops in the fields. Moreover, the female Bear with cubs feels more insecure, attacking people in defence.

The Deputy Commissioner, taking cognizance of the matter, asked the Wildlife and Forest Officials to discuss and tackle the issue in such a way that people feel free to move out for their daily chores, especially during the harvesting season.

DC has directed the Wildlife Warden, Forest Officials, Police officials, and VDGs to devise a coordinated plan in the area for thorough patrolling. The Wildlife Officials have been asked to either tranquillise and capture the Bear or force her to move back in the Forest, away from the residential areas.

DFO Bhaderwah has been asked to spread awareness/ advisory on Man- Animal Conflict and the measures for the safety of human lives. A coordination committee has been established for the district to coordinate the Man- Wild animal conflict comprising all the DFOs, Tehsildars, Wildlife Officials, and other concerned officers. Wildlife Warden Kishtwar has been instructed to station at District Headquarter Doda and monitor the operation personally to ensure that the Bear may not harm anyone further.

## Restructuring R&B Department: Junior Engineers allege 'nepotism'

**SRINAGAR, AUG 28:** Though the Roads and Buildings Department has re-structured the department in the public interest and has claimed to deploy officers on a uniform basis in each and every division, there are various officers who have alleged that they have been transferred twice within a span of two to four months while officers deputed at other places for years have not been touched.

Several Junior Engineers told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that in April this year, the office of the Chief Engineer R&B Department transferred 39 officers from one division to another. They said that in August this month, another transfer order was issued and 278 Junior Engineers were again transferred, and among them were those who had been transferred 4 months ago.

"The irony is that those Junior Engineer who have been posted in various divisions for years together were not transferred," they said adding that it is a clear case of 'nepotism and mismanagement'. They said they fail to understand why some blue-eyed officers enjoy the posting at one place for years together while others mostly newcomers are transferred prematurely.

They sought the intervention of Commissioner Secretary R&B. When contacted, Chief Engineer R&B, Rafiq Ahmed Rafiq told KNT that the department was restructured and rationalized recently in the interest of the general public. "All divisions will now have been uniformly staffed. Earlier there used to be excessive staff in one division and another division was understaffed. Now due to the rationalization of Junior Engineers, every division has got staff on an equal basis."

## Public Notice

The Present Electricity bill Connection stands in the name of Mr Mohammad Rafiq Sofi Vide Consumer ID No 0202050021545 installation no 8091691941 – sm. Now I want change in the of Ishrat Majeed Dar S/o Abdul Majeed Dar R/o H No 10, Lane G Fair Banks Colony Rawal Pora Cell No 7889867123. If any body having any objection regarding this he may contact the concern department with period of seven day from the date of publication of this notice.

## Public Notice

In my service record my date of birth is 06-06-2009 instead as 05 -03-2012. Now let me correct it. any body having any objection regarding this he my contact concern department with period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice . after that no objection shall be entertained.

**Name Tabasum Fatima**  
D/o Mohd Syed  
R/o Namsuru

## Public Notice

The Correction of my D.O.B and name of my wife in my army Service Record Zakiya Banoo Instead as Archo Zakiya and Date of Birth 12-02-1985 instead as 06-03-1985. Now let me correct it. any body having any objection regarding this he my contact concern department with period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice . after that no objection shall be entertained.

**Mohd Sayed**  
R/o Namsuru



## DC Kulgam reviews preparations for Digital J&K Week-2023

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, AUGUST 28: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today convened a meeting with district and sectoral officers at mini-secretariat here to assess the arrangements and preparations made for the celebrations of upcoming Digital Week-2023.

The week-long event, scheduled in the first week of September, aims to promote digital literacy and empower the people of the region with online services in public service delivery.



During the meeting, discussions centered on the lineup of activities planned for the Digital Week celebration were held.

The DC highlighted that the government has introduced digital services to enhance public convenience and ensure transparency in services delivery to the citizens.

A diverse range of activities, scheduled for the digital festival, were thoroughly deliberated upon, along with strategies for the successful execution.

The DC underscored the importance of collaborative

efforts among all departments to formulate a comprehensive plan that ensures an engaging and vibrant Digital Week celebration.

It was announced that departments will facilitate online services through dedicated booths, providing convenience to the general public.

Moreover, awareness campaigns will be conducted across the district to acquaint residents with various government programs and online services, thus enabling them to benefit from these community-focused initiatives during the Digital Melas.

## Director Agriculture reviews physical & financial progress on implementation of HADP

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 28: To review the physical and financial progress on the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) and Capex budget (Scheme wise/district wise), the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today chaired a meeting of senior officers at Agriculture complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

Addressing the meeting, the Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of effective and timely utilization of funds for the welfare and wellbeing of the farming community of the region. He asked the officers to maintain accountability and transparency during all the levels



of expenditures and submit the utilization certificate immediately on all the schemes. While talking about the different initiatives by the department, Director Agriculture impressed upon the officers to put in all the efforts for the successful implementation of farmers friendly schemes. He asked the officers to evolve new concepts and innovations by adopting new cropping systems

in the potential areas so that the productivity could be enhanced. Iqbal asked the officers to reach out to the farmers of the far flung areas and make them aware about the latest farmer-centric technology related to the development of the Agriculture sector. He also marked the role of Panchayat Raj institutions and asked the officers to work in close coordination with the PRI representatives,

block development councils and district development councils so that different CSSs and flagship programmes could reach the grass root level in a more effective manner and contribute to the transformation of rural economy.

Earlier, Director Agriculture was apprised of the expenditures and progress on the implementation of different CSSs. Later, Director Agriculture initiated sowing of onion nurseries at Kitchen Garden Lalmandi Srinagar. The meeting was attended by Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Joint Director Inputs, Joint Director Farms, Joint Director Apiculture & Mushroom, Director Rakhs and Farms, all Chief Agriculture Officers, all sectoral heads.

## DCC/DLRC meeting held at Bandipora Work together for enrollment of maximum beneficiaries under various schemes: Chairman DDC

■ **HT News Network**

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 28: The DCC/DLRC meeting for the quarter ending June 2023 for district Bandipora was today held at mini secretariat, here under the Chairmanship of District Development Council Bandipora, Abdul Gani Bhat.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Ali Afsar Khan, Joint Director Planning, Imtiyaz Ahmad; AGM RBI, DDM Nabard and other district heads of line departments and banks.

The meeting was informed that the Banks operating in the district have disbursed an amount of Rs 100.29 Crores in priority sector for the quarter against the annual target of Rs 922.71 crores @11% achievement and Rs.65 Crores in non-priority sector for the quarter against the annual target of Rs.128 crores @51% achievement. The chairman DDC was apprised that a total of 165 crores credit disbursement for the quarter ending June was registered thereby registering an achievement of 16% of annual credit plan 2024-24.

The chairman DDC instructed all banks for gearing up the speed and



ensure all TAT to be followed in all cases and the same was endorsed by the CPO and AGM RBI.

He stressed that banks and departments need to work together for enrolling maximum number of beneficiaries under JAN SURAKSHA

schemes. Besides reviewing the performance of Banks and various other departments, the Chairman DDC asked the line departments to sponsor quality cases and stressed on Banks for speedy disposal of Govt. Sponsored cases.

## Under the operation "Drugs free Kulgam"; Kulgam police arrests two drug peddlers and recovered Poppy Straw & Brown Sugar like contraband substances

■ **FAROOQ RATHER**

Kulgam : August 28, 2023 District police Kulgam is making every effort to hunt down the drug peddlers in the district and to put them behind the bars.

In this regard, Police party headed by IC PP Mirbazar established a special Naka at "Nippora" and during checking one person identified as "Angrez Kumar S/O Paras Ram R/O Chani Mansar, Udhampur" carrying a nylon bag after noticing police party tried to flee from the spot. He was chased and apprehended tactfully. After checking, officers present were able to recover "06 Kg" of "Poppy Straw" like contraband substance filled



in the said nylon bag from his possession.

In another incident, police party headed by SHO Police station "Qazigund" during patrolling intercepted one suspicious person namely; "Rayees Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Hassan Bhat R/O Khushipora" carrying a bag. After checking of the said bag, officers present were able to recover "25

grams of Brown Sugar" like contraband substance.

Regarding the incidents, Case with FIR No. \*174/2023\* U/S 8/21 of NDPS Act and Case with FIR No. \*176/2023\* U/S 8/15 of NDPS Act stands registered in "Police Station Qazigund" and investigation is in progress in both the cases.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost My Driving Licence Bearing Licence No JK 0120 130080351 and from Rampora Chattabal To Batmaloo. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He//She may contact with RTO Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained



Name....Ishaq Ahmad Bhat  
S/O Ghulam Nabi  
R/O ....Shalteng Srinagar

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my registration certificate (RC) Fitness, of My vehicle Load Goods bearing registration no JK01AK 9699. from Batmaloo to Qamarwari Srinagar 3 Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He//She contact with (RTO) Kashmir within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....Nazir Steel Sales Ladakh Calling  
S/O..NA  
R/O ...Paripmora Near  
Fruit mandi Srinagar

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I inform to general public that my electric bill is on the name of Consumer ID No 0204040026548 installation No 5869588618 Registered in the name of GHULAM AHMAD HAMAL S/o Mohammad Rajab Hamal R/o Barwar Achan Srinagar. Now want to change my electric bill name from GHULAM AHMAD HAMAL S/o Mohammad Rajab Hamal R/o Barwar Achan Srinagar to Ajaz Ahmad Beigh R/O Dagdemar Zoonimar ...If anybody have any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name ....Ajaz Ahmad Beigh  
R/o WAGOORA  
Dagdemar Zoonimar

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my discharge Certificate while I had traveling from Srinagar to Baramulla. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He//She may contact with GOVT MODEL HIGHER SCHOOL CHANDDOOSA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...MUBASHIR AHMAD BAIG  
S/O....ABDUL MAJEED BAIG  
R/O... CHANDDOOSA  
Distt...BARAMULLA

## ADDC Ganderbal inspects functioning of District Hospital

■ **HT News Network**

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 28: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani along with other officers today paid surprise visit of District Hospital Ganderbal and inspected various wards, sections of the Hospital and took stock of the overall functioning of the Health institution.

Further, he enquired about availability of medical facilities, medicines etc for patients in District Hospital Ganderbal. He also interacted with the patients and attendants to enquire about their satisfaction with the services of this health institution.

The ADDC directed the hospital administration to maintain complete hygiene in and around the hospital and provide better medical care facilities to the patients.

He also stressed for proper utilization of human resources and to serve the patients with utmost dedication and sincerity.

## G&M Dept approaches MECL, Ministry of Mines (GOI) for resuming exploration, drilling of Lignite deposits at Handwara

■ **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, AUGUST 28: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, the Geology and Mining (G&M) Department, Kashmir has approached Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), (a Govt. Of India enterprise) and Union Secretary of Mines (GOI) to resume the exploration (Geological investigation) and drilling of Lignite reserves at Nichhama, Hangnikote and its adjoining areas in Handwara Sub Division of Kupwara district. It is worth mentioning here that, in the year 1989, the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), was engaged for detailed exploration of these lignite deposits which could be used for establishment of 20-MV Thermal Power Plant. MECL took up a two year field programme for detailed geological investigation of these deposits. During the field season of 1989-90, detailed exploration including drilling was conducted and reserves of the lignite were revised from 7.2 Million tonnes to 9 Million tonnes. However, the approved programme of Geological investigation was suspended in December 1989 due to political instability and could not be carried out further.

## GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRISONS JAMMU & KASHMIR, JAMMU

### e-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF GHEE DESI (BRANDED/AGMARKA) FOR CENTRAL JAIL KOTEBHALWAL JAMMU AND DISTRICT JAIL JAMMU e-Nit No. 8 of 2023 DATED 28-8-2023

1. For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tender(s) through online mode are invited from eligible vendors/firms possessing valid FSSAI licenses for execution of Rate Contract (valid for FY 2023-24) for supplies of items as mentioned in Annexure 'K' of this bid document.  
2. Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specifications of items, quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other relevant details can be seen/downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and [www.jkprisons.in](http://www.jkprisons.in)  
Schedule of tender:

a	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28.08.2023
b	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28.08.2023_ from 1800 Hrs to 11.09.2023 upto 1400 Hrs
C	Bid submission Start Date and time	02.09.2023 from 1800 Hrs
d	Bid submission End Date and time	11.09.2023 upto 1600 Hrs
e	Date and Time of opening of Technical Bids in online mode	12.09.2023_ 1200 Hrs in the office of Director General of Prison J&K

3. Tender Fee (Cost of tender documents): An amount of 1500/- towards cost of tender fee has to be deposited by the bidder in the following bank account:

Name of the Account holder FA/CAO- Prison Department, J&K.  
Account Number 0110010100000289  
Name of the Bank J&K Bank  
Branch J&K Bank Civil Sectt. Jammu :  
IFSC JAKAOMOVING

Scanned copy of the receipt towards deposit of amount of tender fee has to be necessarily uploaded along with the bid documents.

The bidder has to submit Earnest Money of 0.40 lakh (Rupees forty- thousand only) in the form of CDR/ FDR issued by a scheduled bank, drawn and pledged in favour of FA/CAO Prison department and payable at Jammu. The bidder has to upload the scanned copy of the CDR/ FDR along with other documents during the submission of bid within the above-mentioned date and time of bid submission.

i. The department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.  
ii. The tender shall be in two bid cover systems (Technical Bid and Financial Bid).

DIPK-7879/23  
Date: Aug 28 2023

Sd/-  
Financial Advisor/CAO Prisons  
Department J&K Jammu



# DC Kishtwar chairs District Level NCORD Committee meeting

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 28: A district level NCORD Committee meeting was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, here.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Khalil Ahmed Poswal; ADC, Inderjeet Singh Parihar; PO-ICDS, Dr Rishi Sharma; SDM Paddar, Arun Kumar Badyal; SDM Chatroo, Showkat Hayat Matoo; DPO, Sunil Bhutyal; Tehsildar HQ, Chander Shekhar Sharma; DSWO, Zubair Ahmed Lone; State Taxes Officer, CMO, CEO Kishtwar, representatives of GDCs besides other members.

The meeting focused on formulating a comprehensive strategy and took periodical review of the implementation of drug de-addiction measures to counter the menace in the District.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal from con-

cerned members of NCORD Committee regarding the present scenario of drug related occurrences, areas of concern, age group of addicts, hot spots of drug abuse in the District.

The DC took feedback from the members of the Committee who presented the report related to action taken against drug abuse and drug trafficking in the last 2 months.

The meeting also underscored the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, departments, and committee members. All participants were urged to collaborate effectively to eliminate the menace from the district.

The meeting covered the wide range of hard and soft interventions that different departments such as Health, Municipality, Social Welfare, Police, State Taxes and Excise Department, Civil Administration, and PRIs need to adopt and implement.

The Deputy Commissioner



emphasized the importance of adopting a target-driven approach in this regard. He also emphasised on the formulation and execution of a comprehensive approach to combat the escalating drug menace, which is significantly affecting the

entire society, especially the unemployed youth.

The SSP, while speaking in the meeting, informed that a comprehensive strategy is under implementation to attack the problem of drugs from both supply and demand sides which

is vital to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain. He also assured stringent action against the culprits involved in the hazardous trade of drugs.

The School Education Department, District Youth Services and Sports Department, along

with the District Employment Department, were directed to collaborate with Addiction Treatment Facility authorities and the Health Department. This partnership aims to guide addicted youth towards a drug-free life through avenues like sports, self employment opportunities, and rehabilitation measures besides. Enforcement agencies, including Police & Excise etc were instructed to employ technology-based measures for monitoring, containment, and mitigation at Educational institutions, medical stores, and public spaces besides intensifying IEC activities. Additionally, incentivizing successfully de-addicted youths was emphasized. The meeting evaluated the status of provisionally declared Nasha Mukta Panchayats: Sigdi B1, Chicha, and Filler B. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized ramping up testing in these areas for consistent maintenance. Additionally, the police administration

ally, the police administration and relevant stakeholders were urged to play an active role in these panchayats. The DC Kishtwar also highlighted the pivotal role of the De-addiction Centre at the District Hospital to maintain accurate patient records and ensure attentive care and follow-up. Enforcement agencies, including Police & Excise etc were instructed to employ technology-based measures for monitoring, containment, and mitigation at Educational institutions, medical stores, and public spaces besides intensifying IEC activities. Additionally, incentivizing successfully de-addicted youths was emphasized. The meeting evaluated the status of provisionally declared Nasha Mukta Panchayats: Sigdi B1, Chicha, and Filler B. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized ramping up testing in these areas for consistent maintenance. Additionally, the police administration

## Crackdown on Illegal Mining continues in Doda District

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 28: In continuation to its crackdown on illegal mining, the Geology and Mining Department today seized 4 vehicles involved in illegal mining activities 2 each in Karara area & Thathri area of sub-division Thathri. District Mining Officer (DMO) Sunil Kumar Manhas under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, on the strict instructions of SSP Abdul Qayoom, orchestrated the operation with the cooperation of SHO Thathri Amit Katoch. The entire seizure operation was meticulously executed in accordance with the laws outlined in the Mineral Act.

This decisive action against illegal mining marks a significant step towards preserving the region's natural resources and upholding the rule of law. The collaborative efforts of the law enforcement agencies demonstrate the commitment of authorities towards curbing illegal mining activities and promoting responsible resource management in the district.

## Horticulture Deptt distributes fruit plants among 180 households in Block Samwan

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 28: In a remarkable initiative aimed to foster sustainable development and modernize agricultural practices, the Horticulture Department Jammu distributed fruit plants among 180 households across the CD block Samwan.

The fruit plants were provided as part of the Aspirational Block Development Programme, in presence of Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Khour Anil Kumar Thakur as the chief guest.

The fruit plants distribution event witnessed a large gathering of farmers from panchayats-- Samwan, Palanwalla Upper, Bardoh, and Panch Toot, reflecting the commitment of the Horticulture Department towards uplift of the communities through agricultural advancement.

The SDM Khour shared valuable insights into the manifold benefits of horticulture cultivation. Laying emphasis on sustainable farming practices, he said horticulture has the required potential to boost the local economy and improve overall quality of life for residents. The audience was enlightened about the environmental advantages, nutritional value, and economic prospects that horticulture brings to the table.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Horticulture officer Jammu Ashwani Sharma emphasized that the horticulture cultivation provided a remarkable opportunity for sustainable growth, both at the individual and community levels. "By harnessing the horticulture potential, we can not only improve our environment but also create avenues for economic prosperity", he added.

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor Opens Bookings for All New Toyota Rumion

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Aug 28, KNT: Toyota Kirloskar Motor, today, officially announced the start of bookings and the prices of its latest offering - The All New Toyota Rumion which was launched earlier. Available in six grades, this extraordinary new compact B-MPV is expected to set new standards with its unmatched space and comfort, excellent fuel efficiency, stylish and premium exterior design. The latest offering by TKM will be available at attractive ex-showroom prices from Rs. 10,29,000 to Rs. 13,68,000 with deliveries expected to commence from 8th of September onwards. This 7-seater MPV is powered by the 1.5-litre K Series petrol engine, featuring the Neo Drive (ISG) technology

and E-CNG technology, ensuring responsive performance and remarkable fuel efficiency of 20.51 km/l for the Petrol variant and 26.11 km/kg for the CNG variant. This new B-MPV brings in a stylish and premium exterior design for a tough appearance with robust characteristics like Toyota MPV signature front grille, Front Bumper with chrome finish, LED tail lamps with back door chrome garnish and machined two tone alloy wheels that exude style and sophistication. The luxurious interior offers premium dual-tone with wooden finish dashboard and door trims, premium dual-tone interiors, and a range of convenient amenities. Atul Sood, Vice President - Sales and Strategic Marketing, TKM said, "We are delighted to announce the commencement

## DC reviews progress achieved under RDD Sector schemes in Rajouri district

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, AUGUST 28: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today took a comprehensive evaluation of the advancements achieved in the Rural Development Department (RDD) sector schemes.

The review encapsulates notable accomplishments across a spectrum of initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Awas Plus, MGNREGA, tendering of works under District Capex Budget, ABDP and APDP, CD and panchayat, along with the construction of bunkers.

During the assessment, it came to light that all 236 projects under SSY have undergone the tendering process, with 35 of them



having been allocated. In parallel, all 42 projects under ABDP have been tendered and 25 of them awarded.

Furthermore, all 23 projects under APDP have been tendered. Progressing to the District Capex budget, an impressive 97 percent of the targeted 3,834 projects have been tendered, with 600 of them having received allocation.

In a fervent pursuit of efficacy, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal issued directives to the Block

Development Officers (BDOs) to closely oversee the advancement of border bunkers, ensuring timely disbursements under MGNREGA. Additionally, he scrutinized the headway of the Awas Plus scheme and stressed on early completion of PMAY houses. Instructions were passed to complete geo-tagging of completed houses within the next three days.

While discussing the allotment of land to landless individuals from different blocks, the Deputy Com-

missioner instructed the Assistant Commissioner Revenue to obtain the list submitted by BDOs from the relevant Tehsildar to guarantee a transparent and foolproof process.

With contentment evident over the commendable headway in diverse developmental undertakings, DC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, commended the dedication of all stakeholders involved. He reiterated that the administration's unwavering resolve to the proficient execution of governmental schemes and endeavors aim at the district's residents' well-being. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Imran Rashid Kataria; Assistant Commissioner Development, Vijay Kumar.

## District Level Seminar cum Kissan Mela held at Bhagwah

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 28: Horticulture Department Doda today organised District Level Seminar cum Kissan Mela her at Model Orchard Cum Nursery (MOCN) Bhagwah. A large number of farmers, PRI members, Social activists participated in the event with Chief Horticulture officer, Rakesh Kotwal as the Chief Guest.

District Horticulture Officer, Shakil Ahmed, Horticulture Development Officer Bhagwah, Abid Hussain, Horticulture Development Officers Doda, Marmat, Thathri and officers of Allied Department viz Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries were also present on the occasion.

The farmers were imparted detailed awareness about government schemes offered by the Agriculture and allied departments.

The Chief Horticulture Officer Doda asked



the participants to bring more and more land under High Density plantation of fruit plants in the coming season especially Apple, Walnut, Apricot, Pear, Plum and Lime for the cultivation of which the land and climate of the area is most suitable.

He informed that the department is providing 50% to 80% subsidy to the interested and eligible applicants under HADP (Mother Block, Nursery Development), Area expansion, Irrigation facilities, Mechanization, Nursery establishment etc under implementation in the District.

## DDC Chairman inaugurates 2 day Seminar on Scientific Beekeeping at Reasi

■ HT News Network

REASI, AUGUST 28: A Two Day Seminar cum Workshop under National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) was today inaugurated District Development Council Chairman Reasi, Sarf Singh Nag.

The inauguration was marked by lighting of a ceremonial Lamp in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Abdul Star; Joint Director Extension, Arvin Singh Reen; Chief Agriculture Officer, Harbans Singh here in the auditorium of DC office complex.

In his inaugural address, DDC Chairman, Sarf Singh Nag outlined the importance of Bee keeping as part of diversification of agricul-



ture activities. He urged the farmers to adopt honey production on a commercial scale for high remunerative returns. He highlighted the role of Agriculture at grassroots level to raise the rural economy. He said that the present government is focusing on uplifting the farming community and applauded the role of the Agriculture

Department in creating technical awareness among farmers at Panchayat level.

Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), in his keynote address, said that the Department is making every effort to strengthen the apiculture sector. He highlighted that Bees and other pollinators are crucial for the health of the ecosystem and food security.

## Community Health Centre R.S Pura gets Jan Aushadhi Kendra DHSJ inaugurates facility; launches Intensified National Iron Plus Initiative Campaign

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 28: Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma today inaugurated Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Community Health Centre (CHC) R. S Pura. With the opening of Jan Aushadhi Kendra, the patients can get quality medicines at affordable prices reducing their out of pocket expenditure.

The Director Health Services interacted with the

doctors and directed them to prescribe only generic medicines available at Jan Aushadhi Kendra. He took a round of all sections of the hospital and was satisfied with its working.

Meanwhile, the Director launched the Intensified National Iron Plus Initiative campaign under Anaemia Mukta Bharat in Jammu district here from Ft. Lt. Advitiya Bal Government Girls Higher Secondary School R. S Pura. A screening camp for school children to detect



anaemia was also conducted and on spot treatment was given to anaemic students by the Nodal Officer appointed by the school for

Anaemia Mukta Bharat in coordination with the RBSK team of R. S Pura.

The Director Health Services, while addressing the

school staff and children, said that Nutritional anaemia is a major public health problem in India and is primarily due to Iron deficiency that is prevalent among all age groups. In young children iron deficiency is due to increased iron requirement during rapid growth, he said and added that this Intensified Iron plus initiative shall combat iron deficiency anaemia and develop new strategies to address anaemia with primary emphasis on adolescent girls

and women in reproductive age groups. Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School R. S Pura has been chosen as a role model for Anaemia Mukta Bharat Campaign. Similar Test Treat Talk camps shall be conducted in each and every school of Jammu division on the same pattern to make Jammu division Anaemia free. The event was organized by Chief Medical Officer Jammu, Dr. Harbaksh Singh and Block Medical Officer R. S Pura Dr. Monika Kotwal.

## Awareness event on hazards of Drug abuse held at Panthal

■ HT News Network

REASI, AUGUST 28: To address the menace of drugs and to sensitize the masses about the prevalence and means of prevention, JKSTIC, Department of Science and Technology Udhampur and Rural Development Department, Block Panthal organized an awareness camp on "Drug abuse and drug addiction" here in the Panchayat Community Hall Sirakotla in Block Panthal. Different institutes like colleges, schools, and hospitals were part of the awareness event and took a pledge to work tirelessly to eradicate drugs from the society. Dr. Bhanu Partap Singh, Senior Consultant Internal Medicine, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super speciality hospital delivered a detailed awareness lecture about the impact of drugs, symptoms and controlling measures. Dr. Prabhas Kumar, Medical Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super speciality hospital, while addressing the interaction session, reflected that the youth are extremely susceptible to drugs and we must urgently deal with the problem of drug abuse.











# "Practice Yoga": PM's Advice To Newly Recruited Security Personnel

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday advised new recruits in the central armed police forces to maintain physical fitness and practice yoga for mental well-being.

Addressing the Rozgar Mela where appointment letters to 51,106 recruits to central armed police forces, Narcotics Control Bureau and Delhi Police were digitally transferred, Modi urged the new appointees not to compromise on physical fitness.

"Your job is not timebound. You have to face the wrath of the weather. Hence, physical fitness is of utmost importance to you. If you are fit physically, half of the work is done in a jiffy," the Prime Minister said through video conference. He also urged the new recruits to practice yoga to deal with tense moments, which are aplenty in the field of work of security personnel.

"You should practice yoga every day. A stable mind will give you great



er strength in your work. Yoga is not just physical exercise, it is necessary if you have to maintain a healthy and stable mind, particularly to keep yourself tension-free while discharging your duties," PM Modi said.

Through the Rozgar Mela event on Monday, the Home Ministry finalised appointments to various central armed police forces such as Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Shashtra Seema

Bal (SSB), Assam Rifles, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) as well as Delhi Police.

The recruits, selected from across the country, will be joining the various positions such as Constable (General Duty), Sub-Inspector (General Duty) and Non-General Duty Cadre Posts in various organisations under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

## M Modi distributes over 51,000 appointment letters under Rozgar mela Scheme

New Delhi, Aug 28 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday distributed more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits via video conferencing under the Rozgar Mela scheme. This was the

eight edition of the Rozgar Mela, which is held in 45 different places across the country. Through this Rozgar Mela event, the Ministry of Home Affairs recruited personnel in various Central Armed Police Forces

(CAPFs), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) as well as in Delhi Police. Addressing the new appointees, the Prime Minister said, "India will become one of the world's top three economies in this decade.

# Amit Shah To Flag Off Mega BJP Yatra In Madhya Pradesh On September 3

■ HT News Network

Bhopal: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will flag off the Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' on September 3 from Chitrakoot in Satnain Madhya Pradesh, where polls will be held at the end of the year.

Making the announcement in a press conference, Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and state unit chief VD Sharma also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited to address a workers' meeting to mark the culmination of the yatra in Bhopal on September 25, the birth anniversary of stalwart Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the longest serving chief minister of the state, will take part for a few hours on each day of the yatra, said Mr Tomar, who is also the party's MP election management committee convener. The Jan Ashirwad Yatra will be taken out from different parts of the state, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has been invited to flag off four legs of the initiative, Mr Sharma informed.

"Five committees have



been formed for five yatras. Its state convener is MP minister Bhupendra Singh. These yatras will cover more than 10,500 kilometres in 210 of the state's 230 Assembly seats and public meetings will take place en route," Mr Sharma said.

"Though the yatra will reach Bhopal on September 21, the formal culmination will be on September 25 to coincide with Karyakarta Mahakumbh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited to address the workers at the Karyakarta Mahakumbh," he said.

Asked about Mr Chouhan announcing several sops for women on Sunday, the move coming some time after the Congress made public a list of poll prom-

ises, Mr Tomar said his party stood for welfare of the poor, Dalits and women and wanted to empower them. While the Congress has promised 1,500 monthly aid to women, cooking gas cylinder for 500, free power for up to 100 units, Chouhan has said women will get 1,250 as financial aid under Ladli Behna Yojana from October, and cooking gas cylinder for 450 in August.

Asked about the BJP's poll slogans talking about 150 seats this time instead of the more ambitious 'abki baar 200 paar' in the run up to the 2018 state polls, Tomar said he was confident his party would win with a comfortable majority.

Mr Tomar did not give a direct answer to a media question about Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia not being part of any poll panels in MP so far, but said the performance of the BJP would be remarkable in the Gwalior-Chambal region, where the latter holds sway. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

Incidentally, a rebellion by MLAs close to Mr Scindia brought down the Congress' Kamal Nath government in March 2020 and paved the way for the return of the BJP under Mr Chouhan. "Though the yatra will reach Bhopal on September 21, the formal culmination will be on September 25 to coincide with Karyakarta Mahakumbh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited to address the workers at the Karyakarta Mahakumbh," he said.

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## Sonia Gandhi To Attend Opposition Meet In Mumbai

■ HT News Network

Mumbai: Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi will attend this week's meeting of INDIA bloc in Mumbai and the gathering will see the unveiling of the opposition grouping's logo, the party's Maharashtra unit president Nana Patole said on Monday.

Key leaders of the anti-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) bloc, which has more than two dozens parties, will gather in a luxury hotel in suburban Mumbai on August 31 and September 1 in what will be their third huddle since coming together on a common platform for the first time in June in Patna.

Speaking to reporters here, Nana Patole said, "Sonia Gandhi will attend the INDIA alliance meet in Mumbai." He said the alliance's official logo will be unveiled during the gathering, where opposition leaders will also discuss their agenda ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

## Why Sun study : It is the dynamic nearest star and can know about stars in other galaxies : ISRO

■ HT News Network

Chennai, Aug 28 (UNI) The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) which is gearing up for its first Solar exploratory mission to study the dynamics sun with the planned Aditya-L1 satellite using PLSV in the coming days, said the study of the sun was to know about stars in various other galaxies. ISRO said The sun is the nearest star and therefore can be studied in much more detail as compared to other stars. "By studying the sun we can learn much more about stars in our Milky Way as well as about stars in various other galaxies", it said. "The sun is a very dynamic star that extends much beyond what we see. It shows several eruptive phenomena and releases immense amount of energy in the solar system. If such explosive solar phenomena is directed towards the earth, it could cause various types of disturbances in the near earth space environment", it said.

## Legendary author, poet Padma Shree Jayanta Mahapatra passes away

■ HT News Network

Bhubaneswar, Aug 28 (UNI) Legendary author and Indian English poet Padma Shree Jayanta Mahapatra, the first Indian poet to win a Sahitya Akademi award for English poetry, passed away due to old age at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack on Sunday night.

The author of poems such as "Indian Summer" and "Hunger", which are regarded as classics in modern Indian English, the 95-year-old Jayant Mahapatra, was admitted to the hospital on August 4 due to old age-related ailments. He breathed his last while undergoing treatment, despite the best efforts of the treating doctors.

He was awarded a Padma Shri in 2009 but returned the award in 2015 to protest against rising intolerance in India. Mahapatra was part of a trio of poets who laid the foundations of Indian English poetry, which included A. K. Ramanujan and R. Parthasarathy.

# Kerala aims to be poverty free by 2025, says CM

■ HT News Network

Thiruvananthapuram, Aug 28 (UNI) Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has announced that the government has set November 1, 2025, as the deadline for ensuring the state has no family living in extreme poverty.

Opening state-wide Onam Week celebrations organised by the Kerala Tourism Department in the capital city, he said the state had around 64,000 people living in extreme poverty, adding one section of them is expected to emerge from the BPL category by November 1 this year.

"A majority of them will be free from extreme poverty by November 1, 2024. Our aim is to make the state entirely poverty-free by November 1, 2025," he said, seeking the support and coordination of public sector offices, public sector undertakings, and local self-government institutions.

November 1 is the formation day of the state. The CM said the government's 'Nava Keralam' initiative is aimed at creating a new prosperous Kerala, going far beyond the conventional concept of Onam. Enumerating the state's various welfare proj-



ects in various sectors, he said the Life Mission project has enabled the completion of around four lakh houses so far.

The week-long Onam Week celebrations will set the stage for presenting before a wider audience a variety of classical, folk, ethnic, and popular art forms in multiple venues in the state capital and districts across the state in the next seven days.

Tourism Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas, who presided over the function, said the Onam celebration is a symbol of unity among people, and we must strive to make it more popular this year.

In his welcome address, Minister for General Education and Labour V. Sivan-kutty lauded the meticulous efforts of the Department of Tourism in organising the annual festival on a large scale.

# Rishi Sunak Faces Conflict Of Interest Questions Over India-UK Trade Deal

■ HT News Network

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak could face some transparency questions related to wife Akshata Murty's Infosys shares, worth an estimated 500 million pounds, in a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with India, according to a media report. "The Observer" claims the Opposition Labour Party and trade experts are questioning the full financial impact as Infosys, the Bengaluru-headquartered software service major co-founded by Akshata's father Narayana Murthy, stands to benefit from any such trade deal.

India and the UK have been negotiating an FTA, now in its 12th round of negotiations, as Mr Sunak prepares for his first visit to India as British Prime Minister for the G20 Leaders' Summit next month. "As the Prime Minister recently learned, it's important he declares any interests prop-



erly. I expect him to do so in respect of the India trade deal too," said Darren Jones, Labour MP and chair of the cross-party House of Commons Business and Trade Select Committee - which has been scrutinising the FTA talks.

Earlier this week, the UK parliamentary watchdog released its report into an inquiry concluding that Mr Sunak had inadvertently failed to correctly declare his wife's shares in child-minding firm Koru Kids that stood to benefit from the government's budget policy. The 43-year-old British Indian leader apologised for

the "inadvertent" breach that arose "out of confusion", and the matter was closed.

According to the 'Observer' report, Infosys - which has had contracts with the British government as well as many UK companies - is known to want to improve access to the UK for its thousands of contract workers through changes to the visa regime. Allowing more visas for its workers in sectors such as IT and artificial intelligence (AI) is claimed to be a "key Indian demand in the talks".

The newspaper claims that the Foreign, Common-

wealth and Development Office (FCDO) has even warned the Business and Trade Select Committee against conducting a trip to India in the coming months to examine issues around a potential deal.

"The committee was advised by the government that it would be better to visit India next year instead of during sensitive trade negotiations," committee chair Jones told the newspaper.

Shadow trade secretary Nick Thomas-Symonds said while his party backed a trade deal with India, it is important that Mr Sunak is "transparent about any relevant business links and his personal role in negotiations".

Alan Manning, a professor of economics at the London School of Economics, told the newspaper that because software services are one of India's biggest export sectors, India will naturally be looking for opportunities to grow them in their trade deals.

# India May Surpass 500-GW Green Energy Target By 2030: Solar Alliance Chief

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: India is poised not only to achieve its ambitious target of 500-gigawatts renewable energy capacity by 2030 but also surpass it, driven by an anticipated decline in battery prices by 2025, according to Ajay Mathur, Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

In an interview with PTI, Mr Mathur, who has also been a member of the Indian Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, said global climate finance distribution remains skewed and that reforming multilateral development banks and facilitating renewable energy investments have been priority areas of India's G20 presidency. India, as the G20 presidency, has invited ISA as one of the guest international organisations. Mr Mathur said a fall in battery prices by 2025 could drive the widespread adoption of solar plus battery solutions, leading to the realisation of India's ambitious target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 -- one of the five commitments Prime Minister Narendra Modi made during the 2021 Glasgow climate talks. "If you are putting 500 gigawatts during the day, you also are setting up very expensive storage to ensure



that you also use it at night. Now, expensive storage implies that you and I pay a higher price for electricity than what we can afford. In a country which is already starving for electricity; in a country where the ability to pay for electricity is limited, to look at a future in which more expensive electricity is available doesn't seem right.

"It is possible that the future may come around if battery prices fall. The ISA's forecasts indicate that this would happen this year or 2024 or 2025. If that happens, then solar plus batteries become the energy source of choice because they're the cheapest. In that case India will not only achieve 500 gigawatts, it will exceed the target," he said. When asked about factors driving the reduction in battery prices, Mr Mathur attributed the decline to competition among battery manufacturers and the evolution of battery technologies.

# Prez unveils commemorative coin honouring legacy of Late N T Rama Rao

■ HT News Network

New Delhi/Hyderabad, Aug 28 (UNI) President Droupadi Murmu, marked a significant moment by releasing a commemorative coin in honour of the late N T Rama Rao (NTR) on the occasion of his centenary year.

The event took place at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre on Tuesday.

Addressing the gathering, the President lauded the immense contributions of the late N T Rama Rao, both to Indian cinema and culture through his Telugu films. She emphasized how NTR brought to life the iconic characters from the Ramayana and Mahabharata through his unparalleled acting. His portrayals of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna were so vivid that they garnered a following akin to religious worship.

The President highlighted that NTR's acting also effectively conveyed the struggles of the common people, thus making him a symbol of their experiences. She drew attention to one of his films, 'Manushulanta Okkate' (All Human Beings are Equal), which underscored the message of social justice and equality. Expanding on NTR's legacy, the President underlined his widespread popularity not only as an artist but also as a public servant and leader. She acknowledged his distinctive mark in Indian politics, achieved through his exceptional persona and unwavering dedication. NTR's initiation of numerous public welfare programs left an indelible mark that continues to resonate.

The President expressed her appreciation for the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, for issuing the commemorative coin that pays tribute to NTR's enduring impact. She concluded by affirming that NTR's unique persona would forever remain etched in the hearts of people, particularly those who belong to the Telugu-speaking community.



# US, China Agree To Set Up Working Group To Solve Trade, Investment Issues

■ HT News Network

Washington: The United States and China will set up a new working group for discussing trade tensions, Washington said Monday, as the world's largest economy seeks to cool tensions with its strategic competitor.

Washington's Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo reached the agreement with her Chinese counterpart Wang Wentao in Beijing on Monday, during the latest in a series of high-level trips to China by US officials.

The trips could culminate in a meeting between leaders, with US President Joe Biden saying recently that he was expecting to sit down with China's Xi Jinping this year.

Gina Raimondo met on Monday morning with Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao, describing the economic relationship between the two countries as "the most significant in the world".

The two sides agreed to set up a working group to "seek solutions on trade and investment issues and to advance US commercial interests in China," according to a readout from the US Commerce Department.

The working group is set to meet twice annually, with the US hosting the first meeting next year, according to the readout.

They also agreed to establish what Washington called an "export control enforce-



ment information exchange" -- described as a platform to "reduce misunderstanding of US national security policies".

The first meeting of the group, to be conducted by assistant secretary-level officials, will take place in Beijing on Tuesday, Washington said.

China and the US will also aim to have annual meetings between the Commerce Secretary and their Beijing counterpart, Washington said.

"We share \$700 billion dollars of trade and I concur with you that it is profoundly important that we have a stable econom-

ic relationship," Raimondo told Wang, according to a separate readout.

"It's a complicated relationship; it's a challenging relationship," she told Wang Wentao. "We will of course disagree on certain issues, but I believe we can make progress if we are direct, open, and practical."

Wang, in turn, told Raimondo it was a "great pleasure to conduct dialogue and coordination with you in the field of economy and trade".

Gina Raimondo arrived in Beijing on Sunday and was met by Lin Feng, the direc-

tor of the commerce ministry's Americas and Oceania department, as well as US Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns.

In posts on the social media platform X, Gina Raimondo said she was "looking forward to a productive few days".

Monday also saw her visit a showcase of US beauty products for the Chinese market at a Beijing hotel, accompanied by Ambassador Burns.

She will later travel to China's economic powerhouse Shanghai, before leaving on Wednesday, the US Department of Commerce said. Relations between the United States and China have plummeted to some of their lowest levels in decades, with US trade curbs near the top of the laundry list of disagreements.

Washington says they are crucial to safeguarding national security, but China sees them as seeking to slow its economic rise.

This month, Biden issued an executive order aimed at restricting certain US investments in sensitive high-tech areas in China -- a move Beijing blasted as being "anti-globalisation".

The long-anticipated rules, expected to be implemented next year, target sectors such as semiconductors and artificial intelligence. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen sought to reassure Chinese officials about the expected curbs during a visit to Beijing last month, promising that any new moves would be implemented in a transparent way.

## France to outlaw abayas in schools, says minister

■ HT News Network

PARIS: French authorities are to ban the wearing in school of abaya dresses worn by some Muslim women, the education minister said Sunday, arguing the garment violated France's strict secular laws in education.

"It will no longer be possible to wear an abaya at school," Education Minister Gabriel Attal told TF1 television, saying he would give "clear rules at the national level" to school heads ahead of the return to classes nationwide from September 4.

The move comes after months of debate over the wearing of abayas in French schools, where women have long been banned from wearing the Islamic headscarf.

The right and far-right had pushed for the ban, which the left argued would encroach on civil liberties.

There have been reports of abayas being increasingly worn in schools and tensions within school over the issue between teachers and parents.

"Secularism means the freedom to emancipate oneself through school," Attal said, describing the abaya as "a religious gesture, aimed at testing the resistance of the republic toward the secular sanctuary that school must constitute."

"You enter a classroom, you must not be able to identify the religion of the students by looking at them," he said.

A law of March 2004 banned "the wearing of signs or outfits by which students ostensibly show a religious affiliation" in schools.

This includes large crosses, Jewish kippas, and Islamic headscarves.

## 8 US marines in hospital after deadly Australia crash

■ HT News Network

Eight US marines were in hospital on Monday -- one of them in intensive care -- following a military aircraft crash in northern Australia that killed three of their comrades, authorities said. Twenty three marines were on board the Boeing MV-22B Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft when it crashed on Melville Island, north of Darwin, on Sunday morning during a military exercise for locally based troops. Northern Territory Chief Minister Natasha Fyles said eight marines were still receiving treatment and that she wanted to "assure their families that they are getting the best care possible and we're working to ensure they're supported".

Authorities have launched an investigation into what caused the crash, and efforts are also under way to recover the remains of the three dead marines.

An exclusion zone has been established around the crash site. Northern Territory Police Commissioner Michael Murphy told reporters the recovery and investigation would be "prolonged, enduring and complex", adding that officials were expecting to be at the crash site for "at least 10 days".

## Egyptian, Italian FM's discuss bilateral, regional issues

■ HT News Network

Cairo, Aug 28 (UNI) Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani discussed on Sunday bilateral and regional issues, said the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

During a phone conversation, Tajani listened to Shoukry's assessment of the developments in Niger and ways to solve the crisis through diplomatic means to preserve the security and stability of Niger and the region, the ministry said in a statement.

They also touched on the situation in Libya, where Shoukry informed his Italian counterpart of Egypt's vision regarding developments in the political and security situation. Shoukry also reviewed ways to support the solutions that ensure the holding of parliamentary and presidential elections in Libya at the earliest opportunity.

## 1 killed, 6 injured in shooting at Louisville restaurant

■ HT News Network

Chicago, Aug 28 (UNI) One was killed and six others injured in a shooting at a restaurant in downtown Louisville in the U.S. state of Kentucky early Sunday morning. Police found a man dead at the scene, and five others with gunshot including one in critical condition, local media reported. A sixth man connected to the shooting was found injured. The shooting happened around 3 a.m. Sunday (0700 GMT) between restaurant patrons and people on the sidewalk, said First Division commander Major Shannon Lauder, giving no details about how the incident started. An investigation is underway, and no arrests have been made yet.

## Over 3,000 evacuated after heavy rain in central China

■ HT News Network

Changsha, Aug 28 (UNI) More than 3,000 people have been evacuated after heavy rain lashed parts of central China's Hunan Province from Saturday to Sunday, according to the provincial flood and drought control headquarters.

## Canada Minister In China For Climate Change Talks, A First Since 2019

■ HT News Network

Ottawa: The Canadian environment minister was traveling Saturday to Beijing for talks on climate change and biodiversity, the first visit there by a Canadian minister in four years.

Steve Guilbeault will take part in three days of talks starting Monday at the annual assembly of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED).

"Climate change and environmental issues know no borders," he said. "We cannot tackle these existential threats without engaging with a wide range of stakeholders and partners."

Coming after years of strained bilateral ties -- made worse by Canada's 2018 arrest, at the US request, of a Chinese telecoms executive -- Guilbeault's visit has been blasted as "treason" by some in the Conservative opposition.

In comments to Radio-Canada, Steve Guilbeault defended his trip, saying it was crucial that his country broaden collaboration over the climate and biodiversity while also trying to repair diplomatic ties with China, a major trade partner.

He said he had developed a relationship with his Chinese counterpart Huang Runqiu that allowed the two to "sit at a table despite our differences and talk about difficult subjects."

The two countries put aside their tensions last December while serving as co-organizers of the COP15 biodiversity conference



in Montreal, which produced a historic agreement.

But tensions have lingered since the 2018 arrest, at US behest, of Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Chinese telecoms giant Huawei.

Only days after her arrest, two Canadians -- businessman Michael Spavor and former diplomat Michael Kovrig -- were arrested in China on what Canada said were trumped-up charges intended as retaliation for Meng's detention.

All three have since been freed, but tensions have persisted. Beijing complains that Ottawa has aligned its China policy too closely with Washington's aggressive approach, while Canadian authorities accuse China of interfering in its internal affairs.

Suggestions in recent months that members of China's community had meddled in the last two federal elections in Canada, targeting critics of Beijing, have placed the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau under pressure.

## Wagner Mercenary Chief's Death In Plane Crash Confirmed By Russia

■ HT News Network

Moscow: Wagner mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin was formally confirmed dead on Sunday following genetic analysis, investigators said, as anger and questions over what caused his plane to crash earlier in the week continued to mount.

Speculation that the Kremlin may have been involved in the crash has been rife, with the incident coming exactly two months after Wagner staged a mutiny against Moscow's military leadership.

"Molecular-genetic examinations have been completed as part of the investigation into the plane crash in the Tver region," Svetlana Petrenko, a spokeswoman from Russia's Investigative Committee said.

"According to their results, the identities of all 10 victims were established, they correspond to the list stated in the flight list," she added.

Among the nine other people listed onboard the Embraer private jet that crashed on Wednesday was



Dmitry Utkin, a shadowy figure who managed Wagner's operations and allegedly served in Russian military intelligence.

- Makeshift memorials - Russian officials opened an investigation into air traffic violations after the crash but have otherwise not disclosed details about its possible cause.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described the incident as "tragic" to reporters on Friday, calling rumours of Yevgeny Prigozhin being killed on Moscow's orders an "absolute lie".

His comments came as the Kremlin appeared to rein in groups like Wagner, with a presidential decree signed Friday stipulating that paramilitary fighters

will have to swear an oath to the Russian flag.

In an address Thursday, President Vladimir Putin said he had known Yevgeny Prigozhin -- once a loyal ally -- since the early 1990s, describing him as a man who made mistakes but "achieved results".

However, his comments did little to stem mounting questions and anger over the mercenary's chief's death, with makeshift shrines to Yevgeny Prigozhin springing up across Russian cities.

Video taken by AFP showed a makeshift memorial on Moscow's Varvarka street, just outside the Kremlin, as men stood solemnly before a line of red roses and pictures of the mercenary chief.

## Republicans pillory Biden over 'disgraceful' Afghan pullout

■ HT News Network

WASHINGTON: Republican lawmakers launched their campaign for the 2024 presidential elections this weekend by underlining President Joe Biden's role in the withdrawal of US and Nato troops from Afghanistan.

On Saturday, Speaker Kevin McCarthy of the US House of Representatives ordered that flags at the US Capitol be put at half-staff in honor of 13 American service members who died on Aug 26 in Afghanistan during the US evacuation two years ago.

Congressman Cory Mills, a Florida Republican, introduced a resolution seeking to impeach US Defence Sec-



retary Lloyd Austin for allegedly committing "high crimes and misdemeanors" by supervising a pullout the Republicans see as disgraceful.

"The fact that this was a preventable tragedy makes this day all the more difficult," another Republican, Congressman Mark Green of Tennessee, said in a tweet.

On Aug 26, 2021, a suicide bombing at the Kabul airport killed at least 183 people, including 170 Afghan civilians and 13 members of the United States military. And on Aug 31, 2021, the last American soldiers lifted off from this airport, officially ending the 20-year war in Afghanistan, the longest in US history. At its peak in 2011, the US had

approximately 100,000 troops across at least ten military bases from Bagram to Kandahar.

Although the Doha agreement that led to the US withdrawal was finalised by a Republican president, Donald Trump, the actual evacuation happened under a Democrat, President Joe Biden. This provided the Republicans with a unique opportunity to blame Democrats for a disaster which involved both Republican and Democratic administrations -- Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden.

At the time of the military evacuation, 54 per cent of Americans told Pew Research, Washington, that the decision to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan was the right one.

## Indonesian school shaves 14 girls' hair over teacher's hijab complaint

■ HT News Network

A school on Indonesia's main island has partially shaved the heads of more than a dozen girls, its headmaster said on Monday, after they were accused of wearing their Islamic hijab headscarves incorrectly.

Activists say Muslim and non-Muslim girls have been forced for years to wear a hijab in conservative parts of the nation of 270 million people, which moved in 2021 to ban schools from such mandatory dress codes.

An unidentified teacher at state-owned junior high school SMPN 1 in the East Java town of Lamongan partially shaved the hair of 14 Muslim girls last Wednesday, headmaster Harto, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, said. Harto said the school had apologised and the teacher had been suspended. He said the schoolgirls did not wear inner caps under their headscarves, leaving their fringes visible. "There is no obligation for female students to wear hijab, but they were advised to wear the inner caps for neat appearance," Harto told AFP. An unidentified teacher at state-owned junior high school SMPN 1 in the East Java town of Lamongan partially shaved the hair of 14 Muslim girls last Wednesday.



# IIM Jammu hosts “G20 University Connect” lecture series

## HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 28: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu today hosted the G20 University Connect - Engaging Young Minds lecture series, surrounding the G20 Indian Presidency on its Jagti Campus.

This is an initiative of the Research and Innovation System (RIS) for Developing Countries and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The event brought together distinguished figures from various disciplines to discuss the themes, opportunities, and goals of India's G20 Presidency. The day began with a lively ceremonial lighting of the luminary, signalling the start of the formal proceedings and setting the tone for a day full of insightful talks.

The theme, "One Earth, One

Family, One Future," reflected "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam's" ageless wisdom, "The World is One Family." An official video captivated attendees by introducing the overarching theme of India's G20 Presidency for 2023 and laid the foundation for in-depth discussions.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean of Academics, IIM Jammu provided a comprehensive overview of the event, giving attendees a tantalizing preview of the event's illuminating content and stimulating discussions. He mentioned that students need to stay informed about India's G20 presidency. This occasion will give them valuable perspectives on fostering business success and effectively positioning India globally.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, the Director, extended a cordial welcome to the



distinguished gathering and emphasized the event's significance in nurturing profound dialogues. Prof. Sahay noted that India's G20 presidency serves as a global stage for us Indians to showcase the wealth of our diverse cultures, fostering under-

standing and unity on an international scale. He acknowledged JK Tripathi, Former Ambassador, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India for his presence and emphasized on the "One Earth, One Family, One Future" theme.

Ambassador J.K. Tripathi, Former Ambassador of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, then delivered a unique address on the Indian Presidency of the G20 that provided significant perspectives and insights. He also provided a concise history of the G20, noting that it is the only international organization that includes members of the G7, BRICS, and other bodies, allowing it to serve as a bridge between affluent and developing nations.

Interactive sessions with the audience added substance and diverse perspectives to the discussions revolving around the topic, "Engaging Young Minds for G20 Presidency and Beyond", facilitating a robust exchange of ideas. The keynote speakers and panellists discussed Enhancing G20 Collaboration, Digital Trans-

formation, Global Trade and Business Recovery, and University Connect in Higher Education during the captivating panel discussions.

Engaging youthful minds throughout the G20 Presidency and Beyond: A panel of diverse experts, moderated by Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs, IIM Jammu, engaged in an edifying discussion regarding the participation of youthful minds in the G20 Presidency and its broader implications.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, highlighted that in order to give students a comprehensive educational experience, we all must collectively assume leadership positions at our various institutions and every university must adopt at least one school in rural India.

## 14th NCORD meeting held at Budgam District Administration committed to take necessary & strict steps to create a drug-free environment: DC

### HT News Network

BUDGAM, AUGUST 28: The 14th NCORD meeting of District Budgam was today held at Conference hall of DC Office here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo along with SSP Budgam AI- Tahir Gilani.

ADC Budgam Dr. Nasir convened the meeting

and briefed the chair regarding actions taken by various departments decided in the previous NCORD meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stressed on strict penalties for the drug peddlers. He reviewed all the departments involved directly in curbing the spread of drugs in Budgam.

The DC directed Forest, Agriculture and other

concerned departments to take the steps to destroy Cannabis cultivation. He directed the Excise and Taxation department to destroy 100% cultivation of poppy and cannabis. He also directed them to launch FIRs on those who are growing the same illegally on their propriety lands.

The sub divisional administration was directed to coordinate with police and assistant drug control-

ler at sub- division level to carry out joint poppy/ Cannabis destruction exercises. They were also asked to involve PRIs and other stakeholders such as imams for giving sermons on Friday prayers for mass awareness against drugs.

The DC directed the education, health and Social Welfare departments to conduct awareness programmes in all colleges, schools of the district.

Seeking strict enforcement of drug control rules, he asked Assistant Drug Controller Budgam to ensure mandatory maintaining of record of sale of psychotropic drugs by the medical stores, and check if all the 100% medical shops have installed CCTV cameras. The DC further directed principals of different colleges of Budgam to actively participate in curbing this social abuse.

He stressed upon the members to ensure effective implementation of the directions aiming at to curb the drug abuse in the district. He said we all need to curb this menace with a heavy hand.

The DC said, District Administration Budgam is committed to create a drug-free environment in the District and will continue to take all necessary steps to achieve this goal.

## JKPDP Leader Talib Hussain Bereaved, Mehbooba Mufti & Senior Party Leaders Offered Condolence.

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR August 28, 2023 :: In a heartfelt and emotional statement, Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP) President Mehbooba Mufti extended her deepest condolences to party leader Talib Hussain on the tragic demise of his sister. The party stands united in grief, offering support to Hussain and his family during this difficult time.

"The pain of losing a loved one is immeasurable and cuts deep into our hearts. On behalf of the entire JKPDP family, I want to convey our profound sorrow to Talib Hussain and his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they navigate through this trying time when the family was preparing for the marriage ceremony of the younger daughter in the family," said Mufti.

"We offer our unwavering support to Talib Hussain and his family. May the memories of his sister's laughter and warmth bring them solace in the midst of their grief. Let us come together to share the grief & pain the family is going through during this difficult phase. Said "Sr VP Abdul Rehman Veeri

As the party joins hands to mourn the loss of Talib Hussain's sister, the JKPDP family remains a source of strength and comfort for him and his loved ones.

Other's who offered their condolences to Talib Hussain and family included General Secretary Organisation Mehboob Beg, General Secretary Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura, Senior leaders Sartaj Madni and Naem Akhtar along with the rank and file of JKPDP.

## Preparations for Digital Week celebration discussed at Ganderbal

### HT News Network

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 28: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Mehrajuddin Shah today convened a meeting here to discuss the Modalities and preparations for the celebrations of upcoming Digital Week-2023 at Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, here.

A diverse range of activities, scheduled for the digital week, were thoroughly deliberated upon, along with strategies for the successful execution.

During the meeting, it was informed that the departments would offer online services by setting up booths for the convenience of the general public and organize literacy and awareness campaigns across the district to inform residents about the various government programmes and services offered online thus enabling them to benefit from these initiatives during the Digital week.



The ADC underscored the importance of collaborative efforts among all departments and directed for formulation of a comprehensive plan that ensures participatory Digital Week.

All the departments were directed to deploy one dedicated Computer Oper-

ator along with Laptop for providing online services and awareness regarding online services of their department during the celebration of Digital Week mela.

The ADC further emphasized upon the concerned officers to involve elected PRIs, Students and Field Functionaries for generating awareness on online

services delivery during the digital week.

He issued the necessary directives to district officers of all departments participating in the 'Digital J&K Mela' to arrange IEC material regarding IT initiatives and online services of their respective departments to be displayed at their respective stalls and for distribution to the public, at their own.

The meeting was attended by ASP Ganderbal, CPO, ACR, SDM Kangan, Executive Engineers, DSWO, ARTO besides other district and sectoral officers. The ADC further emphasized upon the concerned officers to involve elected PRIs, Students and Field Functionaries for generating awareness on online services delivery during the digital week. He issued the necessary directives to district officers of all departments participating in the 'Digital J&K Mela' to arrange IEC material regarding IT initiatives and online.

## ADC Jammu discusses arrangements for smooth celebration of Janmashtami festival

### HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 28: Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sandeep Seoindra today chaired a meeting to discuss the arrangements for the upcoming Janmashtami festival.

The meeting was attended by officers of line departments and representatives of different religious organisations and bodies, including Laxmi Narayan Mandir Trust, Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Dharmarth Trust and others.

During the meeting, the representatives of the religious organisations gave feedback on the requirement of arrangements on different counts and insights from previous years' celebrations. The organisations emphasised the importance of addressing issues related to traffic management, restroom facilities, drinking water provisions, decongestion of city routes and power-related matters.

SP Jammu North, Kulbir Handa, reas-



sured the police department's cooperation and efficient management of law and order during the festival.

The ADC issued directives to stakeholder departments to ensure the seamless arrangements for the festival, particularly smooth passage of Shoba Yatra. The Traffic, Health and Tourism departments were instructed to put in place necessary facilities for the devotees.

Jammu Municipal Corporation officials were asked to maintain cleanliness and sanitation in the city. Additionally, he directed the JMC to deploy mobile toilets and dustbins along the procession route.

## Arrangements for Digital Week celebrations finalized at Budgam

### HT News Network

BUDGAM, AUGUST 28: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of officers to finalize arrangements for the celebration of Digital Week to be held from August 31st to 6th September 2023, across UT of J&K.

At the outset, DC said that, as whole UT will be celebrating digital week, a Digi- Mela will be held in Budgam too, where all concerned offices shall set up their stalls and generate awareness about online services provided to the general public.

Besides, he said that the Digi- Melas shall also

be held at all SDM and Tehsil Headquarters and block headquarter levels of the district, wherein concerned offices shall ensure proper deployment of staff and installation of equipments.

Stressing on prompt and hassle-free delivery of online services, the DC called for celebrations of digital week at all Common Service Centres of the district. He instructed concerned people to raise awareness about online services through involvement of PRIs, Youth Clubs and prominent citizens of Budgam district.

He directed Chief Education Officer, Budgam and college authorities for organising programmes such as quiz programmes,

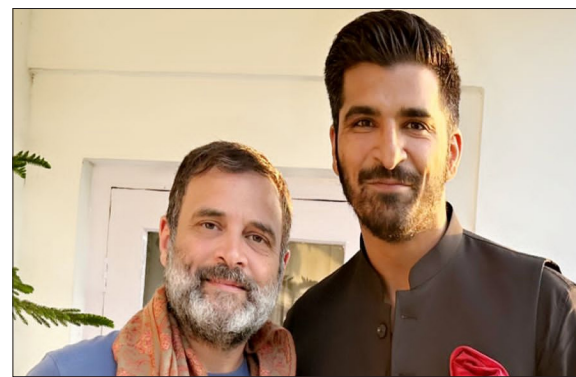
painting competitions, debate competitions, nukad natak etc at various educational institutions, colleges for generation of awareness regarding ongoing digital services in the district.

Instructions were given that awareness be generated through distribution of pamphlets, hoardings, banners and loud speaker campaign be also launched across the district for mass awareness.

The DC directed the District Information Officer to launch a competition for the best three photographs of tourist destinations of Budgam and the same to be shared on official email id of District Information Centre Budgam.

## Social activist Faisal Khankashi meets Rahul Gandhi

### Syed Tajamul



Srinagar Senior most face of congress and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi held a one to one interaction with Prominent social activist and tourism stakeholder, Houseboat industry face Faisal Khankashi. The duo discussed pivotal society and environment issues. Rahul Gandhi lauded the youthful exuberance and acumen of Faisal Khankashi, and vowed to be part of his journey connecting with youth of Kashmiri Youth in terms of their social betterment, and keeping eye on issues facing nature and environment of the country.

Faisal Khankashi extended warm greetings to Rahul Gandhi and hoped all the polity of India and we the citizens will make India the strongest nation of world. Faisal Khankashi vowed to carry forward the coordination with national leadership of the country for the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir. He hoped that leaders of National repute like Rahul Gandhi would further contribute in making a prosperous Kashmir.

## Tourism Department holds Homestay awareness camps at Keran, Gurez, Teetwal

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 28: In its efforts to further promote the concept of Homestays at so far hidden destinations, the Tourism Department conducted several awareness camps at Keran and Teetwal in Kupwara district and Gurez in Bandipora district during the last two days.

The awareness camps were held on the instructions of Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob.

During the two day long camps the inhabitants of these localities were briefed about the tourism potential of these areas, the benefits of Homestays like equal economic growth of all areas, eco friendly nature of accommodation, promotion of local culture and cuisine.

An important feature of this awareness drive was an interactive meeting and interface between the residents of these areas and local administration particularly Revenue and Police Departments during which the local residents were guided about the formalities to be undertaken while registering for Homestays in a single window clearance mode.

## Govt neglecting ASHA workers: (CITU)

### FAROOQ RATHER

SRINAGAR August 28: Expressing serious concern over the plight of ASHA workers who act as backbone of the health system, Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) on Monday accused the government of neglecting their demands. ASHA workers have been protesting since quite some time and staged protest demonstrations at almost every district on Monday in the Jammu & Kashmir highlighting their genuine demands, seeking regularization and increased incentives for their work. These workers are given tasks such as conducting health surveys of households in the areas, besides routine vaccinations and health-related works. These workers under NHM act as a bridge between government and people due to a human resource shortage in the health system and are working on meagre incentives. The government must recognise the role of these workers and take measures for their regularization. These workers may be covered under Minimum Wages Act and be provided social security and pension benefits. There are reports that some workers are assigned other work such as issuing tickets which overburdened their work, and must be stopped immediately. CITU urged the government to recognise the services of these ASHA workers and pay them adequate honorarium, maternity benefits, mobile phones.



# Can aspirin reduce risk of second heart attack? What cardiologist says

A new study by European Society of Cardiology has found that not taking aspirin when suggested by your cardiologist can lead to increased risk of a second heart attack and even death. The study was conducted on people aged 40 and above and who had a previous history of heart attack. Aspirin works as a blood thinner and prevents clot formation and blockages. If you are a heart attack survivor and your doctor has suggested you to take aspirin, you should probably follow their advice. However, in case your doctor hasn't recommended it, you must get their approval before starting any such medication. Besides, staying away from alcohol, smoking and controlling your blood pressure can also prevent re-occurrence of myocardial infarction or heart attack.

## Role of aspirin in second heart attack prevention

Dr. Gajinder Kumar Goyal, Director Cardiology, Marengo Asia Hospitals, Faridabad says that heart attack survivors are at an increased risk of another such even and taking aspirin may play an important role in preventing clot formation.

"Large number of factors such as smoking, diabetes, unhealthy diet, genetics, lack of exercise, obesity and even air pollution may raise the risk of heart attack and stroke. Survivors of heart attacks and stroke are often at high risk of having subsequent events. Here taking aspirin may play a key role to cut the risk of recurrent heart attack



as it works as a blood thinner, holding back small blood cells called platelets from forming clots. These clots may block arteries and lead to a reduction in the amount of oxygen-rich blood being delivered to vital organs. Such blockage can also become the cause of other complications, including a heart attack or stroke. It is advisable to avoid self-medication. It is strongly recommended to consult a doctor before having aspirin. Patient's medical history of cardiovascular disease and aspirin use is also investigated adequately before prescription," says Dr Goyal. Dr Goyal warns that patients having bleeding or clotting dis-

order, an aspirin allergy, bleeding stomach ulcers or a history of gastrointestinal bleeding should avoid taking aspirin as it may cause the problem of bleeding, asthma and other health issues.

## Measures to lower risk of a second heart attack

Dr Goyal suggests the following measures to curb risk of another heart attack for survivors:

## Keep your blood pressure in check

Hypertension, or high blood pressure

are most common risk factors for heart disease, hence it is advisable to do exercise for at least 30-45 minutes daily, having a balanced diet, not eating salt to keep hypertension or high blood pressure in check.

## Say no to smoking

Stop smoking as the risk of having a heart attack and the risk of dying doubles when you smoke.

## Keep your weight in check

Losing weight can also cut the risk of another heart attack. People who are obese or overweight require more blood to supply oxygen and nutrients to their bodies which causes an increase in blood pressure.

## Be regular with your medication

Take your medicine properly as prescribed by the doctor and keep in touch with the doctor on a regular basis.

Dr Goyal says that aspirin is only recommended for heart attack survivors and not to prevent such event.

"Aspirin is indicated if you already have heart disease, ischemic stroke or peripheral vascular disease. If we stop aspirin in these patients, then there is risk of recurrent events. But aspirin is not indicated for primary prevention of heart and other vascular diseases," says the expert. If you are a heart attack survivor and your doctor has suggested you take aspirin, you should probably follow their advice. Here's why.

# TikTok's 'Beer Tanning' Beauty Hack Can Increase Your Risk of Sunburn and Cancer

The beer tanning trend on TikTok sees users covering their bodies in beer before sunbathing.

Proponents say the hops in beer stimulate the production of melatonin which leads to a tan, however, there is no evidence to support this.

This TikTok hack is incredibly dangerous and can increase your risk of sunburn, heat exhaustion, and skin cancer.

Experts say there is no such thing as a safe tan.

TikTok is filled with beauty hacks. Some of them are brilliant, others not so much. But one of the latest viral beauty trends to emerge from the platform is beer tanning – and it's a terrible idea.

People on the social media site are using beer as a tanning lotion. The hashtag #beertan has almost



300,000 views and includes videos of people covering their bodies in beer before lying in the sun.

Content creators say the hack speeds up the tanning process.

It probably won't come as a surprise that skincare experts aren't on board with this new trend. Dr. Rutsnei Schmitz, a cosmetic dermatologist at Dubai Cosmetic Surgery, describes it as

"disastrous."

He says the first problem with TikTok's beer tanning trend is that it's been devised by people who aren't skincare experts.

Schmitz always recommends seeking the advice of a skincare professional, particularly when it comes to sun safety.

The second – and biggest – concern is that it offers zero pro-

tection against sun damage.

"The problem with this trend is that if you're not using a sunscreen and you are solely applying beer to the skin, you are not protecting the skin whatsoever," Schmitz warns.

"If you are applying it over a physical sunscreen, which acts like a barrier to protect the skin, you are in great danger of washing the sunscreen – and therefore the protection – off."

Like Schmitz, Dr. Katherine Armour, dermatologist and founder of Bespoke Skin Technology, believes this trend is incredibly dangerous. "The idea of letting a liquid fry on your skin is absolutely crazy," she says.

"It has been postulated that the hops in beer stimulate the skin's melanocytes to make more melanin, which leads to tanning. However, this has not been sys-

tematically studied, and is a complete myth as far as I can see," she surmises.

The risks of beer tanning

Both experts agree that any potential for a tan is far outweighed by the negative implications of this trend. In the short term, you leave yourself at risk of sunburn and heat exhaustion.

Sunburn isn't just painful, it can lead to unwanted pigmentation and increase your risk of developing skin cancer. Schmitz says this risk increases with every sunburn you get.

"Just one blistering sunburn in your younger years can more than double your chances of developing melanoma in later life, while more than five or more sunburns more than doubles your risk of developing potentially deadly melanoma," he warns.

# How Brain Implants and AI Helped These Women Regain Their Voice

Brain implants, powered by artificial intelligence, are improving rapidly and giving those who have lost their ability to speak a voice again.

In a pair of studies published this week in the journal *Trusted Source Nature*, Trusted Source researchers from Stanford University and the University of California San Francisco both showed off their work on brain-computer interfaces (BCIs), so-called "neuroprosthetics," that have allowed two women with paralysis to speak again with unparalleled speed and accuracy.

The BCIs read brain activity related to speech and feed the data into a language learning model, which is then output in usable speech either through on-screen text or computer-generated voice.

A computer brain interface for speech

The Stanford research team's work Trusted Source involves Pat Bennet, now 68, who was diagnosed in 2012 with amyotrophic



lateral sclerosis (ALS), otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. ALS is a neurodegenerative disease that causes weakness and paralysis. Muscular control deteriorates over time, including in muscles that involve speaking, swallowing, and even breathing. There is no known cure for ALS. Most often, arm and leg muscles begin to show signs of weakness, before the disease progresses to other parts of the body. However, Bennet's ALS development was atypical. Today she is still able to move, use her fingers, and even dress herself, though perhaps not so nimbly as before her diagnosis. But

she can't speak. ALS affects Bennet's lips, tongue, mouth, jaws and larynx – all the tools needed for speech. She can still produce certain sounds, phonemes, but can't do so accurately or consistently.

But her brain is still working: it is still sending signals down those pathways, trying to wake up her mouth and tongue and produce speech. But there's a disconnect somewhere down the line. Stanford researchers have now, essentially, cut out the middleman by implanting popcorn-kernel size electrode arrays onto the speech motor cortex of the brain. This device, a BCI, then interfaces with com-

puter software that allows her to speak.

Erin Kunz, a PhD student at Stanford University's Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute, and co-author of the research paper, was there when Pat spoke for the first time.

"She was thrilled," Kunz told *Healthline*. "We've done almost, I think we've done 30-plus days of running this with her and even after day thirty, it's still just as exciting seeing it in real time."

Improvements in vocabulary, speed, and accuracy

Their work has come a long way. The BCI they use today along with artificial intelligence that learns from language patterns, allow Bennet to speak quickly and accurately, relatively speaking. The team says they've achieved a 9.1% word error rate, using a smaller 50-word vocabulary – 2.7 times more accurate than previous state-of-the-art BCIs – and a 23.8% word error rate on a 125,000-word vocabulary. The algorithm they use to take brain signals.

# Why ghee shouldn't be consumed on empty stomach; an Ayurveda expert explains

Ghee, the ancient superfood, is trusted for its healing and nutritious properties cut to present era. Ayurveda classical text Charaka Samhita talks highly about clarified butter made after removing milk solids and recommends it for those suffering from vata and pitta disorders and a range of other health benefits from easing digestion, boosting immunity, eyesight to name a few. It is however important to consume ghee in the right way and right quantity to reap its maximum benefits. Ghee is most popularly added to chapatis, on top of dal chawal and other curries to add a dose of nourishment and healthy fats to the meal.

Ghee not only enhances flavour and taste of a dish but also provides your body with necessary nutrients from vitamins A, D, E, and K to healthy fatty acids like omega-3 and omega-6, which play an important role in maintaining overall health. Ghee also has butyrate, a short-chain fatty acid that has been associated



with anti-inflammatory and gut health benefits.

Ayurveda expert Dr Rekha Radhamony in her recent Instagram post talks about the right and wrong way of consuming ghee for health benefits.

Is it okay to consume ghee on empty stomach first thing in the morning?

If you are someone who starts their day with ghee, it probably isn't a great idea, as per Dr Radhamony. "We all know ghee is great for digestion but is it okay to consume ghee first thing in the morning empty stomach because it is great for digestion, absolutely not. Ghee is a heavy food,

it's great for pitta and it is an amazing digestive helper, but ghee needs to be cooked as well," says the Ayurveda expert.

## Why you should cook or heat your ghee first

Dr Radhamony says ghee should be cooked or heated before consuming and raw ghee should be avoided.

"So, the best way to consume ghee to get all its benefits is to consume it in a cooked form. So, when you are making a dal, cook it in ghee, when you are sautéing your veggies, sauté it in ghee. In this way you can enjoy all the ben-

efits of ghee and also it helps you with digestion," says Dr Radhamony. As per the Ayurveda expert, one can also have ghee on rotis and along with warm dal and rice. Ayurveda expert Dr Rekha Radhamony in her recent Instagram post talks about the right and wrong way of consuming ghee for health benefits. Ghee not only enhances flavour and taste of a dish but also provides your body with necessary nutrients from vitamins A, D, E, and K to healthy fatty acids like omega-3 and omega-6, which play an important role in maintaining overall health. Ghee also has butyrate, a short-chain fatty acid that has been associated with anti-inflammatory and gut health benefits.

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## NEWS

# 7 Home Remedies For Treating Painful Shoe Bites



Shoe bites can turn a great day into an uncomfortable one. These painful blisters and skin irritations occur due to friction between your skin and the material of the shoe. While prevention is key, there are several effective home remedies to alleviate the discomfort caused by shoe bites.

While shoe bites can be painful and bothersome, these home remedies can offer relief and accelerate the healing process. Remember that prevention is better than cure, so invest in well-fitting shoes and pay attention to any signs of discomfort before they escalate into painful blisters.

## Warm Water Soak:

Soaking your feet in warm water can help soften the skin and accelerate the healing process. Add a tablespoon of salt to warm water and soak your feet for 15-20 minutes. This can also help prevent infection by keeping the area clean.

## Aloe Vera Gel:

Known for its soothing properties, aloe vera gel can provide relief from the burning sensation caused by shoe bites. Apply a thin layer of pure aloe vera gel to the affected area and let it dry. Repeat this a few times a day.

## Tea Bag Compress:

Black tea contains tannins that can help reduce inflammation and promote healing. Dip a black tea bag in hot water for a few minutes, let it cool down, and then apply it to the affected area for 10-15 minutes.

## Coconut Oil:

To prevent further friction, apply a layer of petroleum jelly or coconut oil to the inside of your shoes. This will help reduce the chances of developing new blisters while your current ones heal.

## Cornstarch or Talcum Powder:

Sprinkling a small amount of cornstarch or talcum powder inside your shoes can help absorb moisture and reduce friction. This will help prevent future shoe bites.

## Bandages and Moleskin:

Protect the affected area by covering it with a soft bandage or moleskin. Make sure not to apply adhesive directly onto the blister, as it might worsen the condition.

## Elevate Your Feet:

Elevating your feet can help reduce swelling and promote faster healing. When resting, try to keep your feet elevated to encourage proper blood circulation.



NATIONAL SPORTS DAY WEEK

# Water Sports activities organised in Dal Lake to mark celebrations

Sarmad Hafeez flags off Kayaking, Canoeing events



**SRINAGAR, AUG 28:** Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) organized a series of exhilarating sports activities this past week across the union territory of J&K, driving everyone to the festivities and embrace the spirit of healthy sports competitions.

On the penultimate day of the National Sports Day Week celebrations, JKSC's Water Sports Centre organized multiple events in scintillating waters of Dal Lake.

Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez flagged off marathon events in Kayaking and Canoeing at the Water Sports centre.

Director YSS, Subash C. Chibber; Secretary, JKSC, Nuzhat Gull; Divisional Sports Officer, Muzaffar Hussain Wani; Director of Water Sports Centre, Bilquis Mir and other officers of the YSS department were also present on the occasion. More than a hundred participants from Water Sports Centre and Khelo India Water Sports Centre of Excellence participated in the event.



participated in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Sarmad Hafeez stressed for the active participation of youth in sports activities for the holistic development of the youth. He added that water sports activities offer thrilling and refreshing escape from the daily grind and the rush of adrenaline combined with the serene beauty of the Dal Lake is an unforgettable experience for anyone taking to the paddle. "I

am sure there are many who are desperate to grab the gear and dive into the excitement that water sports have to offer and I can assure all those enthusiasts that the Sports department shall provide an opportunity to all of them, enabling the realization of their potential", the Secretary remarked.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary JKSC said that National Sports Day week is a time to celebrate power of sports and countless benefits they bring to individuals and communities. "From promoting physical fitness to fostering teamwork and discipline, sports have a profound impact on our lives, adding that during this special week we all came together to honour our sporting heroes, encourage active participation to inspire the next generation of athletes", she said.

She further said, "Let's unite, celebrate, and make this National Sports Day memorable and impactful."

During the celebrations, the participants had drawn lot of crowds to the Dal Lake. Pertinently, many sporting events were organised in the union territory during this week to pay glowing tributes to the sporting hero and Hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand.

Meanwhile, the grand final of the Hockey League being organized at Astro turf Polo ground Srinagar shall be played tomorrow.

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