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Target 100%
involvement of adult
population in Sports and
Cultural events: CS
P|12

4th meeting of
UTLLACPC convened
in Srinagar
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Accountability And Transparency Is The Soul Of Good Governance: LG Manoj Sinha

J&K is growing by leaps and bounds and so are the aspirations of people and their expectations from the administration

■ HT News Network

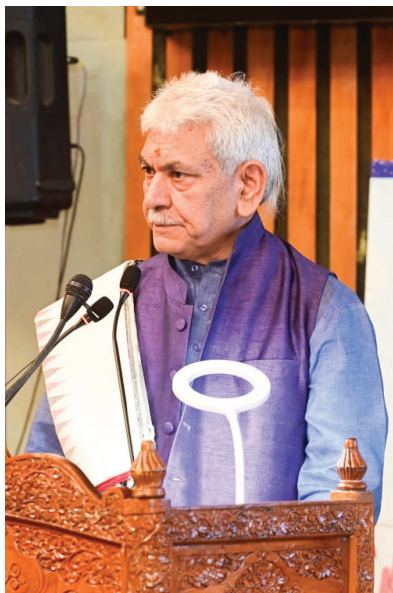
SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the launch ceremony of the first edition of the Journal of Jammu Kashmir Finance & Accounts Society (JAKFAS) at Srinagar, today.

In his address, the Lt Governor congratulated all the members of the JAKFAS and highlighted the important role and contribution of Account Service Officers in inclusive development and growth.

Finance and Account Services are not only the watchdog of accountability as far as government expenditure is concerned but they are also promoter and facilitator of all-round development, he added.

At the ceremony, the Lt Governor

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Lt Governor attends North Tech Symposium-2023 at IIT Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 11: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the North-Tech Symposium-2023 at Jagti Campus of IIT Jammu, today.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Northern Command, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and IIT Jammu for jointly hosting hundreds of Industries and defence tech startups and making this year's North-Tech Symposium a unique experience with their collaboration.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Rajnath Singh to inaugurate 90 BRO infrastructure projects on Today

JAMMU, SEP 11: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate and dedicate 90 Infrastructure Projects to the Nation constructed by Border Road Organisation (BRO) with a cost of Rs 2941 Crata ceremony to be organised at Devak Bridge in Jammu on Tuesday.

Official spokesman said that the projects have been constructed in ten border States and UTs of the Northern and North-Eastern region.

The Defence Minister will also participate in the North Tech

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Nifty 50 Crosses 20,000 Milestone: NSE CEO's Perspective

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), shares his perspective on the historic achievement of Nifty 50 crossing the 20,000 milestone for the first time.

Nifty 50, India's favourite stock index, reached the significant milestone of 20,000 points. Chauhan stated, "Nifty 50's progress over the last 27 years, from its initial value of 1,000, is a testament to the trust Indian and foreign investors have in India's capital markets, its regulatory framework, and its ability to provide a fair, efficient, transparent, low-cost, and

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Police Attaches Property Of Notorious Drug Peddler In Pulwama

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Police on Monday claimed to have attached property of a notorious drug peddler worth lakh of rupees under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Jammu Kashmir's Pulwama district.

In a significant move to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police have attached a single-storey, under-construction house valued at approximately 7.88 lacs belonging to notorious drug peddler identified as Zahoor Ahmad Wani located in

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Terror attack averted in Baramulla, IED defused: Army

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Security forces defused an Improvised Explosives Device (IED) along the national highway in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday morning, officials said.

Army said a major terror attack was averted with the recovery of the IED on the busy highway.

Officials said a suspect object was found in the Hanjivera area of Pattan by the security forces during the Road Opening Procedure (ROP), a drill that is executed every day to secure the national highway. Hundreds of vehicles of Army, central armed police forces (CAPFs and VVIPs) use this highway every day.

The area was immediately cordoned off, and the traffic movement on the busy highway

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Govt notifies transport arrangements for migratory tribal families

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: The Tribal Affairs Department in

collaboration with J&K Road Transport Corporation and the respective District Administration has notified arrangements for migration of pastoral tribal families from Kashmir region to Jammu, with the onset of winter.

The migration of families will commence from mid-September from higher reaches and will continue till November 2023.

The administrative council headed by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has approved the transport service for

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Hold camps to register all the eligible pension beneficiaries: CS

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today, while reviewing the beneficiary oriented schemes implemented by the Social Welfare Department, impressed upon its officers to work in a mission mode and hold camps at village level to

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Out of 46 terrorists killed so far in J&K, 37 were foreigners: Lt Gen Dwivedi



■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 11: Stating that the neighbouring country is frustrated

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'Atmanirbharta' is first step for India to get global leadership: Northern Army Commander

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 11: Stating that India is a civilisation, was always capable and will remain forever, Northern

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Not Even One Square Inch Of Our Land Occupied By China: Ladakh LG Mishra

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPT 11: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor B D Mishra asserted on Monday that not even one square inch of Indian land has been occupied by China and that the armed forces are prepared to give "a bloody nose" to anyone engaging in any misadventure. Asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remark on China occupying a large chunk of land in Ladakh, he said, "I won't comment on anybody's statement. But I will

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Urs of Makhdoom Sahib celebrated in Across Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Hundreds of devotees thronged Makhdoom Sahib shrine in Srinagar on Monday on the occasion of annual Urs of



revered Sufi saint, Sultan-ul-Arifeen Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom Sahib (RA). Men, women and children were seen

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5G Health Use Cases for Adoption in Aspirational Districts of Kashmir Division

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: AMTRON, a PSU of Assam Govt has proposed the roll out of 5G Health use applications in the two aspirational districts of Kashmir division viz. Baramulla and Kupwara.

In this regard, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today chaired a meeting to deliberate over the different aspects of the project which shall be beneficial to the patients in these districts.

The project shall focus on 5G Training Labs with CDN (Content Delivery Network) Solutions and use cases in healthcare in Kashmir.

All the applications will be based on 4.0 Industry whereby Artificial

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Uninterrupted traffic, fruit laden trucks can ply now on Srinagar-Jammu highway every day: Div Com

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Traffic on Srinagar-Jammu national highway including fruit laden trucks will now ply uninterrupted on daily basis, a senior J&K official said on

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



ELECTRIC HAMAM

Upto 8+ HOURS HEAT RETENTION

9070-9070-35

prowarm UNDERFOUR HEATING

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Accountability.....

shared the financial reforms taken up by J&K Administration in recent years which have brought greater transparency and accountability to the financial system, making it more robust and outcome-oriented.

"Accountability and transparency is the soul of good governance. With complete dedication and commitment, we have ensured timely and expeditious implementation of development projects, direct benefit to common man, and social and regional imbalances have been removed," the Lt Governor said.

He said the key reforms including BEAMS, J&K PaySys, mandatory approvals, technical sanctions, e-tendering, digital payments, adherence to General Financial Rules and other technology interventions have immensely contributed to the efficiency and transparency in the system. He also lauded the key role of Account Service Officers in implementing these reforms.

"Corruption was deeply rooted in all the systems of J&K for many decades. We have taken multi-pronged action against corruption, stringent action against offenders, and implementation of digital governance for accountability to usher in clean and transparent governance," he said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated the retiring and new members of the J&K Account Services and called upon them to make the people aware of their responsibility of paying for government services. If capable people pay their power bills then government can waive off the bills of poor and farmers, he said.

J&K is growing by leaps and bounds and so are the aspirations of people and their expectations from the administration. We need to work with dedication to maintain the growth momentum and bring change in the lives of people, especially to the poor and the underprivileged, he said.

He further called for completion of digitization of pension payment authorities on mission mode.

The Lt Governor, on behalf of JAKFAS, also handed over cheques to Next of Kins of the deceased members of the society.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Chief Secretary; Sh Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary Finance Department; Sh Baldev Prakash, MD & CEO J&K Bank; Sh Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary GAD; Ms Rashmi Singh, Commissioner State Taxes; Sh Iftikhar Hussain Chauhan, President JAKFAS, HoDs, senior officers and members of JAKFAS were present.

Lt Governor.....

It is a proud moment for Academia as for the first time since its inception North-Tech Symposium, defence expo is being held in IIT Jammu, the Lt Governor said.

He observed that the three-day mega event will showcase cutting-edge technological advancements of Indian Army and forge a synergy between Army, Industry and Academia in research, development and innovation in Defence technologies.

At the expo, the Lt Governor also talked about India's emergence as defence exporter and self-reliance in Defence Production.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the country has witnessed major push for Aatmanirbharta in Defence. We are a responsible space power and have shown our strategic strength," the Lt Governor said.

He said the launch of INS Vikrant last year vindicated our resolve to develop indigenous capabilities.

Our arms imports have reduced significantly in the last 4-5 years and defence export reached an all-time high in the last financial year. It shows our commitment to innovation and Indigenous technology development, he said.

"The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Hon'ble Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh ji have set the target of achieving 70 per cent Aatmanirbharta in weaponry by 2027, which is providing unlimited opportunities to private industries, MSMEs and tech startups. It signals our steadfast commitment to self-reliance," the Lt Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated and expressed his gratitude to the Armed Forces for complete devotion to the motherland and determination to strengthen the national security.

He said the rapid advancements in technology also called for new innovations in defence sector. Our greater thrust on Research & Development, innovation for defence excellence will ensure India is fully prepared for Future Warfare, he added.

The North-Tech Symposium provides a platform to the Army, academia, manufacturers, entrepreneurs, experts and key stakeholders to identify unique solutions to meet the Army's operational requirements, while promoting self-reliance in defence production and technology proliferation.

The symposium will feature exhibitions, product launches, structured interactions and technical seminars.

Lieutenant General M. V. Suchindra Kumar, Vice Chief of Army Staff; Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C Northern Command; Lt Gen Rajiv Ghal, GOC 15 Corps; Prof Manoj S Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu; Dr Sunil Misra, Director General, Society for Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM); senior officers of Army, Police, Civil Administration, members of SIDM, industry leaders, students and young entrepreneurs were present.

Terror attack.....

was halted," officials said.

"A Bomb Disposal Squad was also called, and they found the suspect object to be an IED. It was later blasted in a controlled explosion without causing any damage," they said.

The traffic on the highway was later restored. Army said that with the recovery of the IED, a major terror incident was averted.

"#ChinarWarriors&@JmuKmrPolice averted a major terror incident on Monday by recovering & in-situ destroying an IED near Pioneer College, Hanjiwera Bala, Baramulla, the Army's Srinagar-based Chinar Corps said on X, formerly Twitter. It added that the Indian Army stands by its commitment to keep Kashmir terror-free. UNI

Govt notifies.....

tribal population during migration as one of the key deliverables, which is being monitored by the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta regularly. Finance department has also earmarked required budget for this annual facility provided during summer and winter migration.

Every year the government deputs a fleet of trucks to ease the long-range migration through National Highway-44 and Mughal road. This year 150 trucks are being deployed to districts. The Deputy Commissioners have notified nodal officers for facilitating migration and making associated arrangements.

Earlier, Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Dr Shahid Choudhary reviewed the arrangement with Secretary Transport, G Prasanna Ramaswamy, DCs, RTC management and other allied departments. The meeting was also attended by MD J&K RTC, Director, Tribal Affairs, Director, Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Secretary, Advisory Board and other officers.

Secretary, Transport Department, informed that JK RTC has conveyed its readiness to deputy commissioners and will provide the trucks as per the demand raised by the districts administration. DCs have also been authorised to hire trucks and light commercial vehicles at local level for hassle free and timely service.

Deputy Commissioners of District Pulwama, Anantnag, Ramban, Udhampur, Kulgam, Shopian, Poonch and Rajouri will monitor the migration and put in place required arrangements in coordination with J&K RTC, Animal/Sheep Husbandry Deptt and local authorities.

Meanwhile, TRI J&K has been asked to notify and publicise helpline numbers on radio and all media for wider circulation, to be made available for real time grievance redress.

Pertinent to mention, as per the 1st survey of Transhumance conducted by the Department of Tribal Affairs under supervision of Secretary, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, the department documented world's largest Transhumant population in Jammu and Kashmir.

Hold camps.....

register eligible beneficiaries for old age/widow/specifically-abled pension in their favour.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Director Social Welfare, Kashmir/Jammu, District Social Welfare Officers (DSWOs) besides other concerned officers of the Department.

During the meeting the Chief Secretary maintained that the administration is pro-poor and has their welfare on top of its agenda. He underscored the need of reaching to these needy people as it is the primary objective of the Department.

He mentioned that during his interactions with the people he came across demands regarding the issuance of pension from the Department. He stated that it is the right of these eligible old aged people to claim their rights and the administration is duty bound to provide them same in a time bound manner.

He directed them to collaborate with the Revenue Department and complete verification of all the pending cases within a week's time. He told them to declare a time table in a day or two for such camps and widely publish it for information of all the concerned. He urged them that no eligible person should be left out and those cases verified should be provided pension forthwith.

He told them to settle the pension cases of at least 1 lakh beneficiaries by next two weeks and complete all the pendencies by the end of month. He also asked them to work for release of their accumulated arrears therefrom in a phased manner.

Dr Mehta further stressed on distribution of benefits among the deserving population only. He asked for providing of PHH ration cards among the most deserving population as per the criteria laid down. He made out that no complaints should be there regarding exclusion of eligible beneficiaries. He urged them that merit should be the only criteria to categorize people in these hierarchies.

The Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sheetal Nanda gave out during this meeting that the DSWOs/TSWOs have already been sensitized by her that no pendencies beyond 2 working days shall be acceptable at their end. She further said that the verifications pending for want of reports from the revenue officials would also be taken in a mission mode.

She reiterated that camps as directed by the chair would be organized as per the schedule to be laid down and cases settled on merits as per the set timelines given in the meeting.

Urs of.....

riding stairs from the Nowhatta and Rainawari Gurudwara side of the shrine to pay obeisance at the revered shrine.

Last night, devotees were engrossed in 'Shah Khwani' (nightlong prayers), which are held one night before the Urs, at the shrine.

The authorities had made elaborate arrangements for the devotees on the occasion.

The Sufi saint, who is popularly known as Makhdoom Sahib and Sultan-ul-Arifeen, is the most venerated sage of Srinagar and his followers, Muslims and non-Muslims, have been paying obeisance at the shrine for nearly 500 years now.

Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Party President, Member of Parliament Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah have greeted people on the Annual Urs Observance of Mehboobul Alam, Sultan Ul Arifeen Sheikh Hamzah Maqdoomi (RA), hoping the day increases the prospects of peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Farooq said, "Kashmir's contribution to Sufi mysticism is immense and great polymaths like Hazrat Sultan Ul Arifeen with unrivalled spiritual standing nurtured it from time to time. These great men were people of great devotion, selflessness and austerity."

Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Monday, extended greetings to the people on the revered occasion of the annual Urs.

"On the auspicious occasion of the annual Urs of Hazrat Sultan-ul-Arifeen, I extend my greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the devotees of the Sufi saint who has been in the hearts of Kashmiris for centuries, as he spent his entire life spreading the teachings of Islam and spirituality", Bukhari said in his message. UNI

Out of 46.....

with the restoration of peace in Jammu and Kashmir, Northern Command Army Commander, Lieutenant General, Upendra Dwivedi on Monday said that this year so far 46 terrorists have been neutralised out of which 37 were foreigners.

"This is for the first time, the terrorists killed in various operations across the region this year, the number of foreign terrorists was four times higher than locals," the Army Commander said speaking to media after the inauguration of three-day North Tech Symposium at IIT Jammu.

"Attempts are being made from across the border to disrupt peace in Jammu and Kashmir but we will never allow it to happen," he said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi added that the number of terrorists killed in the last nine months is 46 and out of these, nine were locals and 37 were foreigners.

"Moreover, 29 of these terrorists have been killed in the South of Pir Panchal," he added.

He said that the Northern Command is not only guarding the Line of Control (LOC) but also the Line of Actual Control (LAC), adding, "induction of upgraded technology will benefit the Indian Army and further augment the Armed Forces."

As far as the situation along the border is concerned, the Northern Command is always ready operationally, adding he said, "India Army is maintaining vigil 24x7 along the LAC and the LOC as well and due to operations, peace is restoring in Jammu and Kashmir."

On increasing terrorist incidents in Rajouri and Poonch districts, he said, "wherever peace returns, Pakistan is trying to disturb it."

"Despite Pakistan's worsening situation internally, foreign terrorists are being pushed to the Indian Territory because local terrorists and support to the neighbour is almost zero in Jammu and Kashmir and the citizens of this region are up against terrorism and instead standing by the security forces," he stated.

"As the deployment and technology has changed to a larger extent, the terrorists trying to infiltrate are being neutralised on the border only and the attempts are being foiled successfully," the Army Commander said and added that all the top commanders of various terror outfits are eliminated in Jammu and Kashmir, which has frustrated the Pakistan. UNI

'Atmanirbharta'.....

Command Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday said that 'Atmanirbharta' is a first step for India to get global leadership.

"Atmanirbharta is a first step for India to get global leadership and to boost Atmanirbharta, industry, military and academia have come together and we will march forward so that the technology we already had, which we are importing, we will find an alternate solution to it," Lt Gen Dwivedi told media while inspecting stalls on the first of the three days North Tech Symposium being hosted at IIT Jammu.

"And the latest technology coming ahead, how we jointly have to work upon so that the cumulative effect should be so good that we move ahead of other countries," he added.

Elaborating on the symposium, the Army Commander said that the equipment is divided into five parts.

"Survivability of protection, mobility, surveillance and communication, infrastructural development and fire power are the key areas focussed in the North Tech," said the Army Commander.

He stated that one-third of the equipment is already inducted into the Army, which needs improvement and the two-third developed by the industry after they understood our requirement and if the need arises and it meets our expectation, shall also be inducted after trials.

He said that the technology must be known to everyone irrespective of any age group and

the North Tech is being attended by the battery of officers from various commands so that they get learned and get aware of the latest technology for adopting it into the Armed Forces.

Lt Gen Dwivedi said that the equipment on display in the North Tech is completely focussed on the 'Atmanirbharta', adding, "so far 256 equipments are inducted into the Army from the last North Tech held in May 2022 in Northern Command after successful trials."

On drone challenges, the Army Commander said, "counter drone equipment's are also inducted and they are being upgraded time to time," adding he said, "along the Line of Control (LoC), we need intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and more-over lot of equipment is inducted, which is used in the warfare."

The Army Commander however, also said that with each passing day, technology along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is improving. UNI

Not Even One.....

say what is fact because I have seen myself on the ground that not even one square inch of land which the Chinese have occupied." "Whatsoever happened in 1962 that is immaterial. But today we are in occupation of our land to the last inch," he said.

Mishra, a retired Brigadier, was here to attend the three-day North Tech Symposium being organised by the Army.

Responding to reporters' queries on the sidelines of the event, he said, "Our armed forces are prepared for any eventuality, and God forbid if the balloon goes up, people will get a bloody nose from us." He said the morale of troops is very very high. "Their intent is to defend every square inch of land. Nobody can dare to come towards India with any design to have a foothold here. I think all the credit goes to great leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Asked whether weapons have been identified and procured to be deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) to boost security, he said it is being done.

"...when I was commissioned in the Army in 1961...there was nothing indigenous in my battalion. Our rifles, .303 small arms were made in Birmingham. The watch we got was made in Switzerland. Today, there is nothing that is not indigenous," he added.

A large number of companies and start-ups are showcasing their military equipment at the North Tech Symposium which began on the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus on the outskirts of Jammu on Monday.

The symposium facilitates a structured approach to product evaluation, prioritisation, and acquisition while contributing actionable inputs for procurement plans. (Agencies)

5G Health.....

Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), cloud, internet and normal smartphone will be employed.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Director Health Services Kashmir, and other officers.

Besides, representatives of PSU who attended virtually included Director (S&T), North Eastern Council, DIC, UIET, Punjab University, Chandigarh, HoD, Community Medicine Dept, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi and CEO, Inca Synergies.

At the outset, a presentation was given which focused on intervention of 5G and allied technologies of IoT (Internet of Things), Artificial Intelligence, Big Data in Health Sector to improve the quality of healthcare screening nearest to home and reduce out of pocket expenses as per the vision of NITI Aayog.

The Interventions included Mobile/Cloud based ECG Solution; Locomotor Challenge IoT/AI Based Assessment/Imaging for Prosthetics/ Orthotics; Imaging Device combining AI (Artificial Intelligence) to detect and classify bacteria on wounds; Diabetic Retinopathy; Senior Citizen IoT Healthcare services; AR/VR based Anatomy Learning Models; AI based Cataract Analysis using Smart Phones; AI Technology For Respiratory Health Through Audiometric Analysis of Cough Sounds; AI based Medical Image Analysis Over Cloud for better clinical decision making; AI based Drip Monitoring For IPD Patients by Attending Nurses and IoT based diagnostic kiosk/kit.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Comm maintained that the success of such IT based Interventions shall address multiple issues in health sector including reducing of crowd in hospitals, enhance ease of living, timely treatment of patients and early detection of disease of heart, chest, ophthalmology, orthopaedics besides shall save time and money of people as they shall get tests and counseling on their mobile from health experts at real time.

For the implementation of this initiative, the Divisional Commissioner's office shall submit the DPR to NITI AAYOG so the project will be implemented very soon.

Uninterrupted.....

Monday. The decision was taken after the improvement in the road conditions along the highway.

"The traffic on Srinagar-Jammu national highway including fruit laden trucks will now ply from both the ways after improvement in road conditions", Divisional Commissioner Vijay Kumar Bidhuri told media persons in Srinagar .

Earlier the traffic on Srinagar-Jammu highway was plying on a schedule of even odd type and one day the up convoy was being allowed to ply on the road and next day the down convoy was being allowed to move on the highway, he said.

Bidhuri said after a visit by the Chief Secretary and other officials on the highway after road condition considerably improved, they decided that the restrictions on the movement of vehicles including fruit laden trucks have been lifted.

"It is good news for fruit growers as trucks now can ply on the road without any restrictions on a daily basis", he added.

He said following the attack on the CRPF Convoy at Lethpora on highway in 2019, a standard operating procedure (SOP) was designed for the movement of traffic along the highway.

He said the traffic in the other tube of the highway was stopped when a convoy of security was moving on the road. It was also implemented due to non-availability of a divider in the middle of the road, he added.

"Now, the security situation has significantly improved and security agencies will soon make a decision of allowing the civilian traffic during the forces movement after considering all aspects," Bidhuri added. UNI

Rajnath Singh.....

Symposium being organised by Northern Command jointly with IIT Jammu.

Singh will also carry out e-shilanyas of Nyoma Airfield to be constructed in Ladakh, he added and said that in the last two years BRO has dedicated a record 205 Infrastructure projects to the Nation at a cost of Rs 5100 crore.

"The Defence Minister will inaugurate and dedicate 90 infrastructure Projects to the Nation at a cost of Rs 2941 crore. Last year, 103 BRO infrastructure projects were dedicated to the Nation at a cost of Rs 2897 Cr. In 2021, 102 BRO infrastructure projects were dedicated to the Nation at a cost of Rs 2229 Cr," he added.

He said that the Defence Minister will inaugurate 22 Roads, 63 Bridges, Nechipu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, two airfields in West Bengal and two helipads in a ceremony that will be organised by the Border Roads Organisation at Devak Bridge on Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur Road in Samba district.

"These Infrastructure Projects have been constructed under challenging weather conditions, at most inhospitable terrain locations," he added.

The highlight of the event will be the inauguration of state of the art "422.9 meter long, Class 70 RCC Devak Bridge on Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur Road in Jammu and Kashmir" from the site and this bridge is of strategic importance to Defence Forces and will facilitate speedy induction of troops, heavy equipment and mechanised vehicles to forward areas and will also boost socio-economic development of the region, he added. UNI

Nifty 50 Crosses.....

consistently available marketplace. It stands as a global leader, not only in trading technologies but also in corporate governance."

Chauhan also highlighted that "more than 7.5 crore unique PAN numbers are registered with us, indicating that 5 crore households are now directly investing a portion of their savings in the equities market through NSE's best-in-class, highly automated, and well-regulated markets, a tradition upheld for several decades."

He expressed his belief that India has made significant progress in market participation over the last 30 years, with a promising beginning. Chauhan acknowledged that there will be challenges ahead, but he is confident that India will continue to advance, with the Nifty 50 index reflecting this progress.

He affirmed NSE's commitment to providing fair, efficient, transparent, orderly, low-cost, and highly automated markets for India's future.

Police Attaches.....

Jindwall village under the NDPS Act, a police statement said.

"The said house was linked to case FIR No 47/2023 under relevant sections of law of Police Station Rajpora. The investigation proved that the said immovable property was raised/ used for Illicit Trafficking by the drug peddler", police added.

By freeing the illegal assets of drug peddlers/smugglers involved in the organized illegal narco trade, Police have dealt a severe blow to their criminal activities. (Agencies)

4th meeting of UTLLACPC convened in Srinagar

Rs 5000 Cr earmarked for upgrading infrastructure, setting up Public Libraries in Gram Panchayats: DG RRRLF

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: The Government of India has earmarked whopping Rs 5000 crores for the year 2023-24 for upgrading infrastructure in Public Libraries and extending Library facilities to the Gram Panchayat level across the country.

This was announced by Prof Ajay Pratap Singh, Director General, National Library of India (NLI) and Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) in his opening remarks at the two-day meeting of J&K UT-Level Library Advisory-cum-Purchase Committee (UTLLACPC) which began at SPS Library Complex here on Sunday.

Prof Singh said, it is for the first time, that such a huge amount has been earmarked, in one go, by the Government of India for upgrading library infrastructure in the States & UTs. He said extension of library facilities and taking the library movement to the grassroots level is aimed at facilitating improved access of the children and adolescents in the rural and semi-urban areas to the latest books and e-connecting them to the vast learning resources available through National Digital Library of India (NDLI).

He said the Union Ministry of Finance has already sought proposals from all the States and Union Territories under the scheme as the funding for upgrading infrastructure in Public Libraries and providing Library facilities at the Gram Panchayat level would be available on "First-Come-

First-Serve" basis. "A communication in this regard has been sent by the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance to the Chief Secretaries of all the States & UTs in May 2023," he said.

Enumerating the broader contours of the scheme, Prof Singh said that funding under the scheme would be available to the states and UTs for construction of new library buildings; renovation of existing libraries; purchase of library furniture; purchase of IT equipment including computers, printers, networking etc and purchase of books. He said financial assistance under the scheme would be limited to one Library in each Municipal Ward and one Library in each Gram Panchayat. Prof Singh said J&K's Libraries Department should also explore the possibility of establishing decent reading spaces, in convergence with related departments, at the Public Parks, Gardens, along Jhelum River bank and around Dal Lake for tourists and morning walkers.

Earlier, welcoming the participants at the meeting, the Director, Libraries & Research, Mr Mohammad Rafi gave an overview of the initiatives taken by the Department to upgrade the infrastructure in Public Libraries and provide best possible facilities to the library users. He said the huge increase in footfall in the Public Libraries has put immense pressure on library resources and there is a pressing need for upgrading the infrastruc-



ture especially the library furniture.

The Director Libraries sought the intervention of Director General RRRLF to facilitate early release of funds under National Mission on Libraries (NML) from RRRLF for construction of buildings for Gani Memorial UT Central Library at Rajouri Kadal Srinagar and District Library Samba. He also pressed for release of RRRLF financial assistance under Matching Grant Scheme for upgrading furniture in Public Libraries.

UT-Level Library Advisory-cum-Purchase Committee discussed and approved various proposals put forth by the Director, Libraries and Research

for upgradation and expansion of Public Library facilities in J&K. These include, Digitization of Libraries; establishment of theme-based Libraries-cum-Reading Centres at tourist resorts, setting up of dedicated Reading Areas for travellers at Srinagar & Jammu Airports, collaboration with School Education Department to organize free coaching of students for various competitive exams, organizing Book Fair at Srinagar and Jammu in collaboration with National Book Trust (NBT), setting up of "Book Village" at Aragam in District Bandipora as a joint initiative of the Department of Libraries & Research; District Administration Bandipora and

Pune-based NGO "Sarhad", setting up of Public Library-cum-Reading Room at Gandtal, Harwan under Aspirational Blocks Development Program (ABDP) in convergence with the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, extension of Internet facility to the Public Libraries at Tehsil & Block levels, weeding out of obsolete books & reference material for Competitive Examinations, write off the damaged/lost books, conservation of books & manuscripts, procurement of e-Books and making available more Online Services to the Library Users.

UTLLACPC approved the list of books under various categories to be

purchased by the Department of Libraries & Research for its Libraries during the year 2023-24.

The meeting was informed that J&K has the distinction of having the oldest libraries in the country including SRS Library Jammu established in 1879 and SPS Library Srinagar established in 1898.

UTLLACPC members who attended the 4th meeting of the forum included Dr Arif, Dy Director, J&K Board of School Education; Mr Saleem Pandit, Journalist; Mr Satish Vimal, expert Hindi language; Mr Liaqat Jafri, expert Urdu language; Mr Ghulam Nabi Haleem, expert Kashmiri Language; Ms Surinder Neer, expert Punjabi Language; Prof Parvez Majeed, Media Studies and Mr Kulbushan Malhotra.

Besides UTLLACPC members, the meeting was attended by Deputy Director, Libraries Jammu/Kashmir; Assistant Director, Libraries & Research Kashmir; Chief Librarians of Oriental Research Library Srinagar & SPS Library Srinagar and other officials.

Pertinently, 16-member J&K UT-Level Library Advisory-cum-Purchase Committee (UTLLACPC) was constituted by J&K Government in February 2021 to recommend measures for development of the library services and upgradation of library facilities in the UT. The Committee also makes selection of books to be purchased by the Libraries Department for its libraries.

Govt Orders Reshuffle In Administration

JAMMU, JUL 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday ordered transfers and postings in the administration.

In the interest of administration, Mudasar Ahmad, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Gurez, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Gurez, is transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Parnchayat, Kupwara, against an available vacancy.

Mukhtiar Ahmed Ahanger, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, is transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Gurez. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Gurez, till further orders.

Chander Kant Bhagat, JKAS, DPO, Poonch, is transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Jammu (South), against an available vacancy.

Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, JKAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, is transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Baramulla, vice Gulzar Ahmad, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Yasmeen Jan, JKAS, Private Secretary in the Information Technology Department, is transferred and posted as Personnel Officer, Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, vice Ms. Shaheena Khan, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Further Anju Anand, JKAS, Assistant Settlement Officer, Jammu, shall hold the additional charge of the post of Sub Registrar, R.S. Pura, till further orders, relieving Ms. Seema Parihar JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, R.S. Pura of the additional charge of the post.

Mr. Rouf Ahmad Lone, Jr. Scale JKAS, Tehsildar, D.H. Pora, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Home Department.

Mayor of Srinagar lays Foundation Stone for 02 Community Centers at Chattabal & Rakh Colony Noor Bagh, Srinagar

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: The Mayor of Srinagar, Junaid Azim Mattu accompanied by concerned Corporators and Vice Chairman Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), Haris Ahmad Handoo along with senior officials from SDA, today laid the foundation stone for two community centers in Chattabal and Rakh Colony Noor Bagh, Srinagar.

The construction of these centers, with a budget of 2.95 Crores and 2.23 Crores respectively, marks the fulfillment of a long-

standing demand from the local population.

During the inaugural functions of the community centers, the Mayor reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of the masses. He expressed his delight in meeting the popular demand of the Chattabal and Noor Bagh inhabitants by providing them with these much-needed facilities. The community centers will serve as essential hubs for various social and recreational



activities.

The local population of Chattabal and Noor Bagh wholeheartedly welcomed this development and expressed their gratitude to the Mayor and Vice Chairman SDA for their dedication and efforts in making these community centers a reality.

The inhabitants believe that these centers will not only cater to their immediate needs but also contribute to the overall progress and prosperity of the local area.

Second round of Mission Indradhanush 5.0 starts in JK

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: In a bid to immunize children, who were partially or never immunized, Director Family Welfare, Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and Immunization, Dr. Tabasum Jabeen launched the 2nd phase of Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0 immunization campaign at NTPHC, Abi Dal Srinagar.

While launching the campaign Director said the Mission Indradhanush 5.0 is a vaccination program aimed to cover all those children and pregnant women who remain unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.

She said that the primary focus of the campaign is on ensuring that every child receives life-saving vaccines. She also said that the initiative is also intended to be the big leap for

achieving Measles & Rubella elimination in the country by ensuring that every child under 5 years of age has completed the two-dose schedule of Measles and Rubella Containing Vaccine (MRCV).

Dr. Tabasum Jabeen further elaborated that the campaign is now fully supported by U-WIN portal through which all the entries including registration, vaccination and digital immunization certificate generation will be done by entering the phone number of beneficiaries which will help health staff as well as parents of the children to know about their due doses.

She said that with this feature health officials will have digital due list and individual beneficiaries will receive SMS alerts reminding them

of next due doses and acknowledgment of the same. This ensures effective tracking of beneficiaries which includes children aged 0-5 and pregnant women. Director Family Welfare also added that after the registration of the children on the first dose, they will be able to administer second dose anywhere in the country on the production of their mobile number or Aadhar number.

Dr. Tabasum Jabeen also complimented the health officials for their tireless job and instructed them to get 100% vaccination done by activating all the vaccinators.

The first phase of the program was launched from August 7 to 12 while as the third phase will commence from October 9 to 14.

Over 12,000 Devotees Leave For 3-Day Kailash Yatra In Doda

JAMMU, SEP 11: The three-day Kailash Yatra commenced in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Monday as over 12,000 devotees left for the annual pilgrimage from the ancient Vasuki Nag temple here, officials said.

The pilgrimage to the 14,700-foot-high Kailash Kund, depicting ancient 'Nag' culture, was seen off by Doda Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan along with Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Qayoom and Additional Deputy Commissioner Dilmir Chowdhary.

The Yatra is considered one of the toughest as pilgrims have to trek the 18-km-steep Kailash mountain range to pay their obeisance at the high-altitude temple, where they take a dip in the ice-cold 'Kund' (lake) and take the blessings of their deities Vasuki Nag and Lord Shiva.

"Last year, over 35,000 devotees paid obeisance at the holy Kailash Kund and this year we are expecting manifold increase in the turnout as we have promoted this ancient and unique pilgrimage at the Union Territory and national level simultaneously," Mahajan said.

The 'Charri Mubarak' (holy mace) was taken out from Vasuki Nag Temple at Gatha around 9 am and was joined by another mace from Vasuki Nag Temple at Vasik Dhera in Bhaderwah town, marking the commencement of the pilgrimage.

Jammu and Kashmir Dharmarth Trust, which looks after the maintenance of ancient temples and is also one of the main organisers of the Yatra, demanded that the Kailash Yatra should be promoted on a national level.

"This is perhaps the only Yatra of Jammu and Kashmir which continued during the peak of militancy," Secretary J-K Dharmarth Trust and former SSP Bhaderwah Ashok Sharma said.

The Yatra is unique in every aspect and the government should protect and promote it at par with Amarnath and Vaishno Devi pilgrimage, he said.

Former member of the legislative council (MLC) Nareish Kumar Gupta and another veteran leader Mast Nath Yogi participated in the rituals connected with the ancient yatra at Vasak Dera.

The Charri Mubarak would reach the high-altitude lake on Wednesday morning after a two-night halt en route.

MES can lead J&K to new era of development: Saurabh Bhagat

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Commissioner Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Saurabh Bhagat today remarked that Modular Employable Skills (MES) can lead Jammu and Kashmir to new era of development as this will amplify employability avenues for youth here.

The Commissioner Secretary made these remarks while chairing a meet to review the progress on implementation of various schemes by Jammu and Kashmir Skill Development Mission (JKSDM).

The meeting was attended by Mission Director, JKSDM, Leena Padha; Special Secretary, SDD,

FA/CAO SDD, and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, Saurabh Bhagat held a comprehensive review of the various schemes and initiatives undertaken JKSDM and assessed the progress, achievements, and challenges faced by the JKSDM to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir with relevant skills and employment opportunities.

Addressing the officers, the Commissioner Secretary remarked that skilling is an important way to make youth more employable. He highlighted that Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha is very keen on skill-

ing of youth and is personally monitoring the progression of skilling components across Jammu and Kashmir.

Saurabh Bhagat emphasized upon the officers to maintain convergence with other departments for bridging the skill gap and enhancing employability avenues for the youth of J&K.

He called upon the officers to devise an action plan for collecting the data of youth identified during Back to Village programmes and trained under different schemes of SDD. He asked them to develop a single portal in consultation with Deputy Commissioners were all

the departments can upload the data regarding training provided to youth under different components of SDD.

While reviewing the progress of PMKVY, Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANK-ALP) and India Skills Competition schemes, Saurabh Bhagat called upon the officers to create maximum awareness among the regarding these schemes so that they can take due benefits of them. He called upon the officers to study the models of other States and UTs on Skill development and replicate the best practices of these models here.

He also asked them to conduct

Skill Gap analysis regarding the youth aspirational policy.

During the meeting, Mission Director, JKSDM informed the Commissioner Secretary that more than 85000 youth have been trained under different schemes of SDD. She further informed the meeting that 20480 and 2320 persons were trained under PMKVY 2.0 and PMKVY 3.0 respectively by the Mission.

It was also given out in the meeting that the JKSDM has the preparations for PMKVY 4.0 and also developed mechanism for training of youth to be identified under next phase of Back to Village.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama chairs Block level review meeting

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a block level review of development works / schemes at Town Hall Pampore.

At the outset, Block Development Officer apprised the chair of the various developmental schemes going on in the blocks and a department wise summary was projected.

The DC while taking department wise review focused on completion of works within the stipulated timeline.

Further, the DC emphasised on completion of allocated works immediately



and for booking of expenditure simultaneously.

Creation of assets is an important factor while allocation of works and it should be ensured that focus is on public assets, DC added.

Dr. Basharat said that the

main motive of such block wise review meetings is to focus on inter departmental coordination and if any issue pertaining to any department is at block level the same can be resolved. All the departments should work in tandem and cohesion so that public service is enhanced.

DC also emphasised on creation of sports infrastructure to enhance sports activities among youth.

A schedule has been issued where in reviews shall be taken up in each block to speed up developmental works and resolve issues of availability of land or right of way there and then.

As part of Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural), the DC flagged-off waste collection vans for proper collection and disposal within the rural areas.

The meeting among others was attended by ADC Awantipora, CPO Pulwama, officers from KPDC, RDD, YSS, Municipality Irrigation, JJM and others.

Digital Week 2023: DC Bandipora presides over Valedictory Function

Emphasizes on carrying forward the Bhramshachar Mukta campaign by popularizing online services in every nook & corner

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 11: The celebrations of Digital Week 2023 culminated on Monday with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad presiding over the valedictory function held at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The valedictory function was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Ali Afsar Khan; Nodal Officer Coordination, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; ADC, Umar Shafi; ACR, JD Planning besides government officials, educators and a galaxy of students from different institutions of Bandipora.

It was given out that during the observation of Digital Week 2023, people



across the district were made aware of online services through panel discussions, town hall meetings, and open forums. This allowed people to voice their concerns and suggestions regarding the digital transformation of Bandipora.

During the function, achievements, and programs held during the week, were displayed on a

big screen, including initiatives such as e-governance services and digital identity programs. It was further informed that throughout the week workshops on improving digital literacy, array of tech exhibitions, demonstrations of virtual reality, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies including workshops on e-offices were also held.

Various youth-centric programs, hackathons, and coding competitions were also organized.

The DC delivered an inspiring address stressing the importance of new era technology to improve the quality of life for all residents of Bandipora.

The DC said that the world has now become a digital village where a person can access all the services and information available while sitting at home by simply accessing the internet. He said that the applicants/people need not visit government offices physically as most services are available online, thereby reducing chances of corruption to a zero percent. He said that online services helped in fostering a corruption free atmosphere with administrative setups.

CEO, IWMP inspects SBM Works in 04 Districts

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 11: The Chief Executive Officer, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), J&K, Dr. Bharat Bhushan undertook an extensive five days visit to Samba, Kathua, Bandipora and Baramulla and inspected Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) works in these districts.

This exercise is part of the innovative mechanism introduced by the Commissioner/Secretary, Department Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, wherein all the Heads of the Department of Rural Development have been tasked to visit the Blocks of allotted districts and inspect the works executed under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

The Chief Executive Officer, IWMP visited Chak Salarian and Abtal Panchayats falling near Indo-Pak Border in Ramgarh Block and Palli and Patli Panchayats of Block Bari Brahmana of Samba district. He also paid obeisance at the famous shrine of Baba Chambyial near Border.

Accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Development Samba, BDO Ramgarh, BDO Bari Brahmana, he inspected various Rural Sanitation works.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want change the name on Electric Bill bearing consumer ID 021204007273 from MOHAMMAD AKBAR DAR S/O AHMAD DAR and GH QADIR MIR S/O HABIBULLA MIR to GH NABI DAR S/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR DAR R/O VIZER if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office with period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

Name..GH NABI DAR
S/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR DAR
R/O ...VIZER
DisttBARAMULLA

Mega Awareness programme held at Town Hall Anantnag to empower Sheep Breeders

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 11: A mega Awareness cum distribution programme was today held by the Sheep Husbandry department for sheep breeders of Anantnag district.

Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Anantnag, Mohammad Yousuf Gorsi was the chief guest while Additional District Development Commissioner Anantnag, Bashir Ahmad Wani was the guest of honour besides CEO Municipality Committee Anantnag, Dr. Showket Ahmad and Chairman District Level Purchase Committee Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah (DSHO Anantnag) were also present on the occasion.

Eminent experts in the field of sheep breeding and animal husbandry delivered insightful lectures and presentations. They shared best practices on sheep rearing, disease management, nutrition, and breeding techniques.

During the programme, attendees had the opportunity to engage with experts and clarify their doubts regarding sheep farming. The use of modern technology in sheep farming was a focal point. Attendees were introduced to the latest advancements in sheep farming equipment and tools that can enhance productivity and efficiency.

Participants were informed about market linkages and opportunities for the sale of their sheep and wool products. This aimed to empower breeders with knowledge on market trends and prices.

Information was also given about various government schemes and subsidies available for sheep breeders and farmers. Attendees were encouraged to take advantage of these initiatives to improve their livelihoods.

The programme emphasized sustainable and eco-friendly practices in sheep farming to ensure the long-term health and viability of the sector.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost Number Plate of my vehicle bearing registration number JK01P-6397. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact with concerned ARTO within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name ..BASHIR AHMAD DAR
S/O ...ALI MOHAMMAD DAR
R/O.....KURSOO RAJBAGH SRINAGER
Distt.... BARAMULLA

DC Kulgam reviews Mineral Mining scenario in DLTFC meeting

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of the Multi Departmental District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) for Geology and Mining to discuss and review the status of mineral mining in the district.

Giving details, DMO informed that a total of 19 mineral blocks are operational in the district and revenue of Rs. 16.35 lac has been realised during the ongoing year.

The DC while speaking on the occasion called for the need to streamline the



extraction of minerals in the district. He added that scientific mechanisms in place should be adhered to deal with the issue of mining. Outlining the importance of the District level Committee constituted for the purpose, he impressed upon the concerned to prescribe SOPs and take all the necessary steps needed for

enforcement of the same.

He also instructed the concerned to take stern action against those involved in illegal mining in the district.

The DC asked the members of the DLTFC to work in close coordination and liaison in the best interest of checking illegal mining in the district to control this

menace of illegal mining from the district forever.

He also assured DMO that all possible support will be extended to ensure a blanket ban on the instances of illegal mining.

DMO was also directed to keep a strict and close vigil on illegal transportation and storage of minerals at the Nakkas.

He also impressed that machinery used in the MMB should have GPS tracing devices.

The meeting was attended by JDP Zahid Sajjad, ACR Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz, DMO Kashmir and DMO Kulgam besides AEE from Irrigation and Flood Control and other concerned officers.

Agri deptt organizes two-day Seminar/ Awareness programme on Transformation of Beekeeping at Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 11: The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Kulgam today organized a Seminar cum Awareness programme on 'Transformation of Bee Keeping', under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) at new conference hall of mini-secretariat Kulgam.

This programme was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat and was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner,

Showkat Ahmad Rather; Joint Director Agriculture Extension Kashmir, G M Dobi, Joint Director Agriculture Inputs Kashmir Tabsum Naz, Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam and other officers besides farmers, beekeepers and unemployed youth.

Addressing the occasion, the DC stressed upon the concerned authorities to extend their range of operation and involve more farmers especially the unemployed youth under various welfare programmes sponsored by the department so that they can avail benefits for their sustainable livelihood. He emphasized to disseminate

awareness among the people about various new and scientific beekeeping cultivation methods so that production and productivity is leveraged.

He also urged the concerned to ensure handholding of farmers not only in increasing the production but to work on marketing aspect to fetch best prices of their products

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC asked the farmers to take maximum benefit under the programme by getting training and awareness of different Government schemes to establish their income generating units under the Apiculture sector.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Sub: Extension of e-tenders.

Ref: This office E-NIT No. PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-36 of 2023-24, S. No. 03 and 04 issued under No. PHE/MDNS/DB/4164-71, dated: 28-08-2023.

Due to poor response the above referred e-NIT is hereby extended as under:

S. No.	Particulars	Dates
1.	Last date for online submission of bids	14-09-2023 (06:55 pm)
2.	Date of online opening of tender	15-09-2023 (02:00 pm)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

DIPK-8627/23
Dated: 11-09-2023

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

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE JAL SHAKTI SPL.(PHE) DIVISION KULGAM

TELE: 019312, E-Mail: xenphekgm@gmail.com
E-mail: xenphekgm@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 01931295109

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

FOR

ENIT NO.35/PHEK/2023-24 ISSUED UNDER NO.PHEK/3144-50 Dated 11/09/2023

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

S. No	Name of work	Advt. Cost(Rs. in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contract	Time for Compl.	Cost of tender Document	MH of Account
1	Augmentation of Water Supply facilities to tail end portions of Village Bhan under M and R	97000.00	1950.00	DEE	10 days	200.00	M&R
2	Stabilization of WSS C R Pora including connecting of SSFP / service Reservoir and PST under M and R	81000.00	1620.00	DEE	10 days	200.00	M&R

1.The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website:

WWW.jktenders.gov.in

As per the Schedule of dates given below:

I	Publishing date of NIT	11/09/2023
II	Download start date	11/09/2023
III	Bid submission start date	11/09/2023
IV	Bid submission end date	16/09/2023
V	Bid opening date	18/09/2023

- Bids must be accompanied by with cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan shown against the each item advertised and credited to MH 0215 –PHE Government Account as per the devised format enclosed.
- The bids shall be opened in the office of Executive Engineer Special PHE Division Kulgam on the above mentioned date in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present for item No 01 and Item No 03. For item No 02, the bid shall be opened in the office of Superintending Engineer Hyd Circle Anantnag
- Bidders shall ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents like:**
 - Registration card duly renewed for the year 2023-24
 - Treasury Challan (TR)
 - Earnest money in the form of CDR FDR pledged to Ex Engineer
 - PAN/GST with latest GST return
 - Bidders Address format with full particulars.
 - Latest ITR

DIPK-8616/23
Date: Sep 11 2023

S/d
Executive Engineer
Spl.PHE Division Kulgam

Devigol Festival attracts more than 10,000 tourists at Bunjwah

Kishtwar Administration, Tourism Directorate Jammu, KDA & others hosted Gala event

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 11: The District Administration Kishtwar, in collaboration with Kishtwar Development Authority (KDA), Directorate of Tourism Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL) hosted the Devigol Festival in the picturesque Bunjwah area of this mountainous district amid huge public participation.

The event, held on Sunday, witnessed the enthusiastic participation of more than 10,000 visitors who enjoyed a blend of traditional Sports (Dangal), cultural performances, and recreational activities amidst the

brehtaking natural beauty.

Several government agencies and organizations, including the Indian Army, Ratle Hydro Electric Power Project, District Youth Services and Sports Department, RDD, Revenue, Forest Department, and the All Sports Association Bounjwah besides the locals played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the festival.

The event was formally inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav in the presence of DDC member Aemina Banno, BDCs, SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmed Poswal, Additional Secretary JKAACL, Sanjeev Rana; ADC, Inderjeet Singh Parihar; ASP, Rajinder Singh; CEO, KDA Dr. Rishi Sharma; SDM Paddar, Arun Kumar



Badyal; Tehsildar Bunjwah, Tejinder Sharma; BDO Bounjwah, Sonia Parihar; DIO, Kuldeep Kumar; DYSSO, Kharati Lal Sharma besides Gulab Saifi of JKAACL and PRIs. The Devigol Festival attracted people from all walks of life hailing from Erstwhile Chenab Valley including Kishtwar, Doda, Thatri, Drabshalla, Bhallesa etc and provided them with an opportunity to immerse themselves in the serenity of the season amidst the pine and Cedar trees and sprawling meadows of the area. The grand festival represented the collective efforts of the Administration, PRIs, KDA, Ratle HEP, Indian Army, Cultural Academy and Local Citizens to unlock the tourism potential of the lesser-explored tour-

ist destinations in Kishtwar district. Earlier this year, the district administration, in collaboration with the Tourism Department and KDA, successfully organized the Sinthan Festival, which drew over 16,000 visitors. The Devigol Festival now stands as the second most appreciated extravaganza for this year in view of Kishtwar's growing appeal as a tourist destination following Sinthan. The Devigol Festival featured an array of attractions, including Dangal, Sports, trekking adventures, dance performances, musical showcases, local cuisine, and more. The major attraction of the festival was the Dangal (Traditional Wrestling), which Steals the Show, witnessed an exhilarating.

AYUSH Ramban organises training program for ASHAs, Paramedics

HT News Network

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 11: Department of AYUSH Ramban today hosted a training program for ASHA workers and paramedical staff at Ayush Health and wellness center Chuchatther under the capacity building National AYUSH Mission.

The training was conducted by senior Medical officer AYUSH & District YOGA Coordinator Dr Masood Iqbal Zarger in which awareness regarding Cback form, Family folders and Prakriti assessment chart was given.

He laid stress on prevention and promotive aspects of AYUSH System of Medicines.

The aim of the training was to impart skills in Asha workers and Paramedical Staff about involving the local population in maintaining the preventive and promotive aspects of AYUSH.

2nd round of Intensified Mission Inderdhanush 5.0 launched in Ramban District

HT News Network

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 11: Like in other parts of J&K UT, the 2nd round of Intensified Mission Inderdhanush (IMI) 5.0 was launched today in Ramban District.

A team of ASHAs, ANMs and Health Facility Managers was flagged off by the Deputy CMO, Ramban, BMO Batote Dr. Gurmeet Kour here from Community Health Centre (CHC) Batote.

Starting from today, the designated teams from all hospitals across the district will go house to house in their areas till September 16 to administer the 2nd dose of vaccination against 12 dreaded communicable diseases to children up to 5 years of age.

They will also administer the Anti Tetanus vaccine to pregnant women.

According to Dr. Gurmeet, in Ramban district considered as Red Flag Zone or High Risk Zone, as many as 1200 children upto 5 year age and 220 Pregnant Women will be vaccinated during this week long campaign by about 700 staffers of different hospitals of all the four Blocks. Dr Kour fervently appealed to people to come forward and get their children below five year, fully vaccinated specially where elimination of measles and rubella is targeted by December 2023.

The 1st round of IMI was launched from August 7 to 12 and the third round will be launched from October 9 to 14. Dr Kour fervently appealed to people to come forward and get their children below five year, fully vaccinated specially where elimination of measles and rubella is targeted by December 2023.

The 1st round of IMI was launched from August 7 to 12 and the third round will be launched from October 9 to 14.

Training programme for sheep breeders held at Banihal

HT News Network

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 11: The Department of Sheep Husbandry Ramban, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Wool Development and Marketing Association, conducted a two-day training and capacity-building program for breeders at Banihal. The Training was held under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) here. The training programme was attended by a large number of progressive sheep and goat breeders, PRIs and locals.

This program focused on enhancing the knowledge and skills of Farmers' Producer Organizations and sheep breeders in the areas of wool and pelt processing as well as marketing strategies.

During the program, sheep and goat breeders were encouraged to harness technology to maximize the value addition of their sheep and goat products. This included the development of diversified value-added woolen and meat products.

They were informed that the local area is ideally suited for sheep rearing and urged the youth to come forward to avail the benefits under various Govt schemes available under the sector.

Breeders were suggested to make use of the latest technology and rear genetically improved cross breeds to start sheep farming as a viable income generating option. Breeders were suggested to make use of the latest technology and rear genetically improved cross breeds to start sheep farming as a viable income generating option.

Beat challenges to ensure timely completion of PMGSY projects: DM Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11: District Magistrate, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today convened a meeting to review the progress of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) road projects in the district. During the meeting, the District Magistrate set project-specific deadlines for the construction of the roads, emphasising the need to adhere to predetermined schedules. Additionally, he entrusted the responsibility for the comprehensive supervision of these road projects to the Sub Divisional Magistrates. The SDMs were directed to adopt a resolute approach and expedite project finalisation, while abiding by all applicable rules and regulations. The DM asserted the



necessity of overcoming any obstacles that may arise within the confines of these rules and regulations. He emphasised the prompt resolution of legitimate concerns and ensuring that the general public does not endure unnecessary hardships throughout these endeavours. The District Magistrate underscored that, barring unforeseen and natural challenges, the roads must be completed

within the stipulated time frames. He accentuated the indispensable role of the administration in dispensing governance while actively engaging all stakeholders. The meeting also featured a discussion regarding forest clearances, with the DFO. The gathering extensively examined technical issues that pose hindrances to the timely finalisation of certain projects. The DFO was urged to col-

laborate closely with PMGSY officers to facilitate the timely completion of the projects. The meeting was attended by DFO, AD Planning, Satish Sharma, Superintendent Engineers and Executive Engineers from PMGSY. SDMs, Assistant Commissioner Revenue and Tehsildars also participated virtually. The DM asserted the necessity of overcoming any obstacles that may arise within the confines of these rules and regulations. He emphasised the prompt resolution of legitimate concerns and ensuring that the general public does not endure unnecessary hardships throughout these endeavours. The District Magistrate underscored that, barring unforeseen and natural challenges, the roads must be completed within the stipulated time.

Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, Vice Chief of Army Staff Inaugurates North Tech Symposium 2023

M S Nazki

Jammu: North tech symposium was jointly organised by HQ Northern Comd, SIDM and IIT Jammu. It was inaugurated by Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, AVSM, YSM**, VSM, Vice Chief of Army Staff on 11 Sep 2023. North Tech Symposium will be conducted from 11-13 Sep 2023. The event has invited a lot of brilliant minds and state of the art defence technologies under one umbrella of HQ Northern Comd. The event is based on the theme "Atmanirbhar Bharat Takniki Navikaran Ke Dvara Uttari Kaman Sainya Abhiyan Chunauiyon ka Nivaran". It had active participation from nearly 180 Indian defence companies



including MSMEs, DRDO, DPSU, Simulator Development Division etc. This interactive platform for knowledge diffusion through Joint Army-Industry participation was also aimed at propelling the Government initiative of "Make in India". The symposium served to showcase cutting edge technologies and innovative products providing solutions to some of the complex challenges faced by the security forces in the Northern Command

and also acted as an ideal platform for mutual exchanges of ideas between the Indian defence industry and the Army. The technologies and products on display covered a wide canvas, the prominent being, surveillance and situational awareness, tactical mobility, firepower, soldier/force protection, communications, combat medical facility, robotics, simulators and training aids among others. The aura of the Symposium grew many a fold when it was graced by Hon'ble Lt Governor of UT of Ladakh Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) and the Hon'ble Lt Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir Shri Manoj Sinha as also Gen Anil Chauhan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, CDS.

3-Day Annual Kailash Yatra 2023 Commences in Baderwah

HT News Network

DODA, SEPTEMBER 11: The revered Kailash Kund Yatra, an annual pilgrimage steeped in tradition, began today in the charming town of Baderwah, Jammu and Kashmir. This sacred journey originates from the ancient Vasuki Nag temple nestled amidst the picturesque, Baderwah's Gatha. Thousands of pilgrims embark on a challenging and laborious 21-kilometer trek to reach the sacred Kailash Kund, located at an altitude of 14,700 feet in the rugged Kailash Mountains Range of Doda district. This spiritual expedition is a testament to the enduring Nag Culture. The Yatra commenced with the departure of the "Charri Mubarak" (holy mace) from the centuries-old Vasuki Nag temple at Gatha (Baderwah) Doda. Pilgrims traverse a path that winds through coniferous forests adorned with pine, fir, and cedar trees. Along the journey, they navigate rolling meadows, steep ascents, and rocky terrain before



reaching the plains at the base of Mount Kablas. The Seoz Dhar meadows, known for their lush green grass, offer respite amidst dense forests and babbling brooks came across the long distance yatra to give peaceful and stunning view, to yatries to lessen their tidiness. The district administration Doda, under the vigilant leadership of Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, has meticulously arranged for the smooth conduction and proper coordination of the Yatra. Security, accommodations, water.

DC Rajouri reviews preparations for 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' Phase-2

HT News Network

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 11 - Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, on Monday chaired a meeting to evaluate the preparations for the much anticipated second phase of the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign, featuring the Amrit Kalash Yatras.

This four-tiered approach, spanning from villages to the national capital, is part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, aims to instill a sense of national pride and unity among citizens.

Scheduled to commence from October 1st and end on October 13th, the campaign is geared to reach every corner of the district. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasized the significance of collecting soil from diverse villages to be placed in a communal Amrit Kalash at the block level.

In an impassioned address, he called upon all government departments to collaborate closely to ensure the campaign's resounding success and encouraged their active involvement in various events, setting a benchmark for others to follow. A pivotal aspect highlighted during the meeting was the creation of a festive atmosphere at the block-level program, where soil from various villages will be ceremonially combined in a



single Amrit Kalash. Furthermore, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal underscored the need to pay homage to martyrs at the block level and directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats to facilitate this process.

The meeting also delved into the organization of cultural programs at the block level, designed to honor the bravehearts. These programs will involve the enthusiastic participation of volunteers from esteemed organizations such as NSS,

NYKS, and NCC. Similar programs will also be conducted in municipal corporations, municipalities, and city councils in urban areas. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal urged officers to work diligently, with a special focus on encouraging women's participation and involving Anganwadi workers and youth volunteers.

With the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign, the people of Rajouri are presented with a unique opportunity to reignite the spirit.

Govt Polytechnic Jammu organises CIIT certificate distribution program

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11: Government Polytechnic Jammu organised a certificate distribution and felicitation programme at its Center for Invention, Innovation, Incubation and Training Jammu (CIIT Jammu), here today. The programme was organized under the guidance and supervision of the Principal, Er. Arun Bangotra. During the felicitation programme, interactive sessions were conducted and certificates were handed over to the students after successful completion of 03 Months CIIT courses (CIIT Jammu).

A total 115 students received their CIIT Certificates on the successful completion of training in courses of Mechatronics and IoT, Finite Element Analysis, CAD Engineering, Digital Manufacturing and Industrial Robotics, Machine Tool/CNC Operator etc. Others present on the occasion were Er. Inderjeet Singh, Workshop Superintendent; Er. Sukhdeep Singh, HOD Civil Engineering; Er Rani Devi, HOD Computer Engg.

EDITORIAL

Transformative Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Kashmiri Youth in Academics

In recent years, Kashmir have witnessed a remarkable transformation, not in its breathtaking landscapes, but in the lives of its youth, particularly in the realm of academics. The catalyst for this change is none other than Artificial Intelligence (AI). The integration of AI into education has ushered in a new era of learning, empowering Kashmiri youth like never before.

One of the most profound ways AI has influenced academics in Kashmir is personalized learning. AI-driven platforms and adaptive learning systems have revolutionized how students receive and process information. These tools analyze individual learning patterns and adapt course content accordingly, ensuring that every student progresses at their own pace. In a region with diverse educational needs, this tailored approach has been a game-changer, fostering a more inclusive educational environment.

Moreover, AI-powered educational apps and virtual tutors have become readily accessible, even in remote areas of Kashmir. This democratization of quality education has bridged the urban-rural divide, enabling students from all backgrounds to access top-notch resources and guidance. The result has been an increase in the number of Kashmiri youth pursuing higher education and vocational training, unlocking new career opportunities.

AI has also enriched the educational experience by making it more interactive and engaging. Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) applications have brought history, science, and literature to life, allowing students to explore concepts in immersive ways. This not only enhances understanding but also ignites a passion for learning among Kashmiri youth.

The impact of AI goes beyond the classroom. The job market is evolving rapidly, and AI skills are becoming increasingly crucial. Recognizing this, many young Kashmiris are taking advantage of AI courses and online resources to equip themselves with the skills needed for the future. This proactive approach to career development positions them as contenders in the global tech industry.

Artificial Intelligence has been a transformative force in Kashmiri youth's academic journey. It has personalized learning, expanded access to education, and enriched the overall learning experience. As Kashmiri youth embrace AI, they are not just learners but also creators and problem solvers, poised to shape a brighter future for themselves and their region. This integration of technology and education is a beacon of hope and progress for Kashmir and its resilient youth.

■ [Muneeb Shafi](#)

Pet's are a great blessings in anyone's life. They are the only ones who lives us unconditionally. Pet's are unique and the most adorable creatures on the planet. Pet's love us and give us the company. Pet's always offer us everything they have, without asking for anything in return other than love. The main aim of pet's life is to make their owner happy. Owning a pet comes with various responsibilities, and it is a fantastic way of learning how to take care of somebody.

Pet's are beautiful and loyal. There have been many instances where pet's have acted as protector's of their master's.

We have all heard people who say that pet's are "JUST ANIMALS" as though somehow they are not important in our lives, these people have likely never owned a loyal pet (dog, cat ,or any other) and their words could not be further from the truth. Most pet owner's will know how wonderful owning an animal can be, they will understand the companionship and how beautiful bonds can be formed between animals and humans.

Benefits to nurturing a fondle are endless:

Owning a pet can positively impact not only your health but also your lifestyle.

Studies show that pet owners are more likely to get to know people in there neighborhood than those who do not have a pet.

Pet's can help children by teaching them about empathy and responsibility, and can ever boost there Literacy skills.

Couples who own a pat together have Lower blood pressure and interact with Each other more than Couples who do not own a pet.

Some benefits to own a pet:

It has been proven that, stroking an



animal can greatly reduce your stress level if you spent around 15 minutes petting your favorite cat or dog your pet will release the following natural 'feeling good' hormones oxytocin, prolactin, and also lowers your cholesterol which is the body's natural stress hormone not only will this send your body into relaxed state but it can also lower blood pressure by 10%. If you own a dog then you will have to walk at least once or twice a day which means you will be getting visit fresh air and exercise while having the opportunity to connect with natural and bond with your four legged friend.

Animals do not ask for much in life, and most just need a warm, safe and sheltered place to live, as well as adequate food, water and exercise. In return they will give you love, loyalty and companionship. Dogs are a little more well known to offer uncondi-

tional love; cats can be a little fickle! But having a furry friend means you will always have a little living being, waiting patiently for you at home and ready to welcome you with a wagging tail or purr.

Owning applet can open up your world. if you have a dog, then you will have to walk it daily, which means that you will have interactions with other dog owners and walkers too. Pet's can help with loneliness in people who find it difficult to make friends.

Playing with a cat or a dog can take your mind away from your problems and place you in the 'here and now'. This is basic mindfulness and wonder full form mental health.

In summary, owning a pet will change your life and bring you so much joy and love. they help us Gen essence of responsibility, show us unconditional love, and are always there when

we need them. dogs are more high maintenance but bring many different health benefits, whereas cats, rabbits and gribbles are easy to look after, need little experience and give our lives new meaning and purpose.

In this article the author explains:

Explains that pet's are a great way to improve the physical, social, and mental health of their owner. Pets improve the mental health of an individual. pets can help people who suffer from depression by giving them something that brings more meaning to their life. Pets can improve social health in a variety of ways. Showing devotion and caring for pets improves social and emotional aspect of people. pets can help children who have social problems or disabilities. if a child plays too aggressively with others, they can have dogs to practice playing nice with. if a child is gentle and kind with their dog, it will result in the dog wanting to play and interact with them. Pets can help children with autism, as well. Explains that animals have a positive impact on physical health by motivating people to exercise more. physically active pet owners have better chances of meeting daily exercise requirements. Animal therapy can help people who suffer from muscle and joint problems. animals are known to be good service providers for people with disabilities. Animals can help hospital patients meet rehabilitation goals, mega healing process more bearable, and provide quote,. yet successful support to patients and their families. Owning a pet can be rewarding, but they also have to take care of their owner. many people think of pet ownership as something that is purely for entertainment.

The young author namely MUNEEB SHAFI had wrote this on his own experience. You can directly contact to me on Instagram @young_author13

The fading colours of watchdogs

The same is the case with regulatory agencies as well as tribunals, the watchdogs of markets

■ [CKG Nair](#)

■ [M S Sahoo](#)

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, notified on August 11, 2023, has been a long-awaited legal shield for the people of India in these difficult times of the rapidly increasing misuse of personal information. It is a neatly drafted legislation, mainly following a principle-based approach (hence durable) backed by several illustrations, with only 44 Sections and one Schedule—it is altogether a crisp 21-page document.

Several expert commentaries, fine-combing some Sections and provisions of the law, are already available in the public domain. One major limitation of the law, according to most critics, is the amendment to the RTI Act, 2005, removing the obligation to disclose personal information. According to them, this amendment dilutes the RTI Act, an important tool in the hands of the citizens to make governance of public authorities transparent and accountable. A big battle won by people in 2005 is lost!

The RTI Act has travelled a distance of 18 years. Though still a teenager, it has had an initial active phase, which, by many yardsticks, has not been that pleasant for many stakeholders. There have been reports of some using the tool for unintended purposes and some others getting harassed for using it. Several issues, including primacy of the security of personal information, may be contributing to the alleged dilution of the RTI watchdog.

Most agencies of public governance or watchdogs are created by the legislature. All of them are established by the executive. Then, why are some of them not on the 'right' side of the governments of any day, and why are some others always on the right side of every government? The simple answer is that watchdogs in general are not that high in priority for the executive at all times, for multiple reasons.

Watchdogs are constituted for improving the governance of other agencies. They do not aid the agencies/their officials, but only question them on their alleged 'failure'. No one likes criticism, even constructive criticism. The bureaucracy is least known for appreciating criticism. Therefore, the assumption that asking tough questions or imposing small fines would improve governance is misplaced, particularly when ground-level governance is trapped in low-level equilibrium.



A hierarchical approach, even amongst equals, is ingrained in India's administrative philosophy and practice. No two ministries/departments are equal, and hence their ministers and secretaries, too, are 'unequal'. There are super-ministries and departments. It got officially legitimised about two decades ago when four secretaries to the Government of India were given fixed two-year tenures even if they crossed the normal retirement age of 60. Appointment of these 'super' secretaries would never get delayed. So is the case with heads of investigative agencies, though technically they are only equivalent to secretaries to the Government.

The same is the case with regulatory agencies as well as tribunals, the watchdogs of markets. Some of them do not take off while others fly high. Some remain headless for years, while for others, appointments could be done overnight. The resources made available to them, including infra-facilities, speak much about their relative status. It is comical that the office building of one such regulator has been overshadowed by a public restroom for more than a decade now. Many others functioned/function in the premises rented out by their regulated entities.

Frictions and inter-institutional bargaining are part of all large systems. State/government apparatus, historically being the largest, had always been in the throes of such internal 'power struggles'. Stories of how great rulers managed such 'palace intrigues' are

still being told/sold by writers and moviemakers with great élan. Great administrators of modern times also try to balance the inter-institutional power equation, but mainly based on their direct usefulness to the system. That explains why administrative organisations usually get priority over advisory structures or revenue-generating ones over spending ones. Interestingly, an agency is considered more useful if it has powers over others, which often gets reflected in its office ambience.

Soon after the RTI Act was passed, the Central Information Commission was established and commissioners were appointed, there were high expectations. Still, there were Doubting Thomases' on the efficacy of having such legal-centric umbrella structures as watchdogs for promoting transparency when it is the ground-level agencies that needed to be efficient, empowering citizens as the first step. Transplanting the experiment in Scandinavia, where administrative efficiency is at its peak, to a situation of serious governance issues, was not considered a panacea at least by some who thought such moves would create more white elephants.

That is exactly what happened to the CIC/SICs, the Lokpal/Lokayuktas, NHRC/SHRCs, and the like. Currently, the Central information Commission has five members out of the sanctioned 11. It rarely makes any headlines, unlike in its initial years. The RTI twin, Lokpal, is no better. Though the Lokpal Act is only 10 years old and the Lokpal was set up initially with the maximum permissible strength of nine (Chair plus eight), it now comprises an Acting Chair and four members. The conditions of the SICs and Lokayuktas are no better, with many of them hardly functional. Thus, the issue is not about the political party in power or even the individual heading the watchdog. It is a systemic bias against watchdogs.

Socio-political pressures may succeed in getting legal-centric watchdogs set up, but given their roles/functions, their survival needs lots of luck. Ironically, greater efficiency of the ground-level organisations may improve the acceptability of such watchdogs like in well-governed countries, where complaints are few and far between.

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Courtesy Indian Express

Adoption, Inheritance Rights Of Transgender Persons In India: An Uphill Battle

■ Snigdhendu Bhattacharyadown

Ranjita Sinha, a transwoman and transgender rights activist, has been fighting to get the family pension of her deceased father from the West Bengal government for over six years now. Family pension is allowed to the dependent unmarried or widow daughter. Sinha has been claiming the right as a transgender daughter but the state police department, where her father was an officer, did not agree to her claims. She has finally decided to approach the court. The legal battle may not be easy. The Supreme Court of India in its famous 2014 judgement (National Legal Services Authority vs Union of India) held that a person has the right to identify their gender as male, female or transgender but the Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Act (TPPRA) of 2019 reduced the scope of the rights.

"Each person's self-defined sexual orientation and gender identity is integral to their personality," said the apex court and ruled that no one should be forced to undergo medical procedures, including Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS), sterilisation or hormonal therapy as a requirement for legal recognition of their gender identity.

The TPPRA defines transgender persons as "whose gender does not match with the gender assigned to that person at birth and includes transman or transwoman (whether or not such person has undergone SRS or hormone therapy or laser therapy or such other therapy), person with intersex variations, genderqueer and person having such socio-cultural identities as kinner, hijra, aravani and jogta."

While section 4 of the law gives the right to self-identification only as 'transgender', and not as male or female, section 7 of the same law implies that a transgender person's choice of gender identity as male or female can be recognised only after the person has provided a medical certificate in support of having undergone medical treatment.

Sinha has not undergone the SRS, just like the majority of the transgender community. "My fight is not only about my claim to family pension. It's a fight for the rights of the community. The majority of transgender people do not have the financial capacity to undergo SRS," says Sinha, a former member of the West Bengal Transgender Persons Development Board.

Sinha highlighted how different governments prioritise the empowerment of women, treating them as the marginalised sex, and cited the examples of the West Bengal government's Kanyashree scheme for girl children and the Laxmir Bhandar monthly assistance to women and the Karnataka and Delhi government's free bus ride schemes.

Adoption Restrictions Impact Inheritance And Succession, As Transgender Persons Cannot Prove Legal Adoption. Inheritance As A Spouse Becomes Impossible Because Transgender Marriage Is Not Legally



Accepted.

"These are welcome policy interventions. At the same time, it is disheartening to see there is nothing on offer to the people from the third gender, who are far more marginalised than women," says Sinha, who heads the Association of Transgender/Hijra Bengal (ATHB) and the non-profit Gokhale Road Bandhan. The latter also runs a shelter home for transgender persons.

In a 2020 article, Jayna Kothari, a Supreme Court advocate and executive director, the Centre for Law and Policy Research, wrote that section 7 of the TPPRA negated the apex court's core principle that a person has the right to self-determination of their gender identity and that their self-identified gender can be either male, female or a third gender. "Even with the NALSA judgment in place, the response of the State has been to defeat the right to self-determination of gender and to insist on a medical model for legal recognition of one's gender identity. The TPPRA 2019 and all government welfare schemes still require medical proof of reassignment to be provided by transpersons in order to get benefits," Kothari wrote.

Most transgender rights activists agree with Kothari's summation of the government's attitude, which they cite as one of the main reasons why transgender people have to approach the judiciary to remove the hurdles in their way.

For example, a transperson from a northern West Bengal town has recently decided to move to the High Court after the police asked for the job application to be either as male or female. In Uttar Pradesh, a transperson employed with the state police had to approach the High Court as the police were not giving permission for SRS for transition from woman to man.

In August, an Indian resident currently in Chicago approached the Delhi High Court after failing to get a new passport with a new gender identity. The person, born a male, transitioned into a woman by 2022 by underground SRS in the US and got new legal documents accordingly from the courts there. However, the Indian passport authorities had not issued her a new passport in six months. While hearing the petition, the Delhi High Court said that it was necessary to 'streamline the process' of renewing passports with one's new identity and appearance. These are a few among the

many hurdles that India's transgender people face, as most legislations and government orders are written in a language of heteronormative binary and transgender people must fall in either the male or the female category to claim their rights. In a society habituated to gender binaries, every policy excludes the third gender.

Take the case of Prithika Yashini, a sub-inspector of police who had to win a legal battle in the Madras High Court to get appointed to the state police as a transgender woman in 2017. In June this year, she had to approach the court again after her application for adopting a child was rejected on the grounds that she was transgender.

The legal developments in this case will be keenly followed by the transgender community, as adoption has been a major obstacle they face. In a 2021 report by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, authors Karan Gulati and Tushar Anand showed how India's adoption laws differ in the treatment of male and female persons and the exclusion of gender-neutral terms and provisions create gray areas for transpersons as prospective parents or adopted children.

The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act provides that a single male person can only adopt a female if he is at least 21 years older than the adoptee, while there needs to be a 21-year gap between a single adoptive mother and a male child. Adoption Regulations passed under the Juvenile Justice Act disallows a single male to adopt a female child but there is no such restriction on a female adopting a male child. "Both Acts (and regulations) also have repeated usage of gendered sections. There are 36 and 37 instances of the terms male and female in the Adoption Regulations, respectively," the paper said, adding that the absence of gender-neutral or third-gender-specific terms creates ambiguity for transgender people. The question of determination of gender, either of the prospecting transgender parent or the child to be adopted or both, can spoil the scope for adoption.

Adoption restrictions also impact inheritance and succession, as transgender persons cannot prove legal adoption. Besides, inheritance as a spouse becomes impossible because transgender marriage is not legally accepted. The Succession Acts based on religion-specific personal laws make no provision for transgender persons. A section of the transgender community has pinned their hopes on the pending Supreme Court judgement on the case seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage, a demand that the government of India has opposed citing various reasons, including the impact on other laws. However, even if a favourable order comes from the apex court, the community will still be left with many legal hassles, as bringing gender neutrality to a list of laws is not going to be an easy task.

Source: Outlook

'Achievement is not linked to marks': IIT Madras Director on his journey from scoring poorly in his entrance test to becoming JEE chairperson

■ V Kamakoti

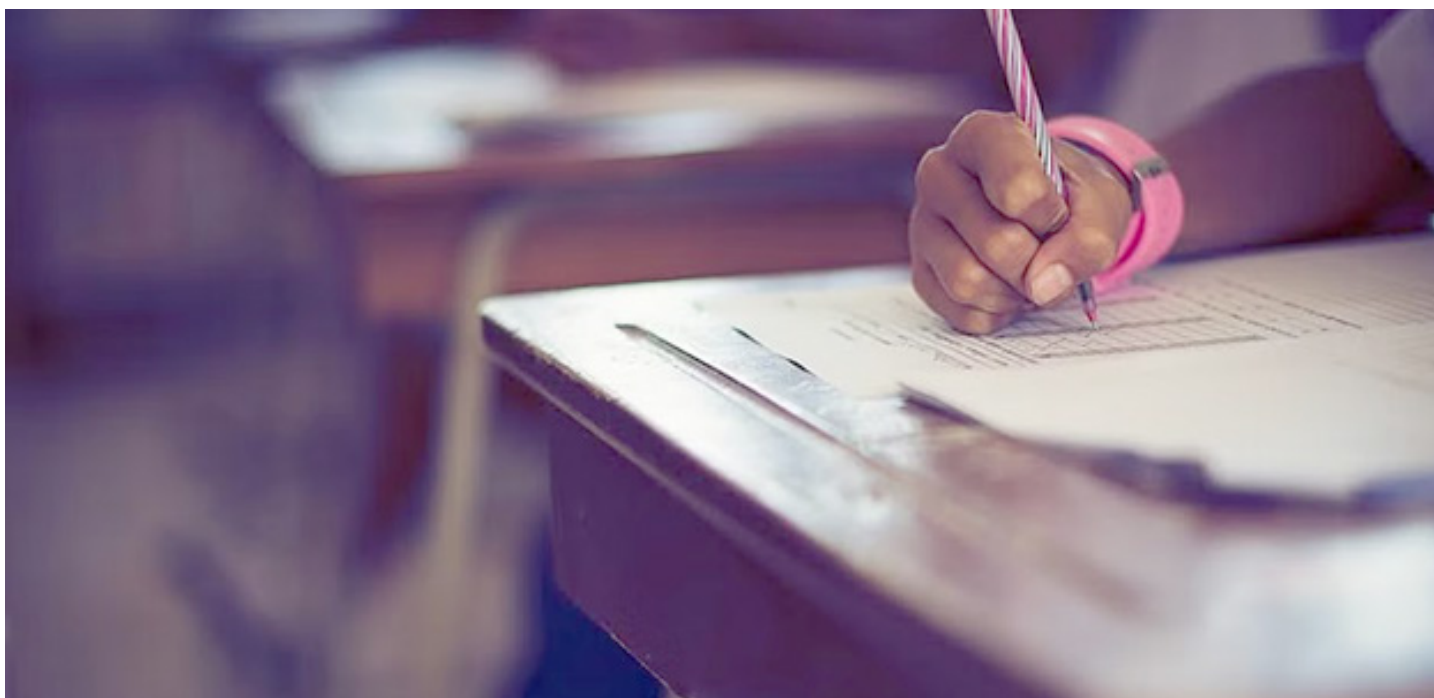
There is nothing called "failure". Wise people through the ages have said so. The honourable former President of India, Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam said, "FAIL = First Attempt In Learning."

No individual can embody Dr Kalam's definition more aptly than myself. As a young JEE aspirant in 1985, I scored a single-digit mark out of 100 in Chemistry. That particular day of the examination was unfavourable to me. And yet, decades later, I became the JEE Chairman, thereby proving that achievement is not linked to scores, marks and grades.

For a youngster faced with the frustration of unexpected or unfavourable results, failure may appear real and larger than life. This frustration often arises because of unrealistic expectations and the mismatch between their capabilities or aptitudes and the field they are thrust into. Dealing with this frustration requires a drastic change in perspective, both by the student and by us, their caretakers.

How "failure" is perceived by us is shaped by what the activity means to us. If we are engaged in something we enjoy and encounter a roadblock, we perceive it as an opportunity to improve. I love music. When I play the violin in front of an audience and miss a note, I diligently work towards perfecting my fingering and bowing. However, when we are forced to do something that we do not enjoy and perform sub-par, the perceived failure becomes a burden, amplifying our frustration and negativity towards the experience.

It is important for us as parents to understand this. Our children can handle adversities better if they are interested in and excited about their activities. Oftentimes, parents have a vision for their children, well-meant no doubt, but visions that may not align with the interests of the children



themselves. Enrolling children in rigorous coaching centres comes to mind. For children with personal ambitions and aspirations to get into premier institutions, these coaching centres can be of tremendous value. But is the parent sending the child to these institutes because it is their vision for their children and not the aptitude of the children themselves?

I'm not suggesting that parents should not guide their children. Our culture is built on the hierarchy of Mata-Pita-Guru-Deivam – the mother, the father, the teacher and then God, and parental support is pivotal in helping children navigate the complexities of growing up. The most valuable lesson we can teach our children is that success and significance are possible in all walks of life through passion, perseverance and the will to see things through. Any other guidance we provide

to our children must necessarily take into account the child's ambitions, aptitudes, and abilities.

As parents, we must realise that life is not all about engineering and medicine. The modern world offers abundant opportunities across various domains for our children and youth. Yes, the IITs are exceptional education institutions, but they are not the only educational institutions that provide quality education to the Indian youth. I recently had the privilege of attending the 'Champions of Chennai' awards event, where the awardees, intelligent and hardworking youngsters, were not all IITians.

Another aspect that warrants introspection is this. No good can result from comparing children. Each child is unique, and such comparisons can have detrimental effects, particularly at an age

in which children seek parental approval and encouragement. It is important for both parents and children to understand that marks, ranks and scores in any exam are numerical representations and do not reflect the overall intelligence of the student. While diligent effort is undoubtedly necessary for success, fixating on numbers can lead to undue stress. There have been cases where students' emotions shift unexpectedly and suddenly from happiness to sadness due to excessive pressure, sometimes resulting in unfortunate and tragic outcomes.

There is also much pressure on children to pursue certain fields such as computer science, and yet, no discipline is inferior to another. Remarkable contributions to society have been made by people from all disciplines. The largest revenue-earning department through Industry Consultancy

and Sponsored Research at IIT Madras is Ocean Engineering. As we become the first country to land on the South Pole of the Moon, can we ignore the contributions of aerospace engineers? Could the world have survived COVID-19 without the vaccines developed by biological scientists?

The challenges that the child faces may not always be due to academic reasons. No family is without problems, and the child may be affected by issues within the family, like conflicts and financial issues. It is the responsibility of the adults to manage issues in a way that does not seriously damage the child's emotional state. Interpersonal relationships can also be difficult to manage at that age. Being there for children during tough times is crucial. When schools and colleges express concerns about a student's well-being, parents should respond immediately. Staying connected and offering unwavering emotional support can help children overcome academic and personal challenges.

My personal observation over more than two decades as a teacher is that a kid who is raised in a joint family is more emotionally stable than one who has been isolated from the extended family. The support and affection of grandparents and extended relatives can foster positivity in children. Although nuclear families have become the norm in recent times, children must be encouraged to communicate actively with grandparents and other relatives.

Life extends beyond academics. Just realising this can help us guide our children to be emotionally strong and positive. Strength and positivity are essential for our country if we are to stop our valuable children from falling prey to disappointments caused by perceived failures.

Happiness is a collective responsibility.

The author is the Director at IIT Madras

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India, Saudi Arabia cooperation vital for peace in entire region: PM

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, Sep 11 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that India and Saudi Arabia's cooperation is vital for the peace and stability of the entire region.

In a bilateral meeting with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, in New Delhi, Modi said, "We are adding a new dimension to our ties in tune with changing times. For India, Saudi Arabia is one of our most important strategic partners."

During the meeting, both leaders reviewed the various facets of bilateral ties and discussed ways to further unlock the potential of the strategic partnership.

"As the world's two largest and fastest-growing economies, our mutual cooperation is vital for the peace and stability of the entire region," he added.

The PM said, "Saudi Arabia is important for India. I once again thank His Royal Highness for his contribution to the success of the G20 Summit."

Calling the decision to build the economic corridor between India, West Asia, and Europe as "historic", the Prime Minister said, "This corridor will not only connect two countries, but also help in providing economic growth and digital connectivity between Asia, West Asia and Europe."

Speaking at the meeting, Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud said, "There was no disagreement at all during the history of India-Saudi Arabia relation-



ship, but there is cooperation to build the future of our country and create opportunities".

"Today we are working on future opportunities... I congratulate you (Modi) on the management of the G20 Summit and the initiatives achieved, including the Economic Corridor linking the Middle East, India, and Europe, which requires that we work diligently in order to make it a reality," Saud added.

Both leaders also co-chaired the first meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC).

At the meeting, the Prime Minister said that during the talks, both nations had identified several initiatives to take the partnership to the next level.

"Today's talks will provide new

energy and direction to the relations. This will provide us inspiration to work together for the welfare of humanity," he added.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Crown Prince signed the minutes of the first meeting of the India-Saudi Strategic Partnership Council.

The Crown Prince is on a three-day state visit to India. He arrived in New Delhi on Saturday to attend the 18th G20 summit.

Earlier this morning, Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

"Nothing To Do With Hinduism", Rahul Gandhi Hits Out At BJP At Paris Event

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party and its ideological mentor, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh on Sunday, declaring neither "have nothing to do with Hinduism" and that "there is nothing Hindu about what the BJP does...". Mr Gandhi was at an event in France on Sunday, when he said, "I have read the Gita, a number of the Upanishads and many Hindu books... absolutely nothing Hindu about it (the BJP)..."

"I have not read anywhere in any Hindu book, or heard from any learned Hindu person, that you should terrorise or harm people weaker than you. This idea... this word - 'Hindu nationalist' - this is a wrong word. They are not 'Hindu nationalists'... they have nothing to do with Hinduism," Mr Gandhi emphasised. Interacting with students at Paris' Sciences PO University, he ripped into the government, which has been widely criticised for suppressing opposition leaders' voices within the country, accusing them of being "out to gain power at any cost".



"They (BJP and RSS) have nothing to do with Hinduism. They are out to gain power at any cost... and will do anything to ensure the caste structure and social structure of my country is not threatened," he said. "They seek the dominance of a few... that is what they are about."

Mr Gandhi's comments came after a question about the "scary radicalisation of youth by Hindutva forces". This is not the first time he has attacked the BJP on this topic. In 2021, he called them "fake Hindus" who "use" religion for their benefit.

The jabs invited a predictably furious response with BJP Lok Sabha MP Tejasvi Surya taunting his rival for "crying... while Bharat achieves global consensus" - a reference to the "100 per cent" declaration from the weekend's G20 meet. The very fact Rahul Gandhi thinks Hinduism is practiced by referring to 'books' shows how shallow his understanding of our dharma," Mr Surya gloated on X (formerly Twitter). That he has been reduced to crying before a handful of people in some far away European city, while Bharat is achieving global consensus at G20, is telling of how the nation has rejected his brand of politics in the last decade," he declared.

And Then The 'Sanatan Dharm' Row

Mr Gandhi's jabs also come amid a fight over Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's comment about 'Sanatan Dharm', which the BJP and right-wing commentators have claimed is a "call for the genocide of people with Sanatan thoughts".

Earlier this month Mr Stalin said, "Sanatana (Dharma) ought to be eradicated like malaria, dengue and mosquito..."

An apoplectic BJP hit back, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several members of his cabinet and party targeting him. Mr Stalin was even the target of a 10 crore bounty allegedly issued by a temple priest in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya. Mr Gandhi has not, so far, seemed directly to this controversy, although his party has, flip-flopping between support and criticism. Karnataka minister Priyank Kharge disavowed any religion that does not treat all people as equals. However, Congress boss Mallikarjun Kharge, his father, seemed to want distance, declaring "there is no need to mix religion, politics". Mr Gandhi's jabs also come amid a fight over

Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's comment about 'Sanatan Dharm', which the BJP and right-wing commentators have claimed is a "call for the genocide of people with Sanatan thoughts".

Former AP CM Naidu lodged in Rajahmundry Central jail

■ HT News Network

Vijayawada, Sep 11 (UNI) Telugu Desam party chief and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was lodged in the Rajahmundry Central prison after midnight on Monday. The prison authorities have assigned "7691" number to Chandrababu Naidu. Naidu was lodged in the 'Sneha' block in the prison, and the prison authorities have provided some special facilities to Naidu.

The former Chief Minister was given a personal assistant and five security men in the prison.

Since the court permitted the family to provide meals and refreshments from home, Naidu was given black coffee, fruit salad, and hot water in the morning by the family members. Naidu's wife Bhuvaneswari, son Lokesh, and daughter-in-law Brahmini were going to meet Naidu in the central jail as the court permitted for meet.

According to sources, a medical team will examine Naidu in the prison on Monday.

Section 30 of the Police Act was clamped down in Rajahmundry city, and over 300 policemen were deployed to maintain law and order around the Central Prison.

Bengal: ECI holds review meeting with state CEO, DMs on preparedness for 2024 LS poll

■ HT News Network

Kolkata, Sep 11 (UNI) Election Commission of India's two senior deputy election commissioners Dharmendra Sharma and Nitesh Kumar Vyas on Monday held a review meeting with West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Aariz Aftab and his deputy of West Bengal on special summary revision of electoral rolls and poll preparedness for 2024 Lok Sabha polls in the state, official sources said.

The district magistrates and other assigned poll officials are also taking part in the review meeting.

The review meeting, the first of this kind for next year's 42-seat parliamentary elections, has a special focus on the revision of the voters' list, the inclusion of names of new voters, the deletion of the names of deceased voters, and the cancellation of the forged EPIC (voter) cards.

Maha, Tamil Nadu, MP, West Bengal, & K'taka reports highest suicides rates: NCRB

■ HT News Network

Kolkata, Sep 11 (UNI) Over 50 percent of suicide cases are reported from five major states: Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Karnataka, in India's total figures that stood at 1,64,033 self-killings in 2021, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The statistics are alarming, showing a disconcerting 7.2 percent rise in reported suicides in India in 2021, reaching a total of 1,64,033 cases. The NCRB report revealed this alarming data in August 2022, with a non-profit NGO called "SOLACE" quoting the Indian government data during a media conference here.

Launch campaign to make roads pothole-free before Diwali: Yogi

■ HT News Network

Lucknow, Sep 11 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday directed to run a special campaign to make the roads of the state pothole-free before Diwali in the coming November.

During a meeting with various departments, the CM said that the monsoon situation this year is unusual. "There is a possibility of continuous rain in many districts in the coming days. Keeping this in mind, a state-wide road pothole-free campaign should be run before Diwali in November. Traffic should be facilitated by placing boulders and running rollers where there is a rainy season," he said.

He said that about 4 lakh kilometers of roads of departments like Public Works Department, NHAI, Mandi Parishad, Irrigation, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Sugar Industry and Sugarcane Development, Housing and Infrastructure, and Industrial Development.

Yogi said, "It is the responsibility of all of us to make walking on every road a pleasant experience for the common man. If the previously operated roads deteriorate due to big projects like the metro or express-



way, the concerned department would be held responsible." After being briefed about the departmental action plan for the pothole-free roads campaign, the CM directed the concerned departments to focus on better planning, ruling out any dearth of funds in this regard. He directed all the departments to ensure that the agency or contractor involved in the construction of the road also takes responsibility for maintaining the road for the next 5 years after its construction. "The terms and conditions in this regard should be clearly mentioned," he said. Terming engineers as the backbone of construction work, Yogi said that there should be no shortage of engineers anywhere, and if necessary.

Meghalaya's Eri Ryndia grabs attention at G20 Craft bazaar

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, Sep 11 (UNI) Meghalaya's organically produced Eri Ryndia grabbed the attention of national and international guests at the recently held G20 International Craft Bazaar here.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a visit to the Meghalaya stall and interacted with the team and expressed his interest in the ethically sourced Ryndia that syncs with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of climate action, women empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

Meghalaya Department of Textiles and Community and Rural Development (C&RD), through the Textiles Department brand "Ryndia" & "Tribal Weaves" of Textiles and C&RD respectively besides handicrafts of the Tourism Department's Meghalayan Age represented the state at the G20 International Craft Bazaar.



Commissioner and Secretary Textiles and C&RD, Frederick Roy Kharkongor led the Textiles and C&RD teams initially for Coordination purposes and Textiles Department officials represented the State at the G20 Exhibition.

"The Prime Minister engaged with the Meghalaya team and showed significant interest in the organically produced and ethically sourced Meghalaya Eri Ryndia," an official said. "This unique product aligns seamlessly with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pertaining to climate action, women's

empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods," he added.

The Crafts Bazaar showcased handicraft products from different parts of India with a special focus on One District One Product (ODOP). GI tagged items and products crafted by women & tribal artisans.

Delegates, international media participating in the Summit had the opportunity to visit this Crafts Bazaar and purchase locally sourced products.

The exhibition was organized by the G20 Secretariat in coordination with the Ministry of Textiles and State/UT Governments.

Arunachal: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to inaugurate Nechiphu tunnel today

■ HT News Network

Itanagar, Sep 11 (UNI) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate the newly-built 500-metre-long Nechiphu tunnel on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang road in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday, according to official sources on Monday.

Sources said that 90 key border infrastructure projects, including this strategically important Nechiphu tunnel in West Kameng district, will be dedicated to the nation by Rajnath Singh on September 12 from Devak Bridge in Jammu.

"A momentous occasion as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Ji will be inaugurating Nechiphu tunnel on Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) Road in West Kameng district on Sept 12, 2023," wrote Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu in a social media post.

An architectural masterpiece, the strategically located tunnel will facilitate the swift movement of troops as well as citizens. Cutting a short distance by about 5 km, the tunnel will provide ease of travel and connectivity in the stretch that has dense fog, he said.

"Grateful to PM Narendra Modi Ji for boosting border infrastructure that is fos-



tering economic growth and prosperity," Khandu wrote in the post.

The Border Roads Organisation has recently completed eight roads in Arunachal Pradesh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at a cost of Rs 678 crore. 90 projects, including these, will be dedicated to the nation by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on September 12 from Devak Bridge in Jammu," stated a tweet from the BRO.

Perched at an altitude of 5,700 feet, the Nechiphu Tunnel is a unique D-shaped single-tube double-lane tunnel that will provide all-weather connectivity to the strategic Tawang region and will be beneficial to both the Armed Forces deployed in the region and the tourists visiting pristine Tawang, officials said.

Maharashtra Government Calls All-Party Meet Amid Bandh Over Quota Row

■ HT News Network

Thane: Maratha outfits observed a bandh today in protest against the recent lathi charge by the police in Jalna district against protesters demanding reservation in Maharashtra.

The call for a bandh (shutdown) has received widespread support from various political parties. Suhas Desai, the head of the city unit of the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar faction), has voiced his support for the Bandh. Similarly, Pradeep Shinde, the city president of the Shiv Sena (UBT), has also backed the move.

The leaders of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), Ravindra More, and Avinash Jadhav, also extended their support. Ramesh Ambre, the city chief of Maratha Kranti Morcha, and Vikrant Chavhan, the city unit president of Congress, have also spoken in support of the Bandh. Earlier on September 9, Pimpri Chinchwad city in Maharashtra's Pune district observed a bandh against last week's lathi charge on people agitating in Jalna district demanding reservation for the Maratha community. The bandh was called by the 'Maratha Kranti Morcha.'

On September 1, a clash broke out between police and protestors who were demanding reservations for the Maratha community, with police resorting to a lathi charge to disperse the demonstrators. Several Opposition leaders condemned the Eknath Shinde-led state government for the incident. Meanwhile, Manoj Jarange Patil who works as a coordinator for the Maratha Morcha and has been on a hunger strike for the past few weeks for Maratha reservations continued his strike. He has held extensive talks with the Maharashtra government but a breakthrough is yet to be achieved. Jarange Patil has demanded a change in the ordinance issued by the state government regarding Maratha reservations.

Foreign rescuers join Morocco quake race against time

■ HT News Network

Rescuers on Monday faced a growing race against time to dig any survivors from the rubble of devastated villages in Morocco's Atlas mountains, three days after the country's strongest-ever earthquake.

The 6.8-magnitude quake that struck late on Friday southwest of the city of Marrakesh has claimed more than 2,100 lives and injured over 2,400, many seriously, according to official figures updated late on Sunday.

Rabat on Sunday announced it had accepted aid offers from four foreign nations, while many other countries have also said they were willing to send assistance.

Authorities have responded favourably "at this stage" to offers from Spain, Britain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates "to send search and rescue teams", the interior ministry said.

It noted the foreign teams were in contact with Moroccan authorities to coordinate efforts, and said only four offers had been accepted because "a lack of coordination could be counterproductive".

Other offers may be accepted in the future "if the needs evolve", according to the ministry.

France was willing to provide aid "the second" Morocco requested it, President Emmanuel Macron said.



A Qatari aid flight left from Al-Udeid air base outside Doha on Sunday evening, an AFP journalist said.

Spain has sent 86 rescuers and eight search dogs to Morocco to "help in the search and rescue of survivors of the devastating earthquake suffered in our neighbouring country", said a defence ministry statement.

"We will send whatever is needed because everyone knows that these first hours are key, especially if there are people buried under rubble," Spanish Defence Minister Margarita Robles told public tele-

vision.

Villages flattened

The earthquake wiped out entire villages in the hills of the Atlas mountain range, where civilian rescuers and members of Morocco's armed forces have searched for survivors and the bodies of the dead.

Many houses in remote mountain villages were built from mud bricks.

The remote village of Tafeghaghte, 60 kilometres from Marrakesh in Al-Haouz province, was almost entirely destroyed, an AFP team reported, with very few build-

ings still standing.

"Everyone is gone! My heart is broken. I am inconsolable," cried Zahra Benbrik, 62, who said she had lost 18 relatives.

Authorities recorded more than 1,300 deaths in Al-Haouz province alone.

According to Moroccan public television, "more than 18,000 families have been affected" by the quake in Al-Haouz, site of its epicentre.

The education ministry announced that classes in the worst-hit villages of Al-Haouz were "suspended", and schools would not be open from Monday.

Citizens on Sunday rushed to hospitals in Marrakesh to donate blood to help the injured while many mobilised to help those affected.

Some parts of Marrakesh's historic medina and its network of alleyways saw significant damage, with mounds of rubble and crumpled buildings.

The kingdom has declared three days of national mourning.

The Red Cross warned it could take years to repair the damage caused by the quake.

"It won't be a matter of a week or two... We are counting on a response that will take months, if not years," said Hossam Elsharkawi, its Middle East and North Africa director.

The quake was the deadliest in Morocco since a 1960 earthquake destroyed Agadir, killing more than 12,000 people.

US, Vietnam agree to deepen ties as China worries grow

■ HT News Network

HANOI: US President Joe Biden hailed closer ties with Vietnam on Sunday as the two countries struck a deal to deepen cooperation, including on semiconductors, but said he was not aiming to contain China.

Does your car have these safety features if not it is useless

The "comprehensive strategic partnership" with Hanoi is part of Washington's push to bolster its network of allies around Asia and the Pacific in the face of Beijing's rising influence. Biden accused Beijing of seeking to bend the international order to its will.

"One of the things that is going on now is China is beginning to change some of the rules of the game, in terms of trade and other issues," Biden said.

Sometimes to Beijing's chagrin, Washington has invested heavily in building alliances as part of its Indo-Pacific strategy, including the Quad security dialogue with India, Australia and Japan, and the AUKUS pact with Britain and Australia.

Biden said he wanted establish clear ground rules for relations.

"I don't want to contain China. I just want to make sure we have a relationship with China that is on the up and up, squared away, everybody knows what it's all about," he said. Biden flew in to Hanoi straight from a G20 summit that failed to agree to a phase-out of fossil fuels and highlighted deep divisions over the Russian invasion



of Ukraine. The US president said he had met Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the G20 — a meeting the White House had not announced — and discussed "stability".

Semiconductor deal

Global supply chain shocks and fears about US reliance on China for strategic resources have further driven the push to boost ties with the likes of Vietnam.

The new partnership includes an agreement on semiconductors, with the United States committing to help Vietnam develop its capabilities and expand production.

There is also a section on rare earth minerals, which used in the manufacture of high-tech devices such as smartphones and electric car batteries.

Vietnam has the world's second-largest deposits of rare earths after China and US officials say it has a key role to play as it looks to diversify and strengthen its supply chains. Biden moved last month to restrict US investment in Chinese technology in sensitive areas including semiconductors, quantum computing and artificial intelligence.

Air strikes kill 46 in Sudanese capital

■ HT News Network

WAD MADANI: Air strikes killed at least 46 people and injured dozens on Sunday at a Khartoum market, local activists said, one of the deadliest single attacks in Sudan's nearly five months of war.

Are jeans too tight or too big for you try these hacks

The bombing in the south of Sudan's capital came about a week after another air strike, also in southern Khartoum, killed 20 civilians on Sept 2, according to activists.

The number of victims in Sunday's "Qouro market massacre" had risen to 46 by evening, said the local resistance committee, one of many groups that used to organise pro-democracy protests and now provide assistance during the war.

In its statement, the committee revised an earlier toll of 30 killed. It added there were "dozens wounded" and said casualties continued to pour into the nearby Bashair hospital.

"At about 7:15am (0515 GMT), military aircraft



bombarded the Qouro market area," the committee said.

The hospital had issued an "urgent appeal" for all medical professionals in the area to come and help treat the "increasing number of injured people arriving".

A conservative estimate from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project says nearly 7,500 people have been killed in the war that began on April 15 between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

In early July, an air strike on a residential area of Omdurman, Khartoum's sister city, killed around two dozen people and drew condemnation from the United Nations.

The army has been accused of repeated indiscriminate shelling of the residential areas where the paramilitaries have embedded themselves, including by evicting families and taking over homes.

On Sunday, RSF accused the military of the "air strikes against civilians in the south of Khartoum".

The armed forces denied attacking the market, saying it "directs its strikes against rebel gatherings, crowds and bases as legitimate military targets, and fully adheres to international humanitarian law".

Somali army kills over 20 al-Shabab militants in southern Somalia

■ HT News Network

Mogadishu, Sep 11 (UNI) Somali National Army's elite force, Gorgor, killed more than 20 al-Shabab militants and wounded others early Sunday in heavy fighting between the army and militants at a military base in Awdheegle district in southern Somalia, officials said.

Abdirahman Yusuf Al-adala, deputy minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, told the national news agency that the brave troops responded swiftly and foiled the attack by al-Shabab fighters at the military base. "Our SNA forces took swift action against al-Shabab terrorists who attempted to attack an army base in Awdheegle district in Lower Shabelle region on Sunday morning. The terrorists left over 20 dead bodies at the scene. Our forces also recovered weapons during the operation," Al-adala said.

He did not confirm if there were casualties on the SNA side during the fierce fighting. Al-Shabab militants claimed responsibility for the latest attack, saying its fighters killed 59 soldiers including commanders and ran over the base.

The al-Qaida allied terror group normally inflates casualty figures during their battle with the government's security forces. The attacks continue across Somalia despite the security forces backed by allied forces having stepped up operations against the militants in the country.

5.9-magnitude quake hits central Mid-Atlantic Ridge

■ HT News Network

Beijing, Sep 11 (UNI) An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.9 jolted central Mid-Atlantic Ridge at 0920 GMT on Monday, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 10.0 km, was initially determined to be at 0.75 degrees north latitude and 26.09 degrees west longitude.

Bangladesh France ink 2 agreements

■ HT News Network

Dhaka, Sep 11 (UNI) Bangladesh and France on Monday signed two agreements to enhance cooperation in various fields, including infrastructure and satellite.

The documents were inked in the presence of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and French President Emmanuel Macron in Dhaka, United News of Bangladesh (UNB) reported.

A Credit Facility Agreement between the Economic Relations Division of Bangladesh and the France Development Agency on Improving Urban Governance and Infrastructure Program was signed at the event.

Besides, a Letter of Intent on Cooperation between Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited and Airbus Defence and Space SAS of France related to the Bangabandhu-2 Earth Observation Satellite System was signed.

Earlier, Hasina and Macron held talks to explore new areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Macron, the first French president to visit Bangladesh in 33 years, arrived in Dhaka on Sunday evening from India after attending the G20 summit in New Delhi.

Meta to develop new high-powered AI model

■ HT News Network

Washington, Sep 11 (UNI) Meta Platforms, Inc. is developing a new, more powerful model of artificial intelligence (AI), The Wall Street Journal newspaper reported on Monday, citing sources.

The new system is expected to be as powerful as the most advanced ChatGPT AI model developed by OpenAI, the newspaper said.

The new AI model is aimed at helping other companies to create networks that perform complicated text and analytic tasks. Meta is currently constructing new centers for data processing to maintain the new AI, as well as purchases more H100, the advanced Nvidia chip, used for such operations.

The new AI is expected to be ready by the next year and to be many times more powerful than previous Meta's AI model, Llama 2.

Facebook Inc. rebranded itself as Meta in October 2021 during its push into the so-called metaverse, which augments reality with its vision of work and play in a virtual world. Meta products include social media platforms Facebook and Instagram (banned in Russia), as well as messaging app WhatsApp.

Ghana, Senegal forces on alert for possible intervention in Niger

■ HT News Network

Accra, Sep 11 (UNI) Military forces of Ghana and Senegal are on alert for the possibility of invading Niger under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) mission to restore constitutional order in the country following the recent coup, French RFI radio station reported, citing sources.

However, it remains unclear whether Ghana would have enough resources to finance the intervention due to its economic instability, the broadcaster added.

In July, Nigerian military forces announced overthrow of President Mohamed Bazoum and formation of what the junta called the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland.

Following the coup, the ECOWAS suspended all cooperation with Niger and threatened intervention if the rebels did not reinstate Bazoum.

New vision of Japan-ASEAN cooperation to be presented at Dec summit

■ HT News Network

Tokyo, Sep 11 (UNI) A new vision of cooperation between Japan and the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will be presented at a bilateral summit in Tokyo in December designed to mark the 50th anniversary of the parties' friendship, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Sunday.

"In December, I plan to organize the ASEAN-Japan commemorative summit meeting for the 50th year of the ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation in Tokyo. At the commemorative summit meeting, a new vision of ASEAN-Japan cooperation will be announced," Kishida told a national press conference after the end of the G20 Summit in New Delhi. ASEAN is a political and economic union that was founded in 1967. The organization comprises 10 Southeast Asian countries — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The association promotes economic, political, defense and cultural cooperation between its member states. Japan and ASEAN have been working together since 1973, when they established a forum on synthetic rubber. In 1978, the first ASEAN-Japan.

No arrest risk for Putin at Brazil G20: Brazilian President

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI: Russian leader Vladimir Putin will not be arrested if he attends the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro next year, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said.

The Russian president skipped this year's gathering in New Delhi, avoiding possible political opprobrium and any risk of criminal detention under an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant.

India is not a member of the ICC, which issued the warrant in March over accusations of unlawfully deporting Ukrainian children, a war crime. The Kremlin insists the warrant against Putin is "void".



Putin has skipped recent international gatherings and sent his Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to New Delhi instead.

Brazil is an ICC signatory but Lula, speaking to Indian news network Firstpost on Saturday, said Putin would be invited to next year's event, to be hosted by

Brazil. "We enjoy peace and we like to treat people well. So I believe Putin can go easily to Brazil," he said.

"If I'm the president of Brazil and if he comes to Brazil, there's no way that he will be arrested," Lula also said that he would attend a BRICS bloc of developing nations summit in

Russia next year. The Russian president skipped this year's gathering in New Delhi, avoiding possible political opprobrium and any risk of criminal detention under an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant. India is not a member of the ICC, which issued the warrant in March over accusations of unlawfully deporting Ukrainian children, a war crime. The Kremlin insists the warrant against Putin is "void".

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Director Agriculture inaugurates 07 days DLTP on Scientific Beekeeping under (NBHM)

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, September 11: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated seven days divisional level training programme (DLTP) on scientific beekeeping under (NBHM) at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

The inaugural session of the week-long training programme was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, Assistant Entomologist, students and large number of beekeepers.

Addressing the inaugural ses-

sion, the Director highlighted the importance of small scale Agri-Cottage industries including beekeeping, mushroom cultivation and other allied activities in the overall development of agriculture sector. He said the main aim of organising such training programmes is to promote entrepreneurial culture among the farmers and educated youth of the region.

Chowdhury Iqbal said the agriculture diversification is the key to reduce risk in farming activities and hence beekeeping has emerged as one of the important tools which not only enhances agricultural income of the farming community but also



secures it against changes in climate and soil resources. Director Agriculture expressed satisfaction and said many people, mostly educated youth are able to earn their livelihood, because of honey bee colonies. With time, more and more young men and women are turning towards beekeeping. He said the beekeeping forms the potential part of integrated farming and could play an important role in increasing the farmers income.

Director said that beekeeping as an off-farm activity has a potential of employment generation due to wide agro-climatic diversity enabling round the year bee flora availability.

The DLTP that began today is scheduled to culminate on 18th of September, 2023.

It is important to mention that the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) aims at promoting bee-keeping and providing self-sustaining employment opportunities among the farmers and unemployed youth in rural India.

Earlier, the Director kick-started seventh phase of vegetable seedlings distribution at kitchen garden Lalmandi Srinagar. Earlier, the Director kick-started seventh phase of vegetable seedlings distribution at kitchen garden Lalmandi Srinagar.

Municipal Elections 2023: DEO Bandipora conducts 2nd Training Session for ROs, AROs

■ HT News Network

Bandipora, September 11: The District Election Office (DEO) Bandipora Monday organized the second training session for Returning Officers (ROs), Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) and Nodal Officers in the run up for the upcoming Municipal Elections.

The one-day training session held in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Bandipora was led by Nodal Officer Election Monitoring Bandipora, Moham-



mad Ashraf Hakak while Deputy District Election Officer, Noordin Bhat was also present on the occasion.

District-Level Master Trainers (DLMT) Mohammad Rafiq Paray and Mohammad Iqbal were present to impart training on the occasion.

The District Level Master Trainers gave detailed information regarding the preparation and conduct of the upcoming Urban Local Bodies (ULB) election (2023).

The Nodal Officer Election Monitoring urged ROs and AROs

to adhere to the rules and regulations and go through the ROs handbook.

During the training programme, a question-and-answer session to address the doubts about the election procedures and rules were held, ensuring that the Municipal Elections in the district are conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner.

The participants raised several queries to which the Master Trainers gave satisfactory answers, clearing all the doubts regarding the EVM and other necessary procedures.

One-Day Training Programme for ROs & AROs Held in Udhampur District

■ HT News Network

Udhampur, September 11: To ensure the seamless execution of the Municipal Election 2023 in Udhampur District, the District Election Authority organized a comprehensive one-day training programme for Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Udhampur.

During the training programme, Deputy District Election Officer Gurdev Kumar provided essential guidance to all ROs and AROs, emphasizing the critical need for conducting the upcoming Municipal Election in a transparent, free, and fair manner. He underscored the importance of close coordination among all officers to guarantee the successful execution of the election process.

Furthermore, he encouraged trainees to actively engage in the training sessions and adhere to the guidelines outlined in the RO's handbook to ensure the smooth conduct of the Municipal Election.

DC tours Shopian Town; takes stock of Traffic management, inspects road construction works

■ HT News Network



Shopian, September 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today undertook a visit to different areas of the Town to oversee and assess the progress of works and traffic management in the town.

He visited Sofanaman, Gagan, Zero point and other areas and asked for making all possible efforts to ensure the smooth traffic at the busiest intersections of the town.

The DC took onsite appraisal of the widening of Sofanaman- Pinjoora road and directed the concerned executing agency to speed up the work by deploying additional men and machinery and complete the works as soon as possible. The DC gave on spot directions to concerned officers to remove the bottlenecks immediately so that works are completed on time.

He also asked the concerned engineering wing to monitor the progress on a daily basis and said that it will also bring significant change in the movement of traffic flow in the Town. The DC was accompanied by ARTO Shopian, Tehsildar Shopian, Executive Engineer (R&B), JEs and others.

DC reviews progress of PMGSY Projects in Bandipora

■ HT News Network

Bandipora, September 11: To ensure timely completion of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad Monday convened a meeting to assess the progress of the execution of works.

During the meeting, the DC assessed the progress of the works being executed under PMGSY in different regions of the district. He stressed the importance of their timely completion.

He also took stock the challenges faced by the executing agencies, including adverse weather conditions and terrain difficulties.

The DC directed the concerned authorities to identify and resolve bottle necks that act as hindrances in the execution of the projects. He also directed the concerned for the resolution of Kehnusa-Tangwari and Athwatoo-Chamdaji road related issues.

The DC was informed that the department has already made a remarkable achievement in connecting the people via roads and bridges. He was further assured by the concerned authorities that all the pendencies and issues shall be redressed timely.

R&RO concludes Bhrashtachar Mukt J&K Week campaign on positive note

■ HT News Network

Jammu, September 11: Digital literacy cum Grievance Redressal Cell which was established on 6th of September 2023 in the head office of Relief and Rehabilitation Organization (M) Jammu and at the migrant camps/Zones and non-camp areas for celebration of "Bhrashtachar Mukt J&K Week" came to a conclusion on a high note. The event mainly focused on awareness regarding various initiatives of the department viz online services, e-office etc. which have largely contributed towards a transparent and corruption free system. During the 5-day programme, around 130 grievances were brought to the notice of the team deputed by the department at various migrant camps/ non-camp areas, out of which 50 pertains to the department itself for which directions were issued on spot and others were communicated to line departments for early redressal. Moreover, all Zonal offices and Camp Offices have been notified as grievance redressal cells for the convenience of Kashmiri migrants.

On the culmination of the event, Bhrashtachar Mukt pledge taking ceremony was organized in the head office which was attended by all officers and officials of the Relief Organization. Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, K.K. Sidha impressed upon the officers to abide by the rules and legally correct procedure to avoid grievances/complaints and to keep corruption at bay. He further emphasized that such efforts to address all genuine grievances and to make people aware about the online services, activities to help people learn and adapt to using these services shall be continued in the department in a sustained manner.

DLSA Srinagar and Art of Living Foundation collaborate for Meditation Training

■ Reyaz Badana

Srinagar, September 11: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in partnership with the Art of Living Foundation, hosted one-hour introductory training program on Meditation for Relaxation and Peace.

This transformative event was designed exclusively for judicial officers, staff members of DLSA, members of the Legal Aid and Defense Counsel (LADC), penal lawyers, and Para Legal Volunteers.

The special occasion witnessed the presence of Jawad Ahmed, Chairman of DLSA Srinagar, who graced the event as the chief guest. This one-hour program aimed to introduce the attendees to the transformative power of meditation.

The program commenced on a melodious note with the uplifting strains of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Theme Song, resonating with the audience and setting the tone for the event.

The session began with a warm welcome and introductory remarks by Jawad Ahmed Chairman, DLSA, Srinagar, who highlighted the significance of the collaboration between



DLSA Srinagar and the Art of Living Foundation in promoting the well-being of judicial officers and legal professionals. Vandana Daftari, Regional Director of the Art of Living Foundation, conducted the session and shared valuable insights about meditation techniques and their profound impact on personal and professional lives. She encouraged the attendees to incorporate meditation practices into their daily routines for enhanced well-being. She offered a glimpse into the organization's global impact and dedication to inner

peace. Participants delved into the historical roots and scientific benefits of meditation as an invaluable tool for physical and mental well-being and had the opportunity to immerse themselves in a guided meditation, allowing them to explore their inner reservoirs of tranquility.

The one-hour program concluded with vote of thanks by Secretary DLSA, Srinagar expressing his gratitude to the Art of Living Foundation, Judicial Officers and other participants, and the dedicated team that made the event possible.

Chairperson DDC lays foundation stone for drainage work in Sui

HT News Network

Udhampur, September 11: Lal Chand, Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) in Udhampur, paid a visit to Ward Number 04 in Panchayat Sui Sambal today.

He laid the foundation stone for the construction of a robust drainage system under the District Plan, which extends from opposite Chuni Lal House to the newly developed teacher colony. This significant event took place in the presence of BDC Chairman, Balwan Singh, Sarpanch Panchayat Sambal Sui, Veena Kumari, and Sarpanch, Chakhar, Krishan Dutt.

During his interaction with the locals, Lal Chand engaged with the local community, listening to their developmental concerns. He extended his congratulations to the residents for the realization of their long-standing demand. The people of the area expressed their gratitude to Chairperson DDC for his active involvement in the



welfare and development of their region.

Lal Chand also expressed his satisfaction, stating that the much-needed drainage system in Ward Number 4 would now be upgraded through this construction work. He urged residents to refrain from using single-use plastics and polythene in their daily activities and to avoid disposing of garbage or waste in the drains. He emphasized the importance of locals taking advantage of the various flagship welfare schemes and programs launched by the Union Territory and central governments. Lal Chand also expressed his satisfaction, stating that the much-needed drainage system.

GDC Baramulla Hosts Special Lecture on "Creating Hope through Action Commemoration of World Suicide Prevention Day

■ Syed Tajamul

Baramulla, (September 11, 2023) - In observance of World Suicide Prevention Day 2023, the Department of Psychology at Government Degree College Baramulla, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC), organized a highly informative and impactful special lecture under the theme "Creating Hope Through Action." The event brought together students, faculty, and community members to address the critical issue of suicide prevention. Dr. Nazia Amin, an expert in the field of psychology, served as the lead speaker for the event. Her insightful presentation delved into the importance of creating hope through collective action and the role each individual can play in suicide prevention. Dr. Nazia shed light on recognizing warning signs, providing support, and fostering a sense of hope among those facing emotional distress. The event commenced with inaugural remarks delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Farooq, the Principal of Government Degree College Baramulla. In his speech, he emphasized the signifi-

cance of World Suicide Prevention Day and commended the collaboration between the Department of Psychology, NSS, and NCC in addressing this crucial societal issue.

The session was moderated by Miss Mursaleen, who ensured a smooth flow of discussions and engaged the audience with thought-provoking questions and insights. To conclude the event, Dr. Mohd Amin Wani offered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the participants, guest speaker, and all those who contributed to the success of the lecture. He reiterated the college's commitment to fostering a supportive and compassionate environment for its students and the community at large. This special lecture not only raised awareness about the pressing concern of suicide prevention but also inspired attendees to take concrete actions to support those in need and create a brighter, more hopeful future. The Department of Psychology and the college administration extend their gratitude to all participants and attendees for making this event a resounding success. The college remains dedicated to promoting mental health, well-being, and suicide prevention within the community.

G20 declaration on health: Mention of India's 3 priorities, digital push

All three health priorities of India's G20 presidency found a mention in the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration released on Saturday.

The declaration spoke of strengthening primary healthcare, health workforce, and essential health services to better-than-pre-pandemic levels, ideally within the next two to three years. In addition to focusing on epidemics such as tuberculosis and AIDS, the G20 recognised the importance of research on long COVID. The declaration also stressed the importance of one health approach — where diseases in animals, plants, and humans are tracked by the same mechanism — with focus on tackling antimicrobial resistance. The G20 health track that concluded last month was one of the most successful under India's presidency: not only did India manage to build consensus on all three of its priority areas, it also managed to launch a proposed repository of scalable digital health platforms.

What were the three priorities?

The three priorities kept in mind the economic and social disruption caused by Covid-19, and what could be done to prevent such losses in the future.

The priorities included:

- * Building resilient systems for health emergency prevention, preparedness, and response.

- * Strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector with focus on ensuring equitable availability and access to vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics during a pandemic.

- * Creating a platform for sharing digital health innovations and solutions to ensure better and universal health coverage, like CoWIN and e-Sanjeevani.

The consensus was reached with some compromises — India did not insist on countries contributing towards a \$200-million fund for a digital health programme, or on a permanent platform for sharing knowledge, intellectual property rights, and resources for developing vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics.



What is this digital health programme?

With the pandemic highlighting the importance of digital health innovation, India committed to developing a platform for sharing scalable solutions under the World Health Organisation (WHO) that can be utilised by its member states. This culminated in the launch of Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH), with four main pillars — an investment tracker, a repository of existing digital health solutions, knowledge sharing for implementation and country-specific adaptation of these solutions, and an ask tracker to monitor the needs of different countries.

While a \$200-million fund proposed by India did not find consensus among countries, several non-profits have committed to the fund.

India has committed to offering its vaccine management platform CoWIN, its tele-medicine platform e-Sanjeevani, and its Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission platform as digital public goods to others.

This initiative, delegates present on the negotiating table said, may help in ending the "epidemic of pilots" where several

similar initiatives are launched in different countries but aren't scaled up.

A World Bank report released on the sidelines of the health ministers' meeting took a look at the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, and said it was "an example of a concerted effort to fill in the health information gaps and connect health information dots." Around 44.2 crore unique IDs have been created and 110 digital health services integrated into the mission as of August 2023, the report said. However, it went on to add that there are concerns regarding data protection and privacy.

What is the interim medical counter-measure platform? While there was no consensus on creating a permanent platform for ensuring equitable access to medical countermeasures during a pandemic, the committees agreed to develop an interim platform to promote an end-to-end network for research and manufacturing them till a legally binding pandemic treaty can be agreed upon. The outcome document said that the interim platform should be led by an inclusive decision-making arrangement, including

effective representation of low- and middle-income countries, and convened by the WHO.

Although there is an in-principle agreement by the G20 member countries on the need for such a platform, there is no clarity yet on how soon the platform can be developed.

Why have some opposed this interim platform?

Delegates present at the negotiating table said the push for this interim platform has come from G7 countries, which currently hold the majority of the patents for drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines. Even though the outcome document specifically mentions lower- and middle-income countries having a voice in the platform, many said it is likely to replicate the failures of the ACT accelerator — a similar platform developed to share medical countermeasures during Covid-19 — by giving more say to the G7 countries.

One of the senior delegates present at all the negotiations said, "This will replicate what the ACT did. Even the people who were on the table are not clear about the negotiations that happened during the pandemic. Also, now that Covid-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern, those agreements no longer stand, and poorer countries have to keep paying high prices to maintain the level of vaccination." Another said that an interim measure would be used as an excuse by the G7 countries to keep delaying a legally binding pandemic treaty.

What is the role proposed for traditional medicine? India's G20 presidency also pushed for integration of evidence-based traditional medicine practices with modern medicine. A global summit on traditional medicine was hosted on the sidelines of the health ministers' meeting last month. The outcome document said: "We acknowledge the potential of evidence-based traditional and complementary medicine practices in public health delivery systems, provided they are rigorously and scientifically validated."

NEWS

How Is Eating Food On Bananas Leaves Good For Health?



Banana leaves are large, flexible, and waterproof leaves that come from the banana plant. They are commonly used in various tropical regions for cooking, serving food, and wrapping food items. Eating on a banana leaf is a popular practice in certain cultures, especially in South Asia and Southeast Asia. It is considered a traditional way of serving meals in these regions. The leaf is used as a plate or a serving platter, and different dishes are placed directly on it.

From a health perspective, eating on a banana leaf can have certain benefits. Banana leaves contain polyphenols, which are antioxidants that have potential health-promoting properties. When hot food is served on the leaf, some of the polyphenols can transfer onto the food, providing some antioxidant benefits.

1. Natural disinfectant

Banana leaves have natural antimicrobial properties that help to kill harmful bacteria present in food. Eating on a banana leaf can therefore reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses.

2. Nutritional value

Banana leaves contain various essential nutrients like polyphenols, vitamin A, and vitamin C. When food is placed on a banana leaf, some of these nutrients are transferred to the food, enhancing its nutritional value.

3. Enhances flavor

Eating on a banana leaf can enhance the flavor of food. The leaves impart a subtle, earthy taste that adds to the overall enjoyment of the meal.

4. Environmentally friendly

Using banana leaves as a natural alternative to disposable plates is an eco-friendly choice. It reduces the need for plastic or foam plates, which contribute to pollution.

5. Biodegradable

Banana leaves are biodegradable, meaning they break down easily without causing harm to the environment. This makes them a sustainable choice for serving food.

6. Aesthetically pleasing

Eating on a banana leaf adds a touch of traditional charm to a meal. It can create a visually pleasing experience, making the dining process more enjoyable.

7. Non-toxic

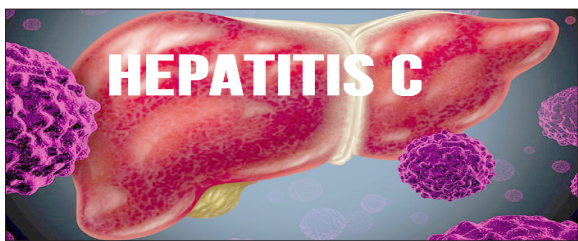
Unlike some synthetic plates or banana leaf substitutes, banana leaves are non-toxic. They do not release harmful chemicals or toxins into the food, ensuring a safer dining experience.

Hepatitis C Patients Should Consider Re-Vaccination For Hepatitis B Virus: Study

Hepatitis C patients should consider re-vaccination for hepatitis B virus, suggests a study after a previous research showed low response among patients with hepatitis C, finds study. Hepatitis C is caused by a blood-borne virus that leads to inflammation of the liver. Currently, there is no effective vaccine for Hepatitis C.

Globally, about 58 million

people have Hepatitis C, with 1.5 million new infections each year. Hepatitis B is a liver infection that can be prevented with the HBV vaccine. The new study, published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases conducted on 34 patients who previously did not respond to the HBV vaccine were tested for Hepatitis B surface antibodies. It was found that after treatment of Hepatitis C, re-vaccination against



Hepatitis B among this group resulted in an improved response. "This study has broad implications for public health in hepatitis-infected individuals. It is known that

the hepatitis B vaccine is not as effective in those with hepatitis C," said Jose Debes, Associate professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School. "What was not known until

now is that after treating hepatitis C the hepatitis B vaccine seems to be more effective in this population. This is important as many of these individuals are still at risk for hepatitis B infection," Debes added.

Having both hepatitis B and hepatitis C together raises the risk of severe issues like liver cirrhosis or cancer. Patients with hepatitis C should check themselves for hepatitis B immune protection. If none

is present, they should be offered a vaccine after treating hepatitis C, the researchers said. They also suggested research in a larger group to assess optimal time for re-vaccination and further understanding of immune pathways involved in this change of response. It was found that after treatment of Hepatitis C, re-vaccination against Hepatitis B among this group resulted in an improved response.

Sleep Hygiene: Proven Tips For A Good Night's Rest In A Busy World

In today's fast-paced world, a good night's sleep can feel like a luxury. However, prioritizing sleep is essential for our physical and mental well-being. This article will explore the concept of sleep hygiene and provide practical tips to help you achieve a restful night's sleep, even amid a hectic lifestyle.

Sleep hygiene refers to the practices and habits that promote healthy sleep patterns. In a world filled with constant stimuli and distractions, it's essential to prioritize sleep hygiene to ensure adequate rest. Factors that can negatively impact sleep hygiene include excessive screen time, irregular sleep schedules, poor diet choices, and a lack of physical activity. Additionally, high levels of stress and anxiety can disrupt sleep patterns, making it difficult to fall and stay asleep.

Tips To Sleep Better

Here are some easy-to-follow tips for you to get a decent sleep every night

- Create a Sleep-Friendly Environment:** Ensure your bedroom is dark, quiet, and at a comfortable temperature. Invest in a comfortable mattress and pillows.

- Establish a Consistent Sleep Schedule:** Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, even on



weekends. This helps regulate your body's internal clock.

- Limit Screen Time Before Bed:** The blue light emitted by phones and computers can disrupt your sleep. Avoid screens at least an hour before bedtime.

- Watch Your Diet:** Avoid heavy meals and caffeine close to bedtime. Opt for a light snack if you're hungry. Exercise Regularly: Physical activity can improve sleep, but avoid intense workouts too close to bedtime.

- Manage Stress:** Practice relaxation techniques such as deep breathing, meditation, or yoga to calm your mind before sleep.

- Limit Naps:** If you nap during the

day, keep it short (20-30 minutes) to avoid interfering with nighttime sleep.

It's easy to neglect the importance of quality sleep. However, adopting good sleep hygiene practices can lead to improved physical health, mental well-being, and overall productivity. By creating a sleep-friendly environment, establishing a consistent schedule, managing stress, and making other small adjustments, you can prioritize sleep and reap the benefits of a good night's rest. Prioritizing sleep in our busy lives is crucial for overall well-being. To achieve better sleep, consider the following practical tips.

Ways To Support Anyone Struggling With Suicidal Thoughts

World Suicide Prevention Day is a crucial occasion to raise awareness about the global issue of suicide and to emphasize the importance of providing support to individuals dealing with suicidal thoughts. Suicide is a deeply complex and sensitive topic that affects millions worldwide. To help combat this crisis, it's vital to understand how to assist those in need. World Suicide Prevention Day serves as a reminder that suicide is preventable, and each of us can play a vital role in saving lives. By being compassionate, informed, and proactive, we can support those struggling with suicidal thoughts and help them find hope and healing. Together, we can work towards a world where every individual feels valued and understood, reducing the devastating impact of suicide on our communities.

Here are seven effective ways to support anyone facing suicidal thoughts.

Be a Good Listener

One of the most powerful tools in suicide prevention is active listening. Create a safe and non-judgmental space for the individual to express their feelings and thoughts. Listen attentively, without interrupting or offering immediate solutions. Sometimes, just allowing them to share their emotions can provide immense relief.

Encourage Open Communication

Encourage open and honest dialogue about their struggles. Ask



gentle, non-confrontational questions to help them open up further. Show empathy, understanding, and reassure them that you care about their well-being. Avoid making them feel guilty or ashamed for having these thoughts.

Educate Yourself

Take the time to educate yourself about suicide and mental health. Understanding the warning signs, risk factors, and available resources can better equip you to provide support. Recognizing the signs of someone in crisis is a crucial step toward helping them.

Avoid Judgement and Stigmatization

Avoid making judgments or passing moral judgments on the individual. Stigmatization only exacerbates

their feelings of isolation and despair. Instead, focus on empathy, compassion, and encouraging them to seek professional help.

Encourage Professional Help

While offering emotional support is essential, it's crucial to recognize the limitations of your role. Encourage the person to seek professional help from therapists, counselors, or crisis hotlines. Offer to assist in finding suitable resources or accompanying them to appointments if needed.

Safety Planning

Work with the individual to create a safety plan. This plan should include emergency contacts, coping strategies, and a list of activities that bring them comfort. Having a structured plan in place can provide a sense of security during difficult moments.

Stay Connected

Suicidal thoughts can be persistent and unpredictable. Continue to stay connected with the person even after they have sought professional help. Regular check-ins and ongoing support can be essential in their recovery journey. By being compassionate, informed, and proactive, we can support those struggling with suicidal thoughts and help them find hope and healing.

Target 100% involvement of adult population in Sports and Cultural events: CS

Takes review of the rolling out of LG's Roller Sports & Culture Trophy 2023-24



SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today impressed upon the officers of the Sports and Culture Department to give opportunity to each person to either take part in sporting or other cultural activities for giving their creative energies a chance and improve quality of their lives.

He made these remarks while presiding over the meeting to take stock of the preparations made for rolling out of LG's Sports and Cultural Rolling Trophies for the employees of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Secretary, Tourism & Culture; Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Director, YS&S besides other concerned officers of these Departments.

Dr Mehta emphasised on participation of 100% population in such creative activities for giving each of them an opportunity to showcase their talent and chisel it further. He noted that everyone deserves to be happy and healthy in their lives and sports, art and culture are the sure ways of bringing both of these lifestyle changes simultaneously.

He urged them to involve people in as many sporting and art activities as possible. He asked for giving opportunities to both men and women right from the Panchayat level by involving them in the arenas of their choice including traditional art and sports activities. He advised them to conduct competitions in cuisine making, wicker work, paper-machie, woodwork, pottery, Bandpather, tug-of-war, Wrestling, and other relevant activities for the people of the local area.

He made out that before 2019 the participation of people in sports across the UT was bare minimum as the activities were restricted to few urban pockets only. He said that today the number has crossed to more than 65 lakh in the UT for the reasons of due focus on creation of requisite infrastructure and holding of sports competitions in each village.

The Chief Secretary stated that by giving same impetus to the cultural activities right from the

Panchayat level the times are not far when its participation would go up on similar lines. He told them to be innovative in involvement of people. He said that by channelizing the energy of youth in these activities they could be saved from becoming prey of drug addiction, thereby helping in creation of 'Nasha Mukta' J&K.

While reviewing the rolling out of LG's Sports and Cultural Rolling Trophies the Chief Secretary stressed on including more activities of art to give opportunities to more employees. He said that even employees need some opportunities to loosen up from their daily schedules. He asked them to even consider having a competition between Employees winning team and LG trophy winner from civil side.

On the occasion the Secretary, Culture, Syed Abid Rasheed Shah informed the meeting that the Department is going to organize cultural activities in art forms like singing, painting, debating, poetry, essay writing and story telling. He further informed that in each competition, the participation at

District, HoD, Divisional and Administrative Department level shall be ensured. The trophy would be given to the best administrative department and kept by it till next competition. He also gave out that cash awards to best performers would be given in each competition.

As far as the LG's Sports Roller Trophy is concerned the Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafeez informed the meeting that the competitions in 6 sporting activities of Cricket, Football, Volleyball, Table tennis and Hockey would be held at both Jammu and Srinagar. He further informed that 552 matches involving more than 1600 employees would be organised over a period of 100 days.

It was also given out that session on Yoga and mental health are also part of this trophy. The venues, manpower and budget required for holding of this sports competition was also discussed besides taking note of the paraphernalia and other gear that would be made available to the players participating in the tournament.

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