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Your Actions Should Win the Hearts of Common Masses: Rajnath Singh to BRO

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 12: Dedicating the 90 Border Road Organisation (BRO) infrastructure projects to the nation built at a cost of over Rs 2,900 crore, across 11 States and Union Ter $ritories, Union\,Defence\,Minister\,Rajnath\,Singh$ on Tuesday asked them to connect the hearts of people with their actions.

"Involve local bodies and the people by understanding their needs and taking inputs for the projects in border areas," Singh said after he dedicated to the nation 90 infrastructure projects of BRO at an event at Devak Bridge on Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur Road, which was inaugurated by him.

"Your job is not only to connect one place with another. It is also to connect the hearts of the people with your actions. The constructionsshould represent the spirit of 'for the people, of the people and by the people," he said.

The projects dedicated included Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh; two airfields in West Bengal; two helipads; 22 roads and



63 bridges. Of these 90 projects, 36 are in Arunachal

Pradesh; 26 in Ladakh; 11 in Jammu and

Rajnath bats for more invest in **Research and Development for India** to move with world's pace

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 12: Urging the industry partners to focus on creating a culture that encourages Research and Development, based on skilled human resources, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday has called upon the domestic defence manufacturers to invest more in this field for India to keep up pace with the continuouslyevolving world.

Addressing the North Tech Symposium, jointly organised by the Northern Command of the Indian Army, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and IIT, Jammu here, Singh was of the view that although R&D is a risky venture as it requires out-of-the-box thinking and sometimes does not give desired results, it still remains one of the basic elements for the development of any country.

Hence, capital investment in R&D

becomes a necessity, he emphasised. "India is passing through a transi-

tional phase. There is nothing wrong in acquiring a technology through imitation or transfer, but we cannot become a developed nation on these grounds alone. We need to file our own patents, for which a lot of investment in R&D is needed. Capital investment in R&D may reduce today's profits, but it will prove to be beneficial to the industry and the country in the long term," said Singh.

He suggested linking the work of institutes such as IITs, IIMs and IISCs with the defence sector in order to create an R&D ecosystem in the field. He added that efforts should be made to connect with the Indian R&D sector, the engineers and scientists who work in top universities, companies, space agencies & scientific research organisations abroad and wish to be a part of India's growth story.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Short film screened to counter drug menace in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: By the Directors Anil Singh & Ozge Uyar (Film Maker from Turkey) has come what can be described as brilliance in the form of a short film Aatish -e- Tilism is a 16-minute-41 second documentary which has been screened in English language at Tagore Auditorium Rohtak, in presence of thousands of people.

Despite the beauty prevalent in Srinagar – there is some darkness which has prevailed off late. Darkness that is affecting the Youth of Srinagar- Drug Trafficking and Addiction to drugs, which affect different people in different way. We have shown how a rehabilitation centre is helping the TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Delhi resident supplying banned drugs to Srinagar

arrested: Police

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a Delhi resident who was supplying banned drugs to the drug peddlers in Srinagar.

"The main accused identified as Mohammad Asim a resident of Darya Ganj Chawri Bazar Delhi who was supplying drugs to drug peddlers in Srinagarwas arrested", Srinagar police

The accused was wanted in a case registered by Police Station M R Gunj under Narcotic Drugs and TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Drinking Water Shortage Hits Langate

LANGATE, SEP 12: Residents of various villages of Langate in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday complained they were without drinking water from last couple of Days and the concerned department is watching mute spectator.

According to KNS Correspondent dozens villages in Langate constituency of Kupwara district are facing acute water scarcity with many people drinking unhygienic water of river Mawer which poses them serious threat to get infected with water borne

Reports said People from Mawer Qalamabad Audoora, Chek I Audoora,

Umerabad, Warpora, Drungsoo, TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Surge in Tourism Brings Joy to Kashmir's Border Areas

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Northern Kashmir's border regions have experienced an unprecedented influx of tourists since the reaffirmation of the 2003 ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan.

With guns falling silent along the Line of Control (LoC) in February 2021, opportunities for tourists to explore once-inaccessible areas have opened up. Keran, Machil, Bangus, Tangdhar, Gurez, and Uriareas that were previously known as infiltration corridors for terrorists—have now transformed into popular tourist destinations.

The Indian Army and the J&K tourism department have collaborated to organize events that showcase these areas, drawing more tourists. This collaboration has led to a significant increase in the number of visitors to these border tourist destinations, with at least 80,000 tourists recorded so far this year.

Local residents are overjoyed by the transformation of these previously neglected border areas and are hopeful for a brighter future. They attribute the newfound appeal of these regions to their unique

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Unprecedented heatwave batters Kashmir, shatters all records

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Kashmir experienced an unprecedent-

 $ed\,heat wave\,that\,shattered\,long\text{-}standing\,temperature\,records}$

Data shared by Kashmir weather, an independent weather forecaster states, Srinagar, the capital of the region, sizzled under the scorching sun, recording a maximum temperature of 34.2°C. This reading was a staggering 6.0°C above the usual September norm.

The significance of this heatwave becomes evident when we consider that this is the second-highest maximum temperature ever recorded in September since 1891, when the

CS Calls for Regular Review of G2C Cases



SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today while reviewing the functioning of the IT Department impressed upon its offi-

cers to work for adoption of Common Application Form (CAF) for all the citizen centric online services offered by different Departments of the UT.

The meeting was attended by TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Budgam court acquits man in minor girl's rape case

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Principal District judge Budgam has acquitted a man for alleged sexual assault of a minor girl in Nowgam area of Summer capital Srinagar. The accused was represented by Ahra

Wait For Some Time, PoJK Will **Automatically Merge With India: V K Singh**

HT News Network

JAIPUR, SEP 12: Minister of State of Road Transport and Highways retired general V.K Singh on Monday said that Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) will automatically merge with India after some time.

"Wait for some time, the PoJK will automatically merge with India," Singh in Dausa, Rajasthan responded after he was asked about the demands of PoJK Shia Muslims to open the roads to India.



On the success of the G20, the

2 years imprisonment in cheque bounce case, defaulter to pay Rs 16L to the complainant

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: A Court in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district has sentenced a man to undergo two years' imprisonment in a cheque bounce case and directed the convict to pay Rs 16 lakh compensation to the complainant.

The compensation amount is double the accused had borrowed in 2015 from Abdul Lateef Khan



of Boniyaar Baramulla. The court said the complain-

ant during the course of TURN ON.....PAGE 02

JK artists/exhibitors to display their products in GI Mohatsav

CS urges inclusion of public interest themes to increase footfall to the venue

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta todav reviewed the preparations for the 'GI Mohatsav' proposed to be held here at Kashmir Haat in the first week of October this year.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production; Principal Secretary, Education; Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol; Director, Information; Director, Industries, Kashmir; and Repre-



sentatives from Kashmir University and SKUAST, Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed all the arrangements for making the programme

a successful event. He advised the concerned Departments to explore the possibility of including some other themes related to art



HT - NEWS

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Connect hearts.....

13TH CHEADLINES

CODA

Kashmir; five in Mizoram; three in Himachal Pradesh; two each in Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal and one each in Nagaland, Rajasthan and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The BRO has completed the construction of these strategically-important projects in record time; most of them in a single working season using state-ofthe-art technology.

Singh described the BRO as 'bro (brother)' of the Armed Forces, asserting that, through its infrastructure projects, BRO is not only securing India's borders, but also playing a key role in the socio-economic development of the far-flung areas.

He credited the timely completion of these projects to the hard work and dedication of its personnel as well as the commitment of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Together with BRO, we are ensuring that the nation is secure and border areas are developed. Timely completion of infrastructure projects in farflung areas has now become the new normal of New India," he said.

The state-of-the-art 422.9 meter long Class 70 RCC Devak bridge is of strategic importance as it will enhance the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces and boost socio-economic development of

He also in augurated the 500-metre long NechiphuTunnel on Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang Road in Arunachal Pradesh.

This tunnel, along with the under construction Sela Tunnel, will provide all-weather connectivity to the strategic Tawang Region.

The revamped Bagdogra and Barrackpore Airfields in West Bengal were also dedicated to the nation.

These airfields, reconstructed at a cost of over Rs 500 crore, will not only bolster the preparedness of the Indian Air Force (IAF), but also facilitate commercial flight operations in the region.

In addition, Singh virtually laid the foundation stone of Nyoma Airfield in Eastern Ladakh. This airfield, to be developed at a cost of approx. Rs 200 crore, will boost the air infrastructure in Ladakh and augment IAF's capability along the Northern border.

Singh in his address also expressed hope the BRO will soon set another unique record with the construction of Shinkun La Tunnel, the world's highest tunnel at an altitude of 15,855 feet.

The tunnel will connect Lahaul-Spiti in Himachal to the Zanskar Valley in Ladakh and provide all weather connectivity, he said, commending the BRO for developing infrastructure in border areas and making an invaluable contribution to the security of

He emphasised that infrastructure development in border areas is not only effective for national security, but also promotes connectivity with a neighboring country which functions with a spirit of cooperation with India.

He pointed out that the BRO has constructed infrastructure projects in several countries such as Myanmar and Bhutan and helped in strengthening peace and cooperation with them.

On civil-military fusion, he said, "civil-military fusion is the need of the hour, as the responsibility of the nation's security lies not only with the soldiers but also with the civilians."

The BRO is developing infrastructure for the security of the country by coordinating with the civil and military sectors. This collaboration will write a number of golden chapters in the field of border infrastructure," he said.

While Rajnath Singh underlined the need to work together to protect India's borders, he lauded the cooperation of state governments, despite ideological differences, towards securing national interests.

He appreciated the BRO for being conscious about its responsibilities towards the environment and using modern techniques and technologies for infrastructure development. He urged them to keep focusing on the developmental activities, while laying equal emphasis on environment protection.

"Till now, we have worked with the mantra of 'minimum investment, maximum value'. Now, we need to move forward with the mantra of 'minimum environment degradation, maximum national security, maximum welfare'," he said.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, Member of Parliament, Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma, Director General, Border Roads Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha were among those present on the occasion. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Pema Khandu joined the event

With today's inauguration of 90 projects worth Rs 2,900 crore, a record 295 infrastructure projects of the BRO, at an overall cost of approx. Rs 8,000 crore, have been dedicated to the nation since 2021. In 2022, 103 projects worth approx. Rs 2,900 crore were inaugurated; while in 2021, 102 projects at a cost of over Rs 2,200 crore were dedicated to the nation. UNI

Rajnath bats.....

He also recommended hiring of top managers, legal experts and financial experts from within the country and abroad to create a culture conducive to R&D.

The Defence Minister underlined the fact that to obtain the services of top talents, there is a need to create a good work culture and positive environment and adopt new HR standards. "We cannot run our workforce in the 21st century on the basis of the HR policy of the 19th century. Today, the quality of work is more important than the number of hours worked. Focus should be on intellect and innovation. A work culture needs to be developed where there is a concept of senior and junior; not superior and inferior. There is a need to involve women in R&D with more effectiveness," he said.

Singh also called for ensuring a proper distinction in ownership and management in Indian industrial units. Dynastic ownership can be justified in the case

of companies, but management at the dynastic level sometimes proves fatal for the company and its employees, he said.

He also exhorted SIDM to create an independent body, comprising scientists and experts from the industry, which will work with transparency and evaluate the products made by the companies.

"The buyer or the government will definitely try to check the quality of the products from their end, but there is a need to develop a system for internal evaluation as well. This quality check system will increase your credibility globally with time," he said.

The Minister also suggested SIDM create an internal vigilance mechanism to counter the potential cases of corruption and favoritism.

"If any company affiliated with you is indulging in any wrongdoing or passing wrong information, then you should bring it before the government. Such actions will further increase people's trust in the institutions," he said.

The Minister listed out the steps taken by the Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to support the domestic industry, such as ensuring demand assurance as well as rolling out the transfer of technology policy of DRDO.

He added that the synergy between the government and the domestic companies has resulted in record defence production of Rs one lakh crore and exports of Rs 16,000 crore in Financial Year 2023-24.

He expressed confidence that the defence exports will soon touch the Rs 20,000 crore mark and extended Ministry of Defence's continued support to the industry to ensure their as well as holistic development of the nation, in line with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

The North Tech symposium is an event conducted annually and this year it was organised at IIT, Jammu.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic participation of around 200 Industry partners and provided an opportunity for knowledge diffusion among various stakeholders to create awareness of contemporary technologies and hardware solutions available with the manufacturers under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

On the occasion, Singh also gave away SIDM Champion awards 2023 to a number of industry partners, including Bharat Forge Limited, TATA Advanced Systems Limited, Larsen and Toubro Limited and Idea Forge Technology Limited.

During the symposium, Singh witnessed a plethora of indigenous weapons/equipment and lauded the efforts of all stakeholders including the Northern Command, IIT Jammu, SIDM and Industry Partners, in their joint efforts to push the domestic defence industry.

The symposium paved the way to identify suitable technologies and products for subsequent trials & induction in Northern Command and provided a unique platform to all Industry partners to showcase their products, innovations and technical capabilities.

The symposium was aimed to be a facilitator of the best of the indigenous technologies of various equipment to be used in live operations & battle fields.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi and $SIDM\, President\, S\, P\, Shukla\, were\, among\, those\, present$ on the occasion. UNI

Surge in....

culture, simplicity, and traditional way of life.

"In the embrace of these mountains, our border villages hold a unique charm," says Abdul Rashid, a resident of Gurez valley, highlighting the growing engagement of people in the tourism sector.

Sajad Ahmad, another resident of Karnah, believes that continued efforts by the army, local communities, and the government will contribute to further development in these areas. He stresses the need for a separate development authority for Gurez to improve infrastructure and enhance the overall tourist expe-

Residents eagerly welcome tourists, cherishing the opportunity to share their rich cultural heritage. Arif Khan from Karnah notes the unprecedented rush of tourists in the past year, a phenomenon not witnessed before. He expresses optimism about the future of border tourism and the government's role in turning these regions into thriving tourism hubs.

Majid Khan, a resident of Uri, welcomes tourists with open arms and emphasizes the importance of government support and investment in these areas.

"Our homes are always open to tourists, and we welcome them," he says, highlighting the support and appreciation initiatives aimed at uplifting these areas receive from the locals.

The Indian Army and the J&K tour is m departmenthave played a pivotal role in attracting tourists to these once-overlooked regions by organizing events and activities that showcase their natural beauty and cultural heritage.

The government is committed to developing these border areas, investing in infrastructure such as road networks, accommodation facilities, and other amenities to enhance the overall tourist experience. This investment is expected to further boost the local economy and create opportunities for residents.

The newfound interest in border tourism not only drives economic growth but also fosters cultural exchange and understanding among different regions. It allows tourists to witness firsthand the resilience and warmth of the local communities in these border areas

With the promising trajectory of border tourism, these once-neglected areas are poised to become vibrant and sought-after destinations for travelers from around the world. As tourists embrace the beauty of these regions, they also contribute to the livelihoods of the locals, creating a win-win situation for all. As the borders symbolize peace rather than conflict, the rush of tourists serves as a testament to

the shared desire for harmony and unity. As more tourists explore the charm of the border areas, the local residents eagerly welcome them,

showcasing their warm hospitality and rich cultural heritage. The future of border tourism in Kashmir looks promising, with the potential to drive economic growth and foster greater understanding among diverse communities.

"Visiting the border areas in Kashmir was a truly mesmerizing experience. The beauty of the landscapes combined with the rich cultural heritage of the locals made it a trip of a lifetime," said Satpal Yaduv, a Delhi-based tourist.

"Visiting the border areas allowed me to witness the harmony and unity between different cultures. The vibrant traditions, delicious cuisine, and heartfelt welcome by the locals made me feel like a part of their extended family," said Pooja Sharma, another tourist from Mumbai.

Unprecedented.....

weather observatory was established.

The previous record of 33.8°C, dating back to 01 September 1970, was decisively eclipsed, inching closer to the all-time high of 35.0°C recorded on 18 September 1934.

In Qazigund, another town in the region, the mercury soared to a blistering 33.2°C. This departure from the normal by 6.7°C was an alarming indicator of the heatwave's intensity. The previous record, set

at 32.8°C on 12 September 2019, was left in the shade. The all-time record was practically rewritten, as today's temperature became the highest reading since the observatory's inception in 1956.

Kokernag, not to be outdone, experienced a scorching maximum temperature of 32.0°C, a departure of 6.6°C from the average. This too trumped the previous record of 31.8°C established just days ago on 02 September 2023. Notably, today's reading marked the highest temperature recorded since the observatory's establishment in 1977.

The extraordinary heatwave extended its reach to other stations as well, with Kupwara AWS recording 33.8°C, Baramulla at 32.3°C, Bandipora at 33.2°C, Budgam at 33.2°C, Pulwama at 31.8°C, Shopian at 33.8°C, Kulgam at 31.1°C, Anantnag at 32.8°C, and Sonamarg, comparatively cooler at 27.5°C.

CS Calls for.....

Commissioner Secretary, IT; UT Consultant for IT; CEO, JaKeGA; SIO besides other concerned officers of the Department.

During the meeting the Chief Secretary urged the Department that in order to bring simplicity and user friendliness to public, there should be a common format for applying for different services. He enjoined upon them to adopt the same forthwith without any

delay for making services readily available to public. He made out that the UT is going to have a single database of its citizens in future that would make the authentication of data more easy and efficient. He asked them to ensure that a single sign-on is required for availing different services which are currently offered by diverting applicants to different

Dr Mehta further underscored the need for quality assessment of all the 1033 services offered by the government to its citizens. He directed the CEO, JaKeGA to complete the task within a week including more than 900 services offered on the Mobile Dost application. He observed that while the volume of services has increased exponentially, it is important to address the issue of user experience. He maintained that the administration is not into the race of just increasing numbers but bringing governance at the

doorsteps of people in true sense. Regarding the timely delivery of services to public, the Chief Secretary stressed on integrating all the relevant services with PSGA Auto-appeal system so that any delay made beyond specified deadlines are auto-escalated. He directed sending messages to applicants indicating expected timelines for comple-

He instructed to integrate all the relevant services on e-unnat portal with RAS and Digi-locker so that the certificates can be easily accessed and feedbacks are obtained on regular basis. Moreover it was directed to integrate services with e-TAAL portal of NIC for real-time updation of transaction data to assess e-service delivery penetration in the UT. He called for creation of a UT Dashboard for monitoring performance of all the Departments in

delivery of services as per the set timelines. Dr Mehta also instructed for identification of officers/officials who keep the applications lingering for days unnecessarily return the applications without adequate reasons at last moment to avoid escalation for taking appropriate action against them. He also asked to take regular review of rejected and reverted applications by the concerned Administrative Secretaries. He called for proper use of data available under five verticals of CCTNS including data of Courts, FSL, Police Stations, Prisons and Prosecution

for eradicating crime from J&K. The Chief Secretary also enjoined upon the officers to finalize the applications for digital urban surveillance and digital DPRs. He maintained that both are very crucial for arresting the malpractices and should be rolled out immediately. He also laid stress on bringing the identified far-off villages on the 4G mobile connectivity by accelerating the process of installation of BSNL towers there before the end of this year.

The Commissioner Secretary, IT informed the meeting that the IVR based feedback along with currently used SMS method under RAS would be made functional by 15th Oct. She further gave out that many more services and reform measures are in pipeline that would greatly enrich the experience of citizens with respect to digital services.

Budgam court.....

Syed, Advocate, who vehemently argued against the accusations and charges levelled by the prosecution. Police on 12/07, 2021 said, one person from Shalina area approached Nowgam police station with a written complaint that his 9-year-old daughter was

sexually assult and rape by one Adil Husssain Ganai of Shalina Budgam. On the basis of complaint while taking cognizance of the matter police arrested the accused person immediately. A case under FIR No. 71 under section 342, 376 AB IPC, 07 POSCO ACT was registered in this regards at police station Nowgam and further investigation was taken up, police said"

After examining the case, Principal Sessions Judge, Budgam Khalil Ahmad Choudhary in a 30 page judgment, according to Srinagar based news agency Kashmir Dot Com said "Penal Code, 1860—S.376- Rape- Evidence- Medical evidence inconsistent with evidence of prosecutrix as the Prosecutrix aged 8 years at the time of alleged occurrence. According to evidence of the doctor who examined the prosecutrix immediately after the occurrence, made a clear remark that there was no sign of rape. Thus evidence of prosecutrix bellied by medical evidence. Held accused-appellant entitled to acquittal."

"When the court examines the prosecution evidence, it clearly comes out that prosecution has miserably failed to establish foundational facts that may give rise to presumption of guilt of the accused who is accused of the commission of offences under sections 342, 376 AB IPC and 07 POCSO Act. The foundational facts are required to be established by the prosecution by leading evidence beyond any reasonable doubts. The burden on the accused is not to $rebut the presumption beyond \, reasonable \, doubt.$ it is sufficient for the accused if he is in a position to create doubt about the veracity of the prosecution case. This he can do by preponderance of probabilities. In the instant case the accused has led sufficient evidence in defence which renders the prosecution version highly doubtful and improbable," Choudhary mentioned in his order and referred to the judgment titled Dharampal Singh Vs. State of Punjab (2010) 9 SCC 608 and Bhota Singh V. State of Punjab (2011) 11 SCC 653.

Therefore, over all analysis of the evidence of the victim of offence, and other witnesses, there are major contradictions in their statements which creates doubt with regard to commission of offences. Having regard to the statements of witnesses in its totality would suggest that there is no concrete evidence on record connecting the accused with the commission of offence mentioned in the chargesheet,

The evidence of witnesses is not corroborative, leaving doubt in the prosecution case, the judge said in his order, adding that I am unhesitant to record that prosecution evidence cannot be said to be definite, positive, consistent and coherent so far as the case against the accused is concerned.

"A clear room for doubt is left out in the prosecution evidence. Here it is pertinent to note that it is not the duty of the accused to show as to why a false allegation has been levelled against him and why particular witnesses have deposed against him but it is bounded duty of the prosecution to establish its case against the accused beyond any reasonable doubt."

"Further, it is a beaten law that strong suspicion, co-incidence and grave doubt cannot take place of the legal proof. Suspicion however, grave is not proof in absence of reliable evidence, and it is always unwise to act on mere suspicion. Thus, prosecution case fails and accused is accordingly acquitted of the charges leveled against him", court said, adding that the superintendent Central Jail, Srinagar is directed to release the accused forthwith provided he is not lodged in any other FIR.

Wait For Some.....

minister said: "The G-20 event has been successful. Such an organised event has never happened before. Around 200 meetings were organised in 60 cities of the country."

He said that other countries too have praised India for organising such a successful event.

"India has achieved a big victory in the collective manifesto issued in the conference. The world was divided on many issues including Ukraine, but with the wisdom of Prime Minister Modi, we all together have found a way out that no country had any objection to," the minister said while addressing a press conference at BJP's Parivartan Sankalp Yatra in Dausa.

He said that the formation of the Biofuel Alliance and the corridor from India to Europe will pave the way for India's economic progress.

"Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has also welcomed the joint declaration of G-20," he said. On the question about the BJP's chief minister face in the state, he said that wherever elections are held, BJP does not declare the chief minister face but contests elections only on the charisma of the Prime Minister.

"Everyone should assume that the party will give opportunity to such leaders who are good, useful and on whom the public has confidence," he said. (Agencies)

2 years.....

trial has proved that the accused identified as Ameer Khan presently a resident of Sheeri Baramulla has borrowed money.

In the judgmenet, the Sub-Judge Baramulla Iqbal Ahmed Akhoon said the accused had issued the cheques which were returned unpaid due to insufficiency of funds in the account.

"The complainant has proved his case and the accused is found to be guilty of commission of offence punishable under section N.I. Act and is convicted to undergo simple imprisonment of two years besides that he shall pay double the cheque amount i.e, Rs. 16,00,000. The fine amount of Rs 16,00,000 imposed on shall be paid to complainant," the order read

A complaint was lodged before the Court on December 21, 2015 on the grounds that the accused Ameer Khan approached the complainant and borrowed Rs 5,28,000 to invest in a business and thereafter he would repay the said amount in two installments and share the profit of the business.

The complainant informed the court the accused failed to repay. The accused issued five cheques which were presented before the banks and all these cheques were returned unpaid as "funds not sufficient".

The complainant later issued a legal notice to which Ameer did not respond. The court later took cognizance against the accused for commission of offences punishable under section 138 Negotiable Instruments (N.I)Act, which provides for criminal provision regarding a cheque bounced due to insufficiency of funds.

JK artists.....

and culture into this Mohatsav so that the footfall to the venue increases.

He asked them to look into the possibility of including common interest themes like music, painting, essay writing, food court and others to attract common masses to the venue and make this Mohatsav attractive to people from all walks of life.

Dr Mehta also told them to encourage everybody to participate having any direct or indirect interest in GI tagging. He further asked them to give opportunity to those who were identified during Panchayat level talent hunt or 'Beats of J&K' of the Information Department.

On the occasion the Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar informed the meeting that some 100 GI tagged products including about 25 from the UT. He further added that the 'Mohatsav' would have attractions like flower, fruit and vegetable shows alongside the GI Mohatsav at the venue.

The meeting also discussed other arrangements to be made for the successful conduct of this programme. It deliberated upon the boarding, lodging and transport arrangements for the artisans coming from different parts of the country besides the media plan for the wide publicity of this Mohatsav in Radio and public

Short film....

society to make a better life, How the lives of people are destroyed post drug abuse and addiction and ways by which they can instead of hiding behind the bushes – can get themselves to the rehabilitation centres and start a new life. Over six lakh people in J&K are victims of drug abuse, with users of 17-33 age group. Heroin, the preferred drug of choice; a natural graduation from cannabis or charas, is seen as an escape from the mundane.

Drugs affect different people in different way and how the lives of people are destroyed post drug abuse and addiction and ways by which they can instead of hiding behind the bushes – can get themselves to the rehabilitation centres and start a new life.

Post Film Screening – all people have got so motivated and supported the subject by taking an oath "I pledge that I will take all efforts in my capability to make Bharat Drug-Free.". The event was organized by Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Haryana under the guidance

of Vice Chancellor Prof. Rajbir Singh. Delhi resident.....

Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. "Asim is the main supplier of contraband Spasmo-Proxyvon Plus to drug peddlers in Srinagar", police added.

"During investigation of the Case FIR No. 25 /2023 U/S 8 /22 , 27 (A) NDPS ACT of MR Gunj PS, the main accused namely Mohd Asim S/o Mohd Tauseef R/o Darya Ganj Chawri Bazar, Delhi arrested. He is main supplier of Contraband Spasmo-proxyvon plus to drug peddlers in

Srinagar", Srinagar police. UNI **Drinking Water....**

Prungroo and Many Schools area alleged that they are facing grave hardships due to shortage of drinking water and are forced to drink contaminated water of river Maw-

According to the residents the women of this area are being forces to fetch the water from steams were animals too drink the water.

"There is no drinking water in our village and we are forced to drink contaminated water of canals which is unhygienic and health hazardous for us," said Malik Manzoor of Audoora Langate. Another Person from Drumgsoo Mohd Yousaf village also complained of drinking water shortage."We are being compelled to walk 2-3 kilometers everyday to fetch water from a canal here. Government has been prom-

ising us to provide drinking water, Another lady said "There is no drinking water facility in our area and we have been forced to drink water that gets accumulated in the paddy fields, while as the government launched a water supply scheme some 15 years back but

it has never worked for us" Similarly, thousands of people living in the area of Mawer are facing drinking water shortage, the acute water scarcity in this area has become usual as authorities are taking no measures to address the problem.





J&K OFFERS ONE OF THE LOWEST TARIFF RATES TO ITS CONSUMERS

Smart meters known for accurate energy measurement, department demonstrated, proves at public places, consumer premises

SRINAGAR, SEP12: Inresponse electricity generation is proto a news item published in local daily of Jammu and Kashmir on 12th September, the J&K Power Development department states that news report is factually incorrect and the department was not consulted before publication of this news item.

According to communique of JKPDD, the Hydro Power projects of Jammu and Kashmir have been developed in both State and Central sectors and the UT-owned plants contribute to 18 % of the total energy requirement. It adds that the allocations from Central Generating Stations (CGS) contributes to the majority (70%) of the power supply and remaining (12 %) is sourced from Power exchange/private sector.

The communique further reads that power generation from the UT owned power plants, a major part of J&K's own

duced from the Baglihar Hydro Electric Project (BHEP), which generates approximately 900 megawatts(MW)of power and the other locally owned power generation plants like Upper Sindh, Lower Jhelum, Chenani etc, collectively generate around 200-250 MW only. It adds that the total power generation of approximately culminates to 1100-1140 MWs through UT's own generating stations, which however, dips to around 200 MWs in winters due to low water discharge in rivers, when the peak demand rises to more than 3000 MWs. The communique further reads that remaining requirement of the power during winters is met through the Central Generating Stations (CGS) located both within and

outside the J&K's boundary. The PDD further states that



out of total installed capacity of 1140 MW in UT sector, the major share of around 1030 MW

(88% of total capacity) is utilised in J&K, while the remaining 150 MW is sold outside the J&K to honour the agreements executed between J&K and other entities in the year 2009.

The communique adds that during last four-year period, J&K has not added any PPA for selling power outside J&K i.e same quantum has been maintained as per the previous PPAs. It also reads that new PPAs have been signed for procuring power to the tune of 2845 MW for J&K, from different power houses (hydro and solar) being developed by CPSUs/JV of J&K&NHPC at nominal price, in the year 2023, thereby doubling the PPAs capacity/availability of power to J&K in the coming years.

In terms of tariff charges, Jammu and Kashmir offers one of the lowest tariff rates to its consumers invarious categories, underscoringits commitment to providing affordable electricity to its residents, it adds.

The communique also reads that it is wrong notion that consumers are getting inflated bills after the installation of smart meters, rather smart meters are known for accurate energy measurement which has been demonstrated and proved by the department at several public places and consumer premises.

In addition, smart meters also provide the consumers with the access to real-time data on their energy usage (daily, monthly, and hourly), insights into their average daily consumption, comprehensive billing information, applied tariff rates, and other relevant information - all aimed at empowering consumers to make informed decisions about their energy consumption, the communique reads.

Meet Khalid Wani - a trailblazing entrepreneur making a difference

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Imagine a young man from the charming town of Srinagar, who for nearly two decades has been working hard and smart to help various companies thrive, especially those which cannot compete with the big giants. That is Khalid Wani for you. At just 37 years of age, Khalid is a local hero. He has been advising companies in various fields like the internet, sports, food, fashion, entertainment, politics, and automobile. It is like he has dipped his toes in all the ponds. Khalid and his team of employees are known for their excellent services like marketing, managing brands, growing businesses, making smart strategies, and even advising politicians – and they have been praised well for their outcomes across the nation.

Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Khalid, who believes in growing while helping others to grow, said that as an experienced professional with over two decades of multidisciplinary exposure spanning the expanse of industries, he has endeavoured to refine his acumen in marketing, brand management, business development, strategy, political advisory, and planning with remarkable finesse.

"My professional trajectory has been punctuated with over a hundred keynote speaking sessions and panel discussions that I have had the distinct honour of hosting and participating in," he said, adding, "I have spearheaded a plethora of master classes on diverse topics, such as marketing, leadership, management, startupecosystem, fundraising, and superinvestorin collaboration with IIT Bombay and other elite B schools throughout India."

I take immense pride in the various laurels that I have earned for my contributions to the Indian economy, which have been bestowed upon me by several reputable institutions, Wani said. As I set out on a new expedition, I am enthusiastic about bringing a revolution to the Indian employment ecosystem with an innovative business model that empowers those on the lower rungs of the socio-economic strata to attain self-sufficiency and ascend towards the working class.

Wait! There is more.

Khalid is also an amazing speaker. He has stood on stage over a hundred times, talking to people about important stuff. And he doesn't just talk; he leads discussions too. Khalid has also given lots of master classes on subjects like marketing, leadership, managing a business, starting your own company, and getting money for your startup.

And it doesn't stop there.

He has also been invited by several renowned Indian B schools and Tech colleges to be a super investor at top-notch schools like IIT Bombay, BITS Pilani and many across India. He has won several accolades for his work and contribution to the Indian economy from prestigious institutions. With how his trajectory has been in the last two decades, he plans to continue doing good work.

Khalid has big plans. He is extremely passionate about setting up a new startup that will transform unemployment in India. He envisions a fresh approach to enable people with self-reliance and shares his life experience with them to be able to make things happen for them with his business model. The startup will be a massive job generator for anyone with or without a complicated skillset. Not only is he a successful entrepreneur, but a human being who has seen ups and downs in his life and made sure he took the struggle in a very positive stride and turned it into a lesson to achieve his dream ambitiously. Through his hard work, he has enriched many lives around him. Khalid serves as a living example of determination, and giving nature. Looking at his journey, he conveys a message that if he can, so can you.

His message for the youth of J&K is: "Hello to my fellow brothers and sisters of J&K. I am no exception. I come from the same soil as you do. I know you all have huge dreams. Life may have had its challenges for you but don't forget that each challenge is disguised as an opportunity. Don't underestimate yourself or your ability to work hard and consistently. Embrace your passions and learn from every experience. I am here at your disposal if you ever need any kind of advice with your business idea or anything that you want answers for. You can find my contact details on www.khalidwani.com."

Govt Middle School Dangerpora functions from three rooms

CEO blames locals, teacher;, says will visit school to assess situation

SOPORE, SEP 12: The upgraded Government Middle School at Bunpora, Dangerpora in north Kashmir's Sopore functions from a single-storey three-room house.

Established under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) scheme in 2004, the school functioning in the jurisdiction of Zone Dangerpora has only three rooms for six classes including a staff room and about 60 students. However, with the paucity of space, the class 7th and 8th has been shifted to another nearby structure.

"We are facing an accommodation crunch and can't provide proper facilities to students enrolled here," a teacher posted at the school, pleading anonymity, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said the school was upgraded to the middle level in 2010 but lacks infrastructure.

Sadaf, a student, said, "The government only claims to provide the best quality education to students but you can see here what quality education the government is providing us. We cannot even study properly here. How is it possible to study in such circumstances?"

We too want to study to achieve something, we too have dreams to fulfill, however, the lack of infrastructure has severely affected our education, said another student.

The school's students urged Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Syed Sehrish Asghar to look

According to locals of Dangerpora, the issue was brought to the notice of the concerned authorities in the school educa-

tion department, but to no avail. If the administration is identifying and providing land for panchayats, etc, why not for a school building, they asked.

Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Dangerpora, Mohammad Akbar told KNO that the foremost issue was to develop infrastructure for the school instead of upgrading it to the

middle level. He. however. assured that the doublestoreyed sixroom building structed to ease the sufferings of students as well as staff of the school

The ZEO said infrastructure is the need of the hour. "Once, a school has good infrastructure, only then can quality education will be provided," he said, adding that the school education department is committed to ensuring quality education to children.

Meanwhile, Chief Education Officer (CEO), Baramulla, Balbir Singh told KNO that the lack

of infrastructure is "indeed a concern". He, howschool's teachers and locals for the issue.

only who are responsible," the CEO said, adding, "They didn't act well on time. Every year, we conduct UDISE workshops wherein it is emphasised on the Heads of Institutions (HOIs) and teachers to submit the planning of their schools as per the need. They were supposed to file Data Capturing Format (DCF) through which works are accordingly done, but they failed to do so."

The CEO said the issue would have been resolved if the school authorities had submitted the DCF, as the format is being directly looked at by the Ministry of Education's Planning Section. "We will surely visit the school along with the revenue department to identify the land and assess the situation," he added.

Jugal, Rana hail enthusiasm of youth in traditional sports



BARAN, SEP 12: Bhola Kashni of Delhi has won the Raja Mandleek Dangal by defeating Chota Gani of Hoshiarpur in a fierce competition held at Baran in Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

In all 105 bouts were held between the wrestlers of Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory of Jammu and

Lauding the growing participation of youth in sports, especially traditional and rural based, Senior BJP leaders Mr Jugal Kishore Sharma and Mr Devender Singh Rana, while speaking at the concluding function, at Raja Mandlik Dangal in Baran and hoped that this momentum will get further fillip in a big way. They also exuded confidence that competitions of such magnitude inspire others to participate in sports and leave a mark of their talent at the national and

international levels.

"Like other parts of the country, Iammu and Kashmir too has a high tradition of organizing rural oriented sports", Member Parliament Mr Jugal Kishore said, adding that the reach of such events needs to be expanded for larger youth participation.

Mr Sharma said that the mere presence of reputed and eminent wrestlersof North India was a source of inspiration for budding wrestlers of the region. "I hope they will learn from the veterans in the field", he said and exhorted youth to participate in sports in a big way alongside academics. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Devender Rana expressed happiness over the enthusiasm of rural youth in traditional games like wrestling, saying these still retains the sheen of yesteryears.

Mr Rana said, in an era of competition, the youth cannot afford to remain in the shell of academics alone;

they have to be versatile in every field of activity. It is with this view the BJP led government at the Centre has taken several measures to promote sports under flagship programmes like Khelo India. He hoped the budding sportspersons will benefit from these programmes and participate in sports, which has vistas of career advancement opportunities as well.

Mr Jugal and Mr Rana gave away the awards to the wrestlers for achieving distinction and complimented the organizers for their relentless efforts in organizing the event at such a big level.

The Dangal was organized by the Dangal Committee comprising Vikram Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Kaushal Singh, Tiger Singh, Parveen Singh, Bittu Singh. A large number of locals and Nagrota peripheries besides those $from Jammu\, applauded\, the\, wrestlers$ for their performances.

Shallabugh residents demand concrete bridge over Nallah-Sindh

GANDERBAL, SEP 12: The people from Shallabugh village in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district

demand a concrete bridge upon the Nallah Sindh, saying they are facing a lot of difficulties. The residents told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that they have land from the



other side of the Nallah and the farmers from other villages also have land from their side. So, we both have to cross this unsafe wooden

bridge, they said.

The locals also said that if the government constructs a bridge over the Nallah Sindh, it will connect the area with the Srinagar district.

'We have constructed this wooden bridge but it is in a dilapidated condition and can collapse any time," they said, adding that the government should take necessary steps and construct the bridge.

This will provide a lot of relief to the people of various villages of Shallabugh and the adjoining areas, they said.

Mega Book Exhibition held at GDC Pampore DC Pulwama presides over as chief guest

■ HT News Network

LE HEADLINES

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr.Basharat Qayoom today presided over a Mega Book Exhibition held at GDC Pampore as chief guest.

During the exhibition, the DC took an extensive tour of various stalls examining the various books and expressed his pleasure on such a vast array and collection of books.

Addressing the students and other participants, Dr Basharat emphasised that reading books not only nurtures the brain of an individual but widens his perspectives. This type of exhibition shall serve as a platform for students to know not only what is relevant to their course study but also to know what is happening in and around the world, he added.

Quoting Mark Twain, "Aperson who



does not read good books has no advantage over a person who cannot read", the DC stressed on the need of reading good books and how reading books help in transforming an individual. And as we are in Digital era wherein we have hundreds and thousands of books at our fingertips we

should take advantage of the same and indulge in reading more books, he added. The DC appreciated the management of Govt Degree College Pampore for organising such a wonderful exhibition as such interventions will result in the overall enhancement

DC Ganderbal reviews progress of several schemes of RDD

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, SEPTEM-BER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting here to review the progress of several ongoing schemes being executed by the Rural **Development Department** (RDD) in the district.

During the meeting, **Assistant Commissioner** Development (ACD), Dr. Bashir Ahmad briefed the DC about the status of various programs like Solid Waste Management, PMAY, Amrit Sarovar and Meri Maati Mera Desh through a powerpoint presentation.

ACD informed the DC that EOIs had been floated and stand allotted to three agencies in three clusters for 7 blocks at district level for the successful implementation of the SWM project.

It was also informed that vehicles including Vans and e-Carts are also allotted to clusters for door to door col-



lection of waste.

The DC asked the ACD to devise a format for daily collection waste which should be given to all agencies and shall be monitored regularly.

The DC also reviewed the status of Community Compost Pits and Community Soakage Pits proposed block wise and it was informed that 142 Community Compost Pits are proposed in all blocks out of which 76 are completed besides 124 are under prog-

Similarly, 200 Soakage Pits are proposed out of

which 144 are completed and rest are under progress.

The DC impressed upon the concerned officers to redouble the efforts and complete all the works on time.

He also reviewed the status of SBM machinery procured under 14th FC saving like bailing machines, shedders, garbage Hoppers and other machinery.

While reviewing the status of PMAY (SECC) 2016-17 and Non-SECC 2021 onwards, ACD informed that 279 targets were fixed under PMAY (SECC) 2016-17 and 100 percent target was

achieved. Similarly, under PMAY Non-SECC 2021 onwards 5390 Households were identified out of which 2858 are found eligible.

Regarding Amrit Sarovar 2022-23, the ACD informed that 83 works were proposed under MGNREGA and other departments and all works stand completed. Besides, under UT CAPEX 8 works are proposed at the cost of Rs 8.19 lakh out of which 2 are completed.

Similarly, under Amrit Sarovar 2023-24, 94 works are proposed and 18 are completed and under UT CAPEX 6 beautification works are proposed at the cost of Rs 51 lakh and 1 work stand completed.

Interacting with the officers, the DC stressed to work in coordination and synergy to ensure smooth and speedy execution of works in all blocks.

Among others the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, ACR Ganderbal, Tehsildars, BDOs and other concerned.

ADDC convenes Concurrent Audit Team meeting at Bandipora

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 12: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Ali Afsar Khan Tuesday convened a meeting of Concurrent Audit Team regarding the ongoing and recently completed languishing projects within the district.

The meeting reviewed the progress of different projects under execution. The ADDC stressed on the timely execution and efficient resource allocation regarding the projects.

The ADDC directed the concerned to identify bottlenecks that act as hindrances in the execution of the developmental works. He stressed for the timely resolution of the issues so that people can avail benefits of these projects.

The meeting was attended by Accounts Officer to DC Office Bandipora, Assistant Executive Engineer from Jal Shakti Department Bandipora, R&B Department Bandipora and R&B Department Sumbal besides others.

Chairperson DDC Kulgam expresses grief over deaths of Kulgam residents, others in road accident at Banihal

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 12: The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, M Afzal Parray expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Redwani, Kulgam over the death of their beloved in Banihal Road accident, in which four persons lost their

Two out of four deceased in the mishap belonged to Redwani village of Kulgam District.

The Chairperson along with the entire DDC Kulgam prayed for peace to the departed souls.

In his condolence message, the DDC expressed sympathies with the bereaved family. The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, M Afzal Parray expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Redwani, Kulgam over the death of their beloved in Banihal Road accident, in which four persons lost their lives.Two out of four deceased in the mishap belonged to Redwani village of Kulgam District.

The Chairperson along with the entire DDC Kulgam prayed for peace to the departed souls.

Public Outreach: DC Shopian visits Imam Sahib tehsil

HT News Network



SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today visited Imam Sahib tehsil of the district to take spot assessment of the issues concerning public, besides taking stock of ongoing developmental works in the area.

The DC interacted with the locals of the area and enquired about the status of various developmental and welfare

DDC Members, Ajaz Ahmed Mir and Jan Mohammad also met DC and interacted on various public interest

The DC, while reviewing the status of road infrastructure in Imam Sahib, resolved a dispute on spot which was impeding the road construction work.

Several other concerns flagged-off by people and public representatives were addressed by the DC on the spot while some were referred to concerned executing agencies and authorities for redressal. Directions were issued to officers of R&B and Revenue for redressal of public issues at the earliest to ease the life of the general masses.

Tehsildar, Imam Sahib, AEE, R&B and other concerned were present on the occasion.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that my name is wrongly mentioned as Bilal Ahma Sheikh on passport instead of Bilal Ahmad and par-entage wrongly spelled as Bashir Ahmad Sheikh instead of Bashir Ah Sheikh. I have now applied for name change from Bilal Ah-mad Sheikh to Bilal Ahmad and my par entage as Bashir Ahmad Sheikh to Bashir Ah Sheikh. Any- one having any objection in this regard should contact the con-cerned authorites within 7 seven days following which no objection shall be entertained.

Name Bilal Ahmad S/o Bashir Ah Sheikh R/o Maloora Shaltang, Srinagar Cell No 7889303071

Education Deptt Kulgam Organises Community Mobilization Programme

Sensitization of SMCs, VECs & PRIs priority of programme

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 12: A community mobilization cum sensitization programme for School Management Committees (SMCs), Village Education Committees (VECs) and PRI members was today organised by the Zonal Education Office Kulgam under the aegis of SAMAGRA Shiksha at DIET Kulgam.Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parray; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiudin



Bhat; ADDC Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather along with many officers of

the Education Department graced the

VEC members, SMCs, PRIs, senior citizens, teachers, students, retired Govt. Employees, youth and many Govt employees from other departments were participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman DDC said that the programme aims to improve, streamline and strengthen the Education sector. He applauded the teachers and showered praise on them for their exemplary

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION OMPORA BUDGAM. Fresh e-NIT.No. 35OF 09/2023

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible

	contractors Registered with Union Territory of J&K Govt.						
S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work amount in lacs	Earnest Money @ 2%	Time of completi on	Class of contract	Cost of tende r docu ment	Head of account
1.	Upgradation/Improvementsand supply of various furnishing items to IB hut Yousmarg(Fresh to e-NIT 25 of 08/20223 for Sl.No 3)	8.00	16000/=	15 days	CEE/ DEE	800/=	4701-UT Capex
2	Improvements. to Surasyar canal (RD 700m to 1900m), Shumnag canal (RD 900m), Namken Dara Minor of Ranger canal and Chattergam canal (RD 4190m) by way of const. of cement concrete covered channel, cement concrete channel, lining wall and installation of control gates on Shumnag canal. Advertised Cost of work Rs. 18.00 lacs. (Fresh of e-nit no.34 of 08-2023. Sl,No 02).	18.00	36000/-	30 days	BEE/CEE	1800	4702- UTCapex
3.	Construction of lined channel on BahwatKhul Minor of Syed Ali Allaikhul at RD 211m in village Pakherpora. Fresh of e-NIT No. 34 of 08-2023)	1.95	3900/-	05-days	DEE	200	4701-UT Capex
4.	Upgradation/Improvements of Sub Divisional Office Chadoora/Budgam.(Fresh of e-nit 32 of 08/2023 sl.No.5)	5.00	10000/-	10 days	DEE	500	4701-UT Capex

No of works Advertised:-04(Four)

Position of Funds (Budgetary provision) Position of Technical SanctionAccorded

Position of Administrative Approval accorded

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, Bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and

1	Publishing date	42.00.2022/4.DMS
1		12-09-2023(4 PM)
2	Download date start	12-09-2023 (4PM)
3	Bid submission date starts	
		12-09-2023 (4 PM)
4	Bid submission date ends	18-09-2023 upto (4 PM)
5	Bid Opening date	19-09-2023at (11 AM)

other details can be seen /downloaded from departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

General terms and conditions:

l.The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website jktenders.gov.in from12-09-2023to18-09-2023 up to 16.00 hrs. The Bids will be opened on 19-09-2023 at 11: 00 AM. Online documents can be seen and downloaded from the website i)The complete bidding process will be online.

ii)Technical bids of bidder shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division OmporaBudgam.

2.Bid document contains qualifying criteria for bidder, specification, conditions and other details.
3.Any item /items not included in the rate list but found necessary during the execution of work shall be paid as per the rates of J&K

 $4. Any\ omission\ / Typographic\ error\ shall\ be\ read\ as\ per\ the\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ to\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ to\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ to\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ to\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ to\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ to\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ to\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ to\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ to\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ to\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ to\ J\&K\ SSR\ 2022, and\ as\ per\ the\ corrigendum\ /\ errata\ issued\ the\ per\ the\$ 5.The rates should be strictly quoted as per the unit advertised in the rate list.

6. The contractors shall inspect & examine the site, and shall satisfy himself about the location of the site, its approaches and nature of the ground and sub soil before uploading the bids/submission of tender. 7. If the contractor fails to complete the work within the stipulated time period, the penalty of RS.0.01% of the allotted cost of work shall

be imposed upon the Contractor recurring on daily basis. In addition to penalty prescribed in agreement form 25/26 double. 8.During the execution of work, department reserves the right to vary the quantity provided in the contract. D. Tender drawings furnished with the tender document shall not be deemed as working drawings. These may vary from the actual

working drawing. 10. The contractors shall carry out the various mandatory tests as per specification (e.g. the crushing strength of concrete i.e. cube tests,

gradation test for aggregate, slump test etc) as directed by Engineer In-charge, all testing charges/expenses etc shall be borne by the contractor.

11.The concrete mix shall be designed as per revised BIS (IS: 10262 of 2009) and concreting shall be strictly done as per the mix design

1. Earnest Money shall be refunded/released to the successful bidder (L1) on receipt of 5% performance security. The Earnest Money of other participants shall be released on receipt of Treasury Challan/Treasury receipt.

Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in Single cover: The intending tenderers must ensure to upload the following necessary documents/certificates with the online tender otherwise on line tender will not be accepted / opened.

) copy of valid registration \hat{c} and, \hat{PAN} , & latest GST return and Declaration Certificate with seal and signature with the bid. i)The cost of tender document fee should be depsited in treasures under MH-0702 in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Omporaand the necessary treasury Challan must be uploaded online. (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan/receipt). iii)The tenderer whose tender is declared 1st lowest after opening of the price bid, the hard copy, of all uploaded online shall have to be produced in original in the divisional office within seven days. In case of non-submission of the hard copy of requisite documents as mentioned, in the NIT the tender shall be rejected and the offered rates of the 2nd lowest tenderer shall be considered at the risk and cost

2.a) The tenderer should quote his rate in such a way that the total amount of work amounts without any fractional amount. o) Other terms and conditions shall be same as laid down in detailed tender document of the work and form of contrac

DIPK-8680/23 Date: Sep 12 2023

Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK ZALDAGAR

Telefax No. 0194-2952696, e.mail ld: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com(Tech,MID,Sgr) Sub: - Extension in bidding time for this office e- NIT No. 23 of 2023-24, dated: 06.09.2023 for below mentioned work: -

"Renovation and minor repairs of Divisional Stores at Gogjibagh". Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: 2023_IFC_228924_1

Due to **poor response** to this office above referred e-NIT for the subject work,

the critical dates are extended as under: -									
Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	19/09/2023 at 1400 hrs								

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

DIPK-8695/23

Date and time of Bid opening

No. MIDS/Ts/1404-1409 Dated: - 12-09-2023

Sd/-**Executive Engineer**, **Mechanical Irrigation Division** Srinagar

20/09/2023 at 1230 hrs







DC reviews Aadhaar enrollment status in Rajouri District

HT News Network

13TH HEADLINES

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, chaired a meeting today to evaluate the progress of Aadhaar enrollment initiatives throughout the district. The meeting emphasized the crucial need for efficient execution and widespread participation in the Aadhaar enrollment process. Vikas Kundal reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the District administration to ensure equitable access to various government

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer (DSEO) Rajouri, Sandeep Kumar Sharma, and P.O. ICDS, Showket Malik. Addition-

ally, ADC Nowshera, ADC Sunderbani, ADC Kalakote, ADC Koteranka, and SDM Thannamandi participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

At the outset of the meeting, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer Rajouri reported that 100% of the eligible adult population in District Rajouri has been covered under Aadhaar. However, the coverage for children aged 0-5 years is approximately 65%.

DC Rajouri Vikas Kundal empha $sized \, the \, need \, for \, coordinated \, efforts \,$ to fully implement the Aadhaar-linked birthregistration(ALBR)System at all delivery points in the district. This ensures that Aadhaar numbers are automatically included on birth certificates issued through the CRS por-

a fresh survey to identify the remain- a week and submit a final report by



The PO ICDS was directed to conduct ing 0-5 years age population within

September 20th. In this regard, Additional Deputy Commissioners Rajouri,

Sunderbani, Nowshera, Kalakote, Koteranka&SDMThannamandiwere instructed to hold regular meetings with CDPOs & ZEOs to identify the left-over 0-5 years age population and enroll them through operators of ICDS, SSA & CSCs . The process should be completed as swiftly as possible.

The DC Rajouri stressed the importance of daily reporting formats and instructed all ADCs/SDM Thannamandi to provide status updates on a daily basis.

 $Recognizing the {\it crucial role} \, of accu$ racy, efficiency, and comprehensive coverage in the enrollment process, Vikas Kundal issued directives for vigilant supervision and continuous monitoring by all relevant officers. This hands-on approach ensures that citizens receive accurate Aadhaar documentation, enabling them to seamlessly access benefits offered through various government initia-

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reiterated the unwavering dedication of the district administration to achieving universal Aadhaar enrollment. The meeting served as a platform for reviewing past achievements and strategizing for future phases of implementation

During the meeting, officers engaged in discussions regarding potential challenges in the Aadhaar enrollment process. They highlighted the previous organization of special camps across the district, targeting both government and private schools. The officers pledged to continue organizing camps to ensure comprehensive coverage for any remaining ben-

Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu reviews performance of **Department in Districts**

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: Dr Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Director Sheep Husbandry, Jammu today reviewed the performance of the department in the districts here at a meeting held in the Directorate office.

The meeting was attended by District Sheep Husbandry Officers and Farm Officers wherein threadbare discussion was held regarding implementation of different schemes of the department during the year 2023-24.

The Director exhorted the field as well as farm officers to achieve the assigned targets under the schemes like HADP, ISDS, TSP etc within the prescribed time.

Discussion was also held on various issues being faced by the farm as well as field officers in the implementation of the schemes of the department so that these issues are resolved at an earliest for achieving the desired

The Director Sheep stressed upon all the Officers to work with zeal and dedication for the benefit of the

Fortnightly activities under **Gandhi Jayanti commence** at GCW Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: The fortnightly activities under Gandhi Jayanti celebrations commenced today at Government College for Women (GCW) Udham-

On the Day one, NSS unit, in collaboration with the Department of Music under the guidance of Prof. Anjali Mahajan, Principal of the college organised Nukkad Natak on the themes Nasha Mukt Bharat and Bhrashtachar

The objective of organizing this Nukkad Natak was to spread awareness among the students about hazards of drug abuse, misuse, drug addiction, corruption etc. The Natak also aimed at encouraging the students to contribute their bit in the eradication of the menace of drug addiction and corruption from our society.

About 60 students witnessed the Nukkad Natak with great enthusiasm. Volunteers who presented the Nukkad Natak on the said theme received a lot of applause

The Nukkad Nattak was organised by, Sumita Rao, NSS PO, and Yash Kumar, Department of Music while the technical assistance was provided by Dr. Kewal Kumar, Department of Botany.

The others among teaching faculty Ms. Tania Akhter, Tania Mahajan, Yash Paul and Sanjeev Upadhayay were present during the Nukkad Natak.

Group of 100 men & women farmers flagged off for one day Interstate **Exposure Visit by DC Kathua**

HT News Network

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas today flagged off a batch of 100 famers for One day Interstate Exposure visit to Regional Research Station, Gurdaspur, Punjab under "Promotion of Oil Seeds" programme being implemented by Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare department.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Sanjeev Rai and other officers and officials of Agriculture Department were also present.

At the Flagging off ceremony, the DC Kathua said such exposure visit helps farmers to acquaint themselves with new farming techniques besides providing them an opportunity to

get in depth knowhow of latest agricultural practices. He said the idea of sending farmers to Punjab Agriculture University was to keep them abreast with the latest technological upgrading in the field of Agriculture. He urged farmers to take full benefit of such visits by adopting learned techniques in their respective areas. He appreciated the Department of Agriculture **Production and Farmers** Welfare Kathua for their handholding efforts by organizing such exposure visits.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Agriculture Officer said the agriculture department is making relentless efforts for raising farm productivity, reach out to the farming community by organizing different programs and events.

ADDC Poonch Inspects progress of Developmental Projects in Mandi

■ HT News Network

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Poonch, Sandesh Kumar Sharma, undertook a visit to Mandi today to inspect progress of ongoing developmental projects in the region.

During the tour, the ADDC meticulously examined the works carried out by the Rural Engineering Wing Poonch. He inspected the repair and renovation of Panchayat Ghar Azamabad taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 3.30 Lakh and the segregation shed at Bedar and Gagrian Chool under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) taken up at estimated costs of Rs 4.055 Lakh and allotted



The pace of work on a retaining wall near Barari Part 1 and Part 2 in Panchayat Gagrian Chool were also inspected. The twin works have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 3.30 Lakh and Rs 3.00 Lakh, and allotted cost of Rs 2.80 Lakh and Rs 3.00 Lakh, respectively. The segregation shed at Gali in Pan-

chayat Gagrian B, with an estimated cost of Rs 4.055 Lacs and an allotted cost of Rs 3.54 Lacs, was also inspected.Apart from these works, the ADDC also inspected a range of other projects, including the Indoor Sports Stadium in Mandi, the Azamabad to Saroi Road, the Government Degree College campus site at Mandi and the JJM Scheme in Azamabad.

Discussions were held with the local community of Mandi regarding issues of public importance. The Officer also inspected Government Middle School at Karran, Government High School at Bedar, the Bedar-Phawari Road, the Khet to Paralkote Road, the Tourist Hut at Gagardian, and the languishing project of STD at Sawjian were also assessed during the inspection. After the inspection of the ongoing developmental works, the Additional District Development Commissioner, Sandesh Kumar Sharma directed the concerned executive engineers and officers to work with utmost dedication and exert full efforts to ensure that the projects are completed within the designated time frame.

District Election Authority hosts Training for Nodal Officers at Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 12: In anticipation of the forthcoming Municipal Elections, the District Election Authority Kishtwar, under the guidance and supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav who is also the District Election Officer (DEO), organized a one-day comprehensive training program for Nodal Officers here today in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

This intensive training program encompassed a diverse range of critical topics, including security protocols, Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) preparation, strict adherence to the Model code of conduct, execution of SVEEP (Systematic Voters' **Education and Electoral Participation**) initiatives, rigorous expenditure monitoring, effective media communication strategies, adept material management, seamless manpower coordination, SMS monitoring, computerization/randomization procedures, and meticulous transpor-



tation planning. During the training programme, emphasis was laid on the pivotal role of Nodal Officers in harmonious collaboration and efficient coordination to uphold the values of a free, fair, and transparent Urban Local Bodies election.

State Level Master Trainer (SLMT) Riaz Ahmed Butt provided a comprehensive overview of the roles and responsibilities assigned to each designated Nodal Officer.

Speaking on the occasion, ACR Kishtwar Varunjeet Singh Charak encouraged all attendees to actively engage in the training programs and adhere rigorously to the guidelines established by the Election Commission of India (ECI), in order to facilitate a seamless election process.

JD Employment Jammu inaugurates Three-Month Skill **Development Training Program in Udhampur**

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEM-BER 12: Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik, Joint Director of Employment Jammu Division, inaugurated a threemonth Skill Development Training Program (Associate Electrician) in collaboration with the Government Industrial Training Institute in Udhampur, today.

In his address to the attendees, Dr. Malik emphasized the critical importance of Skill Development Courses, highlighting how they empower unemployed youth by enhancing their skills. He also stressed that the private sector offers lucrative career opportunities beyond government employment.Priyanka Gupta, Assistant Director



encouraged young participants to wholeheartedly commit to the program, recognizing its potential to significantly improve their job prospects in the current market. The "Associate Electrician" training program aims to provide participants with the essential skills and knowledge required in the rapidly growing Electrical Sector. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Privanka Gupta, Assistant Director of Employment, who expressed gratitude to all attendees, trainers, and especially Engineer Ravinder Singh Bhatti, Superintendent of ITI Udhampur, for their unwavering support in bringing this Skill Development initiative to fruition. Additionally, as part of the "MUM-KIN" Scheme, two vehicles were handed over to unemployed youth in Udhampur District to support.

Vice Chairperson DDC Udhampur hails contribution of women scientists in Chandrayaan-3 Mission

Exhorts people to make Meri Maati Mera Desh a public movement

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEM-BER 12: Vice Chairperson, District Development Council Udhampur, Juhi Manhas Pathania, called upon people to make the Meri Maati Mera Desh programme a public movement. We need to participate in it religiously, she

She visited different hamlets and paid homage to brave martyrs at 'Falaks' (plaques)installed in all Pan-

chayats. She also visited Amrit Sarovars in her constituency, under the 'Meri Matti Mera Desh' programme and collected a pinch of soil and rice granules from households, which will be taken to Kartavya Path in New Delhi for planting an Amrit Vatika.

Speaking on the occasion, she paid tributes to revolutionaries, martyrs and soldiers guarding the borders. She appealed to the people to join 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' Programme so



that each house in every village of the country would associate with 'Panch Pran'. She said the Azadi Ka

Amrit Mahotsav campaign by the PM has showcased the vision of New India. She also administered the

oath of 'Panch Pran' to the people who pledged to make India a self reliant and developed nation by 2047.

Ms Pathania also took this programme as a viable opportunity to interact with women and aged who often find it challenging to attend public darbars and put forth their issues. She emphasized the importance of women's empowerment and encouraged them to come forward and participate in decisionmaking processes. She was appreciative of women scientists in the success story of Chandrayaan-3, monumental achievement of our scientists. This is not just a victory for our space agency, but it is a bright symbol of India's progress and ascent on the global stage.

The analytical prowess, combined with a fervent commitment to inquiry and exploration, of women scientists has constantly propelled the nation into the forefront of global scientific achievements.

Two-week students induction programme begins at GCET **Jammu**

HT News Network

IAMMU. SEPTEMBER 12: Two- week students induction programme for first year B.E students batch-2023 began today at Government College of Engineering & Technology (GCET) Jammu.

The program was organized under the patronage of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sameru Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that the focus of the induction program will be to assist new students to adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment. It will also aid them to boost their confidence, creativity, inventiveness, motivation to work for excellence, regulate time management, development of interpersonal relationships and leadership skills. She encouraged the students to fully participate in this programme, highlighting its significance in instilling the ethos and culture of the institution, building bonds with other students & faculty members and exposing them to a sense of larger purpose. EDITORIAL

HEADLINES

Crumbling Road Network Across Kashmir: Weather Plays a Spoilsport

The enchanting beauty of Kashmir has always captivated the world, but beneathits serene exterior lies a pressing issue that continues to plague its residents, the deplorable state of the region's roads. What exacerbates this problem is the excruciatingly protracted construction periods, which have become a persistent source of frustration for Kashmir's netizens.

The plight of Kashmiri residents navigating their daily commutes is a story of resilience in the face of adversity.

Potholes, crumbling asphalt, and inadequate drainage have turned the simple act of traveling into a perilous venture. Harsh winters only intensify these problems, transforming roads into ice-covered hazards.

The heart of the issue lies in the snail's pace at which road construction projects progress in the region. Bureaucratic hurdles, environmental clearances, and funding shortages have become routine excuses for delay. These prolonged construction periods not only inconvenience residents but also stifle economic growth, as businesses struggle to transport goods and services.

It is high time for authorities to prioritize the rehabilitation and expansion of Kashmir's road network. Adequate funding, streamlined approval processes, and a dedicated workforce are imperative. The people of Kashmir deserve safe and efficient infrastructure to enhance their quality of life and unlock the region's economic potential.

In conclusion, Kashmir's crumbling roads are more than a mere inconvenience; they are a significant hindrance to progress. Urgent action, transparency, and accountability in road construction projects are essential to improving the lives of netizens in the valley and fostering economic growth.

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India's Tech Revolution:

From Silicon Valley of Outsourcing to **Global Innovation Powerhouse**

A Comprehensive Analysis of India's IT Sector: From Outsourcing Powerhouse to Global Tech Hub

■ Irfan Attari Kashmiri

The Future of IT industry in India looks bright, with many opportunities for IT professionals to develop their skills and advance their careers. India has a large and growing pool of highly skilled IT professionals, and the country's IT industry is a major contributor to the Indian economy.

India's IT Landscape: A Bird's Eye

India's journey in the Information Technology (IT) sector is nothing shortof remarkable. From its humble beginnings as a destination for IT outsourcing in the 1990s to its current status as a hub for innovation and tech startups, the Indian IT industry has come a long way.

The Growth Engine of the Indian

The Indian IT industry has been a significant contributor to the nation's economic growth. India's services exports have seen substantial growth over the past two decades, reaching a remarkable US\$254.5 billion in 2021- $22. A substantial \, portion \, of \, this \, export$ revenue is derived from the Information Technology (IT) Services and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) services, accounting for US\$157 billion in 2021-22. This growth has been driven by a combination of Indian-headquartered companies and global IT giants who have set up operations in India.

Global Collaboration: A Catalyst for Growth

The growth of India's IT sector can be attributed in part to international collaboration. India's emergence as a major player in the global IT outsourcing industry in the 1990s was facilitated by the establishment of technical education institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the 1950s and 60s. These institutions played a pivotal role in nurturing a skilled workforce, equipped to meet the demands of the emerging IT indus-

With a vast supply of highly skilled labor, competitive costs, and English proficiency, India became an attractive destination for multinational companies seeking to outsource their IT services. This, in turn, led to the growth of a vibrant startup ecosystem, where entrepreneurs leveraged the opportunities created by the IT industry to launch their own ventures.

India's Rise in SaaS and Tech

By the 2010s, India had evolved from being just an outsourcing hub to producing its own innovative products and services. Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) platforms, developed in India, started competing on a global scale as low-cost alternatives to tech companies elsewhere in the world. The success stories of Indian startups, known as unicorns, have grabbed global attention, positioning India as a hub for tech

Harnessing Bilateral Relations for **Tech Revolution**

India's excellent bilateral relations with global tech leaders like the United States and Japan have played a significant role in the country's technology revolution. These collaborations have led to knowledge exchange, investment, and the establishment of research and development centers in India. Such partnerships not only bolster India's tech ecosystem but also contribute to global technological advancements.

The Role of Government: A Driving

The United States is often cited as a country of boundless opportunities, but it's essential to acknowledge the significant role played by the government in its technological advancements. Public sector funding has been instrumental in developing algorithms that underpin tech giants like Google and laying the foundation for biotechnology through the discovery of molec-

ular antibodies. Government agencies in the United



States have been proactive in supporting research in uncertain and risky domains, where the private sector might be hesitant to invest. This support has been crucial in advancing technology and science, leading to groundbreaking innovations.

establishment of Business Process Outsourcing(BPO) and ITES operations in small cities and towns by providing financial support of up to Rs.1 lakh per seat, covering capital and operational expenditures. These initiatives have jump-started economic growth in previously underserved areas and have

India's history of international collaboration and strong bilateral relations with global tech leaders can serve as valuable assets in its journey towards becoming a global technology powerhouse. As

we navigate the complexities of the modern tech landscape, it is essential to remain adaptable, innovative, and committed to fostering an environment where Indian talent can shine on the global stage. The path ahead is challenging, but with the right strategies and collective determination, India can continue its transformation into a global technology leader, contributing not only to its own prosperity but also to global technological advancements.

Government Initiatives: Fueling the IT Sector

In India, government initiatives have also played a pivotal role in fueling the growth of the IT sector. Programs like "Digital India" serve as an umbrella for various projects undertaken by Central Ministries, Departments, and States/ $Union Territories. These initiatives \\ aim$ to promote digitalization, provide better services to citizens, and foster technological advancements.

One notable initiative is the India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and the North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) under the Digital India program. These schemes incentivize the

created employment opportunities for

As of now, 246 BPO/ITES units have commenced operations in 27 States/ UTs under IBPS and NEBPS, providing direct employment to over 51,584 individuals. This demonstrates the tangible impact of government-led initiatives in fostering economic growth and development.

The Path Ahead: Challenges and **Opportunities**

While India's IT sector has achieved remarkable success, it is not without its challenges. The sector faces intense

global competition, particularly from emerging IT hubs like China and the Philippines. The cost advantage that once made India attractive for outsourcing has eroded, necessitating a shift towards higher value-added services and innovation.

The sector also faces issues related to infrastructure, regulatory hurdles, and bureaucratic processes that can hinder its growth. Bridging the urbanrural digital divide remains a significant challenge, and the quality of education and research still needs to reach international standards.

Investing in the Future

As India enters the next decade of technological transformation, it is crucial to prioritize robust investments in research and development (R&D) and innovation. This investment should extend to skill-based education and capacity-building to ensure a steady supply of highly skilled IT profession-

Moreover, collaboration between the government, private sector, and academia will be essential in addressing these challenges and harnessing the full potential of India's IT sector. Initiatives like "Make in India" and "Startup India" can further promote entrepreneurship and innovation.

Conclusion: Towards a Global Technology Hub

India's IT sector has made remarkable strides, evolving from an outsourcing destination to a global technology hub. The industry's contribution to India's economy is undeniable, and its potential for further growth and innovation is immense.

However, realizing this potential requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders. India must address challenges such as global competition, infrastructure deficiencies, and regulatory bottlenecks. Investing in education, research, and innovation will be critical in maintaining its competitive edge.

India's history of international collaboration and strong bilateral relations with global tech leaders can serve as valuable assets in its journey towards becoming a global technology powerhouse. As we navigate the complexities of the modern tech landscape, it is essential to remain adaptable, innovative, and committed to fostering an environment where Indian talent can shine on the global stage.

The path ahead is challenging, but with the right strategies and collective determination, India can continue its transformation into a global technology leader, contributing not only to its own prosperity but also to global technological advancements.

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G20 AND INDIA'S ROLE IN GLOBAL CLIMATE AGENDA

Amrita Singh

HEADLINES

India is at the sweet cusp of concluding the BRICS Summit 2023 and starting the G20 meet under its Presidency in New Delhi in September 2023. This is a golden opportunity for India to reinforce its commitment to a just energy transition while shaping international collaborations towards a sustainable future. The XV BRICS Summit Johannesburg II Declaration dated 23 August 2023 has already made a positive attempt in addressing issues of climate change. The Declaration has agreed to address "challenges posed by climate change while also ensuring a just, affordable and sustainable transition to a low carbon and low emission economy in line with the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), in light of different national circumstances.'

The BRICS Summit also declared that the member nations share a com-mon view, taking into consideration national priorities and circumstances, on the efficient use of all energy sources, which are crucial for a just transition towards more flexible, resilient and sustainable energy systems. Since India is an integral party to this declaration, it lays down a clear road map for India to harness the 'just transition' commitment in the upcom- ing G20 Presidency meet in

The G20 meet under India's presidency assumes greater importance as she positions herself as a frontrunner in the global climate agenda. Living up to its commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), at the Glasgow Summit, India has set an ambitious target of achieving net-zero emissions by the year 2070 and meeting 50 per cent of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2030. This goal is not only essential for combating climate change but also for addressing the three conflicting challenges of energy security, energy equity and environmental sustainability i.e.

 $The \, Energy Trilemma. The \, commitments$ align seamlessly with the principles of a just transition, which emphasizes the need to balance economic development with environmental stewardship and social equity. Therefore, in India's energy transition journey, a vital facet that cannot be overlooked is the intersection of justice with these transformative efforts.

India's presidency at the G20 Summit



in 2023 comes at a critical time, offering a platform to show case that its commitments are action oriented and it can smoothly lead a mission for sustainable and equitable transition as it efficiently discharged its presidency commitments under G20. India can also leverage this opportunity by presenting its successful models, best practices of achieving net zero emissions and progress in expanding renewable energy capacity. This could be more challenging than it sounds but even if India can present reasonable initiatives made in this direction, it can serve two purposes. First, it could be a moral win

over G20 member states and second, it may offer India a head start on the negotiation table to bet for technology share, capacity building, and sustainable investments in renewable energy projects.

This can be in line with India's voluntary action plan for doubling the pace of energy efficiency by the year 2030 which it also proposed in the 4th and last Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting, held under its G20 presidency in Goa in July 2023. The working group also acknowledged and took note of India's proposal for establishing Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre and the Global Biofuel Alliance in

India's energy landscape has undergone a paradigm shift over the past decade, marked by a growing commitment to reduce its carbon footprint and increase the share of renewable energy in its power mix. However, the transition to cleaner energy sources presents both opportunities and challenges in terms of social and environmental justice and India has the chance to create a legacy that transcends borders and ushers in a brighter and more inclusive world.

In conclusion, India's G20 presidency has the potential to be a game-changer

in steering the nation towards a just energy transition. The convergence of India's pledge to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, its commitment to renewable energy, and its leadership role in the G20 presents an unprecedented opportunity for India to lead by example for other develop-ing countries' transition to clean energy. The G20 presidency signifies not just a responsibility, but an opportunity for India to shape a more sustain- able and equitable future for all.

> The writer is Consultant, NITI Aayog, Government of India

Prigozhin's life and death exposed the rot in the Russian state

The political system in Russia, compromised by Putin, led to the Wagner Group's mutiny and will continue to pose a risk to his grip on power.

■ Gulnaz Sharafutdinova

On June 23, the power vertical President Vladimir Putin had carefully constructed over more than two decades shook violently. Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of the Wagner mercenary group, closely tied to the Russian president, staged a mutiny, exposing the deep fractures in the Russian elite.

The confrontation ostentatiously ended in a deal that saw the Wagner Group's forces move to Belarus while Prigozhin was allowed to travel back to Russia, access his assets and property, and continue his involvement in Africa. But it appears now, this was a short-lived truce.

On August 23, a private jet carrying Prigozhin and his right-hand man in Wagner, Dmitry Utkin, crashed in the Tver region near Moscow. A few days later, the Russian authorities confirmed their deaths after DNA tests were carried out.

Various interpretations and conspiracy theories have emerged in the aftermath of the crash, but the most parsimonious explanation is that Prigozhin was assassinated in a delayed response to his insurrection.

Whether it was a planned act of revenge by the Kremlin to "save face" and "reassert control" or a more selfish move orchestrated by actors who wanted to take over Wagner's lucrative operations in Africa and

elsewhere is not clear. But what is apparent is that Prigozhin's life and death revealed the nature of the Russian state.

Under Putin, the political system in Russia has been further infiltrated by patronage networks that have increasingly undermined state institutions and taken over their functions. It is on the basis of this informal power system, which rewards people favoured by the Kremlin, that Prigozhin accumulated his vast wealth and managed to create a business empire spanning catering companies, media organisations (including a much-publicised troll farm), and Wagner, his private military company (PMC).

His role in Russian domestic and foreign operations was denied until the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The demands and pressures of the war created an opening for informal actors like him to come to the fore and publicly pursue their ambitions.

In 2022, Prigozhin finally admitted to establishing Wagner and opened its formal headquarters in a glitzy building in St Petersburg. He started speaking up regularly on social media, bragged about interfering in the 2016 US elections and even signalled he might be preparing to lead a conservative movement and perhaps establish a new party - presumably to fill the big void left behind by the death of Vladimir Zhirinovsky, head of the populist, right-wing Liberal



Democratic Party of Russia.

Meanwhile, the humiliating defeats the Russian army suffered in Ukraine gave more space for the Wagner Group and other irregular forces, such as the troops loyal to Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, to gain ground on the battlefield. The battle for the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, led by Wagner mercenaries, allowed the group to present itself as the only military force that could deliver military victories.

The effectiveness of his PMC enabled Prigozhin to gain even more influence in the war and challenge the very institution responsible for waging it: the Ministry of Defence. This confrontation was made very

public by Prigozhin's regular video addresses, in which he castigated the Russian military leaders, including Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu and Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov.

The defence ministry responded by trying to bring Wagner under its control, which ultimately led to the mutiny launched in June.

Prigozhin's death put an end to this specific incident of intra-elite conflict that developed over the previous year and is undoubtedly being celebrated at the defence ministry. However, it will not resolve the broader problems of the Russian state and its institutions – generated by the informal patronage networks - which the war is only exacerbating.

Prigozhin's death removed one influential actor who spoke "truth to power". While publicising the uncomfortable truths about how the war was progressing undermined the military and the state authorities that were criticised for corruption and ineffectiveness, it also revealed problems that Putin (and the pubic) may not have been made aware of otherwise.

Furthermore, Prigozhin's verbal escapades also served as a "pressure valve", giving voice to war hardliners' frustrations with the Russian military and the perceived incompetence of the officials in charge.

Now with the arrest of Igor Girkin, a former intelligence officer turned influential war hawk, and the removal of General Sergey Surovikin, who was dismissed for his critical stance within the army leadership, the Kremlin has clearly demonstrated that it has little tolerance for influential critics and it wishes to control the war narrative.

But the complete silencing of war hardliners and Prigozhin sympathisers might not be possible, and signs of simmering tensions are likely to reemerge. One group to watch are the growing number of volunteers who are helping the war efforts by raising funds and sending supplies to Russian soldiers at the front. These groups engaged in the war effort at home might channel growing dissent in a society that until now has tried to

disengage from the realities of war. Prigozhin leaves behind a vast business empire, which will be broken down and likely taken over by state and private actors. But those who inherit his ventures are unlikely to have his skill or inspirational leadership to manage his operations, especially in Africa. Whatever developments are to take place in this realm will likely remain out of the public eye, just as they used to be before Prigozhin ventured out into the open.

For now, Putin appears to have maintained his grip on power. The mutiny is sure to make him more wary of future "black swan" events triggered by the war in Ukraine. But in the long run, the precariousness of Russia's political system, reflected in – among other things – Prigozhin's challenge to power, will persist.

Gulnaz Sharafutdinova is **Professor of Russian Politics and Director of Russia Institute at** King's College London. She is an author of the award-winning The Red Mirror: Putin's Leadership and Russia's **Insecure Identity (Oxford** University Press, 2020), an earlier book, Political **Consequences of Crony** Capitalism Inside Russia (Notre Dame University Press, 2010), and numerous articles. Source: Al Jazeera

Validity of sedition law: SC refers pleas to 5-judge larger Constitution bench

HT News Network

19TH LADLINES

CODAY

New Delhi, Sep 12 (UNI) Supreme Court, in its order on Tuesday, referred to at least a five-judge Constitution bench in the batch of petitions challenging the sedition law 124-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court, led by CJI Dr Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, referred the batch of pleas to at least a five-judge larger bench for a detailed hearing and to effectively deal with the constitutional validity of 124-A of the sedition law.

The Apex Court also took into record the submissions and arguments by the AG and SG that, at this stage, it was appropriate to defer reference to the five-judge bench having regard to the fact that parliament is in the process of reenacting the law. The court, however, in its order, said that we are not inclined to defer the consideration.

The Atrorney General (AG) of India, R Venkatara-



Sibal, while narrating

Section 124-A, said, "disaf-

fection towards the govern-

ment". As far as 19(1)(a)

[Right to freedom of speech

and expression], is con-

cerned, it refers to "state",

wrong is disaffection

towards the government is

not disaffection towards

the state; the state is not

the government, and the

government is not the

We have to decide on this

law as it stands today. We

can't wait for the parlia-

ment to decide on this, Sibal

"What is fundamentally

not government.

state," Sibal said.

mani, the top law officer representing the Union of India, argued that the new law is there and has been sent to a parliamentary standing committee. "The parliamentary standing committee is looking into

it," Venkataramani said. Senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, for one of the petitioners, opposed it and told the Top Indian Court that the new law is much worse and the prosecutions will go on.

He said in 1973, this section 124-A was made a cognisable offence. Prior to that, it wasn't cognisable. Therefore, they started arresting people invoking

To this, the Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta argued that, at the highest level, it was being seriously considered. And it is done now. But the government stated that let all parties be referred to in this context; let us wait for the government. It is at the highest level of being reconsidered; it has now been reconsid-

In May last year, the court, in an interim order, suspended the use of Section 124-A, staying pending criminal trials and court proceedings under Section 124A across the country.

The Editors Guild of India (EGI), Major General (Retd) S.G. Vombatkere, former Union minister Arun Shourie, and the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), along with others, have filed a batch of petitions against the penal provision in the Supreme Court.

The petitions contended that the law causes a "chilling effect" on free speech and is an unreasonable restriction on free expression, a fundamental right.

Defence Minister inaugurates Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal

Itanagar, Sep 12 (UNI) Defence Minister Rainath Singh on Tuesday virtually inaugurated 36 infrastructure projects in Arunachal Pradesh, including the 500-meter-long Nechiphu Tunnel on Balipara-Charduar-Tawang Road in West Kameng district, from Samba district of Jammu & Kashmir.

These were among the 90 key infrastructure projects dedicated to the Nation by the Defence Minister. The projects spread across 11 States and Union Territories were developed by Border Roads Organization (BRO) at a cost of Rs 2,941 crore.

Of the 90 projects, 36 are in Arunachal Pradesh, 26 in Ladakh, 11 in Jammu & Kashmir, five in Mizoram, three in Himachal Pradesh, two each in Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, and one each in Nagaland, Rajasthan and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The strategic Nechiphu Tunnel connecting the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) Road will be a significant step towards strengthening border con-

nectivity by promoting safe all-weather travel and cutting down distance by 5

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, who witnessed the inauguration of the BRO projects from Sessa in West Kameng district, said that these projects will greatly enhance troop deployment, equipment movement, and strengthen our border regions.

The Nechiphu Tunnel, along with the under-construction Sela Tunnel, will provide all-weather connectivity to the strategic Tawang Region. It will be beneficial to the Armed Forces deployed in the region and the tourists visiting Tawang.

Rajnath Singh had laid the foundation stone of the Nechiphu tunnel in October 2020.

The BRO has completed the construction of these strategically-important projects in record time; most of them in a single working season using state-of-the-art technol-

In his address, the Defence Minister described the BRO as 'bro' (brother) of the Armed Forces, asserting that, through its infrastructure projects, BRO is not only securing India's borders, but also playing a key role in the socio-economic development of the far-flung areas.

He credited the timely completion of these projdedication of BRO Karmayogis as well as the firm commitment of the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Together with BRO, we are ensuring that the nation is secure and border areas are developed. Timely completion of infrastructure projects in far-flung areas has now become the new normal of New India,' Rajnath Singh said. The BRO has completed the construction of these strategically-important projects in record time; most of them in a single working season using state-of-the-art technology.In his address, the Defence Minister described the BRO as 'bro' (brother) of the Armed Forces, asserting that, through its infrastructure projects, BRO is not only securing India's borders, but also playing a key role in the socio-economic development of the far-flung areas.

He credited the timely completion of these projects to the hard work and dedication of BRO Karmayogis as well as the firm commitment of the Union Gov-

Former Minister D Srinivas hospitalised with respiratory problems

■ HT News Network

Hyderabad, Sep 12 (UNI) Former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President and former Minister Dharmapuri Srinivas (75) was admitted to the hospital on Monday due to respiratory issues.

He is currently receiving treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The hospitalisation was announced by his younger son, Dharmapuri Arvind, via social media.

Dharmapuri Srinivas has had a long and distinguished political career, having served as a minister in united Andhra Pradesh and as a member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) after the formation of the separate state of

The family and well-wishers of Srinivas are hopeful for his swift recovery and are closely monitoring his condition. Further updates on his health are awaited.

Telangana: 90 school students hospitalised due to food poisoning

■ HT News Network

Nizamabad (Telangana), Sep 12 (UNI) Approximately 90 students from Kasturba School in Bheemgal, located in this district, were hospitalised on Tuesday due to food poisoning.

According to the police, the students reported experiencing stomach pain and vomiting during the midnight hours of Monday, shortly after consuming their dinner.

The matter was brought to the attention of the incharge special officer, Sobha, who subsequently arranged for their immediate transfer to a government hospital in the area.

Roads and Buildings Minister Vemula Prasath swiftly responded to the situation by directing District Collector Rajeevgandhi Hanumanthu to conduct an on-site

investigation and gather information about the incident. Additionally, he engaged in a conversation with Prthaima Raj, the superintendent of Nizamabad Government Hospital, urging her to ensure that the affected students receive the best possible medical care.

103 Dengue cases reported in Himachal's **Sirmour district**

■ HT News Network

Shimla, Sep 12(UNI) As many as 103 Dengue cases were reported from Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh as water-borne disease have started spreading across the state with information pouring in of patients being hospitalised daily with Scrub Typhus disease, officials said on Tuesday. ADM Nahan LR Verma informed that so far 103 cases of dengue have been found in the Sirmaur district. He said that many cases of Dengue are coming from the Paonta area, as also from Nahan city.

A meeting of the District Task Force Committee for the prevention of dengue was held in Nahan on Monday under Verma's chairmanship. The Additional District Magistrate directed the Health Department to take necessary steps for the prevention of dengue. He said that children should be given information about dengue prevention in the morning prayer meetings in schools. Similarly, through Panchayat also.

Mamata leaves for Dubai on way to Spain to seek foreign investments for WB

HT News Network

Kolkata, Sep 12 (UNI) Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday left for Dubai on her way to Spain to seek possible investments from NRIs as well as foreign investors in trade, commerce, and businesses linking in West Bengal, the gateways of eastern and northeastern states of India, as well as three neighbouring nations Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Kolkata will host the 7th edition of the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) on November 21-22, 2023.

"After the Dubai halt, I will fly for Madrid and then to Barcelona on a train, where I will meet the investors to invite them for investment in West Bengal," Banerjee told the reporters this morning at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose international airport (DUM DUM) before boarding the flight for

She said five years ago she got an invitation from a Spanish delegation in Kolkata to visit their country.

The delegation from Spain came to take part in the Kolkata International Book Fair. She also said a business conference would be held in Dubai, where she would take



part in seeking investments from the United Arab Emirates and the West Asian

In a letter to Banerjee on Monday, Governor C V Ananda Bose wished her good luck on her trip to Spain.

West Bengal has been rapidly transforming itself into an economic powerhouse. With a combination of strategic geographical advantages, proactive government policies, skilled human resources, and a vibrant business environment, West Bengal has emerged as a key player in India's economic growth story.

It is among the country's leading exporters, with 12 percent of the country's leather and 10 percent of its iron and steel

UP: Bundelkhand to have Noida-like new industrial town

HT News Network

Lucknow, Sep 12 (UNI) The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday decided to set up a new industrial town in the state's Bundelkhand region on the lines of the successful model of New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (Noida).

A proposal in this regard was passed during the cabinet meeting which was chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and held at Lok Bhawan. The decision not only paves the way for the integration of Bundelkhand's districts into the broader development framework, but also promises to generate an abundance of employment opportunities through infrastructural enhancements.

It may be noted that the decision to establish the industrial city Noida in UP was taken in 1976 and now after 47 years the decision has been taken to set up a new city. Giving details of the proposal approved by the cabinet Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna said, "Under the Chief Minister Industrial Area Expansion and New Industrial Area Promotion Scheme, the proposal to develop a new industrial township on the lines of Noida



by the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA) in Jhansi has been

He said, "In the first phase of the project, an industrial city will be set up by acquiring 35,000 acres of land from 33 revenue villages in Jhansi. The price of this land is Rs 6,312 crore."Khanna said that for setting up of the BIDA a provision of 5,000 crores was made by the government in the financial year 2022-23 and a provision of 5,000 crores in the form of a loan has been made in the current fiscal under the CM Industrial Area Expansion and New Industrial Area Promotion Scheme. "Of the land that will be acquired, 8,000 acres belong to the village society," he said.

India-Mid East-Europe Corridor Shouldn't **Become Geopolitical Tool: China**

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: China said on Monday that it welcomes the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor announced on the sidelines of the G20 summit so long it doesn't become a "geopolitical tool", even as it downplayed Italy's plan to pull out of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

China welcomes all initiatives that truly help developing countries build infrastructure and sincere efforts to promote connectivity and common development, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

"At the same time, we advocate that various connectivity initiatives should be open, inclusive, and form synergy, and should not become geopolitical tools," the ministry said in a written response to news agency PTI to a question on China's reaction to the new corridor.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced plans to launch



the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor which includes India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany and the US.

"Today we all have reached an important and historic partnership. In the coming times, it will be a major medium of economic integration between India, West Asia and Europe," PM Modi said.

The corridor will give a new direction to connectivity and sustainable development of the entire world,

"This is a big deal. This is a real big deal," US President Joe Biden said while announcing the pact, aimed at promoting clean energy

and better communities. "As we work to address infrastructure gaps across low- and middle-income countries, we need to maximise the impacts of our investments," he said.

Analysts say the new corridor is the first global connectivity project to rival China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which drew criticism for its debt sustainability, especially from smaller countries.

The ambitious multibillion-dollar BRI launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 envisions connecting China with Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes rebuilding the old Silk Road trade route.

But with the decade-old BRI running into billions of dollars of investment, China faces a major challenge as Italy has announced its plans to quit the initiative, which according to the Italian Foreign Minister, Antonio Tajani, "did not bring the results we expected" and many Italian parties were against Italy's par-

ticipation. Italy's decision comes at a time when China announced plans to hold the third conference of BRI in Beijing next month.

If Italy pulls out, it will be regarded as an embarrassment for President Xi's pet project.

BRI reportedly figured in the talks between Chinese Premier Li Qiang and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi on Saturday.

Asked whether the BRI issue figured in the Li-Meloni talks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing.

685 farmers commit suicide in Marathwada region in 8 months:Officials

HT News Network

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Sep 12 (UNI) Farmers in Marathwada, who have been facing heavy rains for last three years in a row and now the scanty rainfall this year are taking the extreme step of suicide, fed up with debt, infertility and depression. Therefore, farmer suicides are not stopping in Marathwada. shockingly, as many as 685 farmers have committed suicide in Marathwada in the last eight months. Official update statistics upto August 31 stated that, averagely near about 3 farmers are committing suicides per day .Especially, most suicides were reported in Beed district of state agriculture minister Dhananjay Munde's home district which is known as drought prone where 186 farmers suicide cases reported in the last eight months followed by Osmanabad district 113, Nanded 110, Aurangabad district 95, Parbhani district 58 ,Latur district 51, Jalna district 50 and Hingoli district 22. During the beginning of this year heavy unseasonal rains and now in monsoon period scanty rainfall have

caused huge losses to farmers in Marathwada. Due to long dry spell in month of August this year Khariff crops were ruined at most of the areas in these districts and also water resources are empty till Tuesday resulting in fodder issue. Due to the worry of how to repay the loan, the constant hassle from the bank, the demand from the lender for money and the worry of running the family as the financial situation deteriorates, the farmers are committing suicide.865 farmers have committed suicide in the last eight months of this year. The statistic further stated that out of the 865 suicide cases, 475 cases have been found eligible for compensation. As per the rule , compensation has been given to next of kins of 433 deceased by the respective district administrations.



North Korea's Kim Jong Un To Meet Putin In Russia: Report

HT News Network

Pyongyang: North Korea said Monday that leader Kim Jong Un would visit Russia and meet President Vladimir Putin, with the reclusive leader's armoured train reportedly on its way to the border.

Experts suggest that President Putin is seeking artillery shells and antitank missiles from North Korea for Moscow's war in Ukraine, while Kim is reportedly in search of advanced technology for satellites and nuclear-powered submarines, as well as food aid for his impoverished nation.

Kim Jong Un "will soon visit the Russian Federation at the invitation of ... Putin," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

"The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un will meet and have a talk with Comrade Putin during the visit," it added.

The Kremlin also confirmed Monday that Kim Jong Un would visit Russia "in the coming days".

The announcement ends days of speculation after US and other officials told The New York Times at the weekend that Kim, who rarely leaves North Korea, was likely to head by armoured train to Vladivostok for arms talks with Putin.

Kim Jong has not travelled outside North Korea since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency



quoted an unidentified official as saying "intelligence authorities believe the train presumed to be carrying Kim Jong-un is moving to Vladivostok".

Broadcaster YTN said Seoul "expects that Chairman Kim will hold a meeting with President Putin of Russia around the day after tomorrow", meaning Wednesday.

Moscow, a historical ally of Pyongyang, was a crucial backer of the isolated country for decades and their ties go back to the founding of North Korea 75 years ago.

Kim Jong has been steadfast in his support for Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, including, Washington says, supplying rockets and missiles.

In July, President Putin hailed Pyongyang's "firm support for special military operations against Ukraine".

Vladivostok will be hosting the Eastern Economic Forum until Wednesday.

'Pay a price'The White House warned last week that Pyongyang would "pay a price" if it supplied Moscow with weaponry for its war in Ukraine.Washington said Russia could use weapons from North Korea to attack Ukrainian food supplies and heating infrastructure heading into

winter to "try to conquer territory that

belongs to another sovereign nation". Andrei Lankov, a North Korea expert at Kookmin University in Seoul, told AFP that a Putin-Kim summit was part of "gentle diplomatic blackmail" by Moscow of Seoul because Russia did not want South Korea to supply weapons to Kyiv.

Seoul is a major arms exporter and has sold tanks to Kyiv's ally Poland, but longstanding domestic policy bars it from selling weapons into active conflicts.

'The major worry of the Russian government now is a possible shipment of the South Korean ammunition to Ukraine, not just one shipment but a lot of shipments," Andrei Lankov said. Cheong Seong-chang, a researcher at the Sejong Institute, told AFP that, were North Korea to expand military cooperation with Russia, "there is an increased likelihood of prolonged conflict in Ukraine". And Pyongyang's reward for aiding Moscow could mean that "advancements in North Korea's nuclear submarine and reconnaissance satellite development might then progress at a faster pace", he said.Kim Jong Un has become well-known for his preference for train travel when it comes to international trips. His father and predecessor, Kim Jong II, was famously scared of flying. The current leader reportedly lacks confidence in his private jet and harbours "concerns about the potential for aerial bombing by Washington", said

Lula backtracks on **Putin's safety at Rio G20**

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI: Brazil's leader withdrew on Monday his personal assurance that Russian President Vladimir Putin would not be arrested if he attends next year's G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, saying it would be up to the judiciary to decide.

Putin missed this year's gathering in the Indian capital New Delhi, avoiding possible political opprobrium and any risk of criminal detention under an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant.

Brazil is an ICC member but President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva raised eyebrows at the weekend when he told Indian news network Firstpost: "If I'm the president of Brazil and if he comes to Brazil, there's no way that he will be arrested." He changed tack on Monday, telling reporters: "I don't know if Brazil's justice will detain him. It's the judiciary that decides, it's not the government." Putin has skipped recent international gatherings and sent his Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to New Delhi instead for the September 9-10 G20 meeting, even though India is not an ICC

In March, the ICC announced an arrest warrant for Putin over the war crime accusation of unlawfully deporting Ukrainian children.

Over 9k people missing after floods in Libya

■ HT News Network

Benghazi, Sep 12 (UNI) Over 9,000 people remain missing after devastating floods hit Libya's eastern city Derna, a spokesperson of the Red Crescent movement in the North African country told Sputnik on

On Monday, the head of the government appointed by the eastern-based parliament, Osama Hammad, said that the death toll from flooding in Derna had exceeded 2,000 people.

"We are in need of any international cooperation. We have over 9,000 missing person reports. Larger search operations are required," the spokesperson said, describing the situation in Derna and surrounding areas as "catastrophic."

Analysis on failure of Russia's Lunar-25 mission to be made: Putin

■ HT News Network

Moscow, Sep 12 (UNI) Russia will analyze failure of its Luna-25 mission, President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday, adding that the lunar program will continue.

"An appropriate analysis will be carried out and the work will continue. It's a pity, of course, that the lunar landing did not take place, but this does not mean that we will end the development [of this program]. We will continue to work," Putin said at the Eastern Eco-

5.5-magnitude quake hits NW Myanmar

HT News Network

Yangon, Sep 12 (UNI) A 5.5-magnitude earthquake jolted northwest Myanmar at about 1:58 a.m. local time on Tuesday, the country's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) announced.

According to the DMH, the epicenter was determined to be about 16 miles (25.7 km) to the north and northwest of Paungbyin town of Sagaing region.

The epicenter, with a depth of 58 km, was initially determined to be at 24.49 degrees north latitude and 94.78 degrees east longitude, the DMH said.

The earthquake was also strongly felt in Homalin town of Sagaing region, a local resident said.

Trump demands recusal of US judge in 2020 presidential election subversion case

■ HT News Network

Washington, Sep 12 (UNI) Former U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday demanded the recusal of the federal judge in his 2020 presidential election subversion case.

Trump's attorneys argued U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan's comments, which were made while sentencing two previous Jan. 6 defendants that appeared to reference Trump, indicated she believed that Trump "should be prosecuted and imprisoned."

"Judge Chutkan has, in connection with other cases, suggested that President Trump should be prosecuted and imprisoned," Trump's attorneys said in a court

"Such statements, made before this case began and without due process, are inherently disqualifying," they added.

Trump has been charged by U.S. Special Counsel Jack Smith with four felony counts for allegedly attempting to subvert the results of the 2020 presidential

Trump is the first former U.S. president to face criminal charges. He has been indicted in four cases - two by Smith, and two by state prosecutors in New York and Georgia, separately. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

On Monday, Trump also sought to dismiss seven of the counts he faces in the Georgia case, arguing that he is immune from prosecution for actions he took in his official capacity as president.

Macron caps Asia outreach with Bangladesh visit

HT News Network

DHAKA: President Emmanuel Macron was in Bangladesh on Monday in a bid to "consolidate" France's Asia-Pacific strategy and counterbalance a "new imperialism" in a region where China's influence is increasingly being extended.Different dance forms in the world"Based on democratic principles and the rule of law, in a region facing new imperialism, we want to propose a third way – with no intention to bully our partners or to lead them to an unsustainable scheme," Macron told Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The United States and China are competing for influence in the wider region, and Macron has pushed France as offering an alternative.

"Bangladesh is progressively retrieving its place on the world stage," Macron said, speaking after he arrived in the capital Dhaka on Sunday after the G20 leaders summit in neighbouring India wrapped up. He praised what he called



"the tremendous success" of the South Asian country, a rapidly growing economy and the world's eighth most populous nation with more than 170 million people.

Macron and Hasina on Monday discussed a "commitment" from the country's Biman airline to purchase 10 A350s from European aircraft maker Airbus, a potential contract that could be worth as much as \$3.2 billion.

Biman had previously always bought aircraft from the US manufacturer Boeing, and the hope of a purchase from Airbus was "an important point", Macron told reporters, alongside

Macron held talks with Hasina on Monday and visited a memorial to her father, Bangladesh's first president Sheikh Mujibur

"We both hope that this new strategic move between Bangladesh and France will play an effective role in establishing regional and global stability and peace," Hasina said. Macron and Hasina on Monday discussed a "commitment" from the country's Biman airline to purchase 10 A 350s from European aircraft maker Airbus, a potential contract that could be worth as much as \$3.2 billion.Biman had previously always bought aircraft from the US manufacturer Boeing, and the hope of a purchase from Airbus was "an important point".

Clashes in Lebanon camp kill six Palestinians

HT News Network

SIDON: At least six people have been killed and dozens wounded in clashes in a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon, first responders said on Monday as fighting raged for a fifth

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

Violence broke out late on Thursday in the Ain al-Helweh camp on the outskirts of the coastal city of Sidon, just weeks after similar clashes pitted members of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah movement against Islamist militants

The toll has risen to at least "six dead, one of them killed on Monday, and more than 70 wounded", said Imad Hallak from the Palestinian Red Crescent's Lebanon branch, revising an earlier figure of 60 wounded. The casualties include both fighters and civilians, he added.

Lebanon's powerful Iranbacked Hezbollah group urged a halt to the fighting.



Hezbollah calls for immediate ceasefire, expresses

"We call for an immediate ceasefire," Hezbollah said in a statement on Monday, adding that the group expressed "deep regret" at the violence.

A correspondent in Sidon reported ongoing clashes with automatic gunfire and shelling, after fighting had subsided somewhat overnight. Bullets and shells fell outside the camp's walls in past days, the correspondent said.

Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) said the city's southern entrance was closed to traffic.

The NNA had reported on Saturday that three fighters and one civilian had been emergency shelters.

killed.

Ain al-Helweh is home to more than 54,000 registered refugees and thousands of Palestinians who joined them in recent years from neighbouring Syria, fleeing the civil war there.

The camp, Lebanon's largest, was created for Palestinians who were driven out or fled during the 1948 war at the time of Israel's creation.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said on Sunday that "hundreds of families have left the camp" since the clashes began.

Some 400 families were sheltering in a mosque, while others were taking refuge with relatives or in

Special Pak Court Allows Imran Khan To Talk To Sons Over Phone: Report

■ HT News Network

Islamabad: The Official Secrets Act Special Court has permitted the former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to talk to his sons over the phone till September 15, reported The News International.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief has been demanding to talk to his lawyers as well as his sons for a long time now.

One of Imran Khan's lawyers Sheeraz Ahmed Ranjha said that the court had ordered the jail officials to allow telephonic conversation between the PTI chief and his sons but the jail officials did not grant permission, according to ARY News.

Moreover, the lawyers of Imran Khan were also not allowed by the police to meet him at the Attock Jail, ARY News reported.

Lawyers Sheeraz Ahmed Ranjha and Gohar Ali were scheduled to meet Khan earlier this month.



According to The News International, Judge Abul Hasnat Zulgarnain issued a notice to Attock Jail Superintendent Arif Shehzad seeking a report on the implementation of the court

Moreover, PTI chairman Khan also approached the special court against the jail superintendent for not complying with its order directing arrangements for telephonic conversation with his sons, reported The News International.

The Toshakhana issue became a major sticking point in Pakistan's politics after the Election Commission of Pakistan disqualified Imran Khan for making "false statements and incorrect declaration," ARY News reported. The Toshakhana case alleged that Imran Khan did not share details regarding the gifts he retained from Toshakhana during his tenure as Pakistan's Prime Minister, according to an ARY News report.

Later, the Islamabad Court suspended the conviction of Imran Khan and directed to release him on bail from Attock Jail. However, the special court ordered to keep Imran Khan in judicial remand in cypher case.

The hearing of cypher case, against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) chief, was moved to the Attock jail. According to a statement from the law ministry, the ministry approved holding the former prime minister's Cypher case hearing in Attock prison.

Recently, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) summoned former Pakistan Prime Minister.

9 island states take ocean pollution case to UN court

HT News Network

HAMBURG: Leaders of nine small island states turned to the UN maritime court on Monday to seek protection of the world's oceans from catastrophic climate change that threatens the very existence of entire countries.

The island states are asking the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) to determine if carbon dioxide emissions absorbed by the oceans can be considered pollution, and if so, what obligations countries have to prevent it.

"This is the opening chapter in the struggle to change the conduct of the international community by clarifying the obligation of states to protect the marine environment," said the prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne.

"The time has come to speak in terms of legally binding obligations rather than empty promises that go unfulfilled," he told the court based in Hamburg, Germany.

The joint counsel representing the islands, Catherine Amirfar, said the point was to force countries to implement substantive measures against climate change.

"We're here to discuss what are the necessary, concrete, specific steps that they must take as a matter of law, not political discretion. That's key and... a big part of the answer," she told journalists.

SEC reviews 2nd supplement of Panchayat Electoral Roll in UT

HT News Network

PUBLICATIONHEADLINES

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: State Election Commissioner (SEC), B R Sharma today convened a meeting to review the preparations for adding left out voters in Panchayat Electoral Roll by way of new Supplement.

During the review meeting, SEC asked DCs to ensure that no eligible voters with respect to 1.1.23 as qualifying date is left out of current process of updation which will be stated from 20th of Sept and will culminate on 20th of October. A tentative schedule was shared with the Deputy Commissioners to start pre-updatiion

discussions on availability of soft/hard copies of Panchayat Electoral Rolls-2023 for displaying the same for preparing 2-d Supplement, Printing of electoral rolls /forms and availability of infrastructure, Strategy to include new voters in Panchayat rolls whose names already exist in Assembly Rolls w.r.t 01 01.2023 as qualifying date, availability of ERO/AERO/ Panchayat Election Booth Officials (PEBO) and updation of their names and other details on websites of Districts as well as on SEC website.

The mechanism of updation and printing both online and offline mode i e (passwords etc for the users & user IDS and role of NIC/DIOs), requirement The meeting Held brief of funds by each District for the



Electoral Roll (Updation & SVEEP activity), tentative Schedule of Revision, Handbook for revision of rolls, meeting of DCs with District Technical team headed by DIO of concerned District and (ERO/ AERO/PLBOs) along with RDD functionaries Was also dis-

The SEC sought details from all deputy commissioners regarding polling stations, physical verification of polling stations, classification of poll-

ries, availability of minimum basic facilities, Migrant voter, besides, other special category of voters and Panchayat wise availability of their data for use in Election.The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners, Secretary SEC,Director RDD Kashmir, Director RDD Jammu, Director Panchayat Raj, Jammu, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, J&K State Informatics Officers, Dy DEOs, DPOs and other concerned. The mechanism of updation and printing both online and offline mode i e (passwords etc for the users & user IDS and role of NIC/DIOs), requirement of funds by each District for the Electoral Roll (Updation & SVEEP activity),

ing stations into various catego-

tentative Schedule of Revision, Handbook for revision of rolls, meeting of DCs with District Technical team headed by DIO of concerned District and (ERO/ AERO/PLBOs) along with RDD functionaries Was also discussed.The SEC sought details from all deputy commissioners regarding polling stations, physical verification of polling stations, classification of polling stations into various categories, availability of minimum basic facilities, Migrant voter, besides, other special category of voters and Panchayat wise availability of their data for use in Election.The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners, Secretary SEC, Director RDD Kashmir, Director RDD Jammu.

District Administration, Handicrafts-Handloom Department Join Forces to Organize 2-Day Craft Carnival 2023

HT News Network

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary today chaired a meeting in his chamber bringing together prominent officers from the district to discuss the arrangements for the upcoming Craft Carnival 2023.

The event, organized by the Handicrafts/Handloom Department in collaboration with the District Administration, is scheduled to take place on September 14th and 15th.

Chief Executive Officer,



PDA, Dr. Mohd.Tanveer Khan; PO ICDS, Khalid Hussain Wafa; ACD, Abid Hussain Shah; Chief Education Officer, Bishamber Dass; DSWO, Mohinder Paul; AD Handloom/Handicraft, Shazia Rehman; ARTO, Chowdhary Jamsheed Rasool; DEPO, N.M Suri; District Culture Officer Rajouri/Poonch, Dr.Alamdar Adam; AEE Aslam Khan; AHTO, Parupkar Singh besides other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of cooperation among the various departments to ensure the overall success of the Craft Carnival. Several key directives were issued to the concerned departments to guarantee a seamless experience for the attendees.

To maintain cleanliness and hygiene, the Executive Officer of the Municipal Council has been instructed to ensure the cleanliness of the venue, Krishan Chander Park, and its surrounding areas. Sufficient dustbins will be installed, and Safai Karamcharis will be deployed to maintain cleanliness throughout the event. Additionally, two mobile toilets will be set up at the venue for the

Training imparted to ROs, AROs at Kupwara

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 12: On the directions of District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, Election Office Kupwara today conducted a one day training programme for Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) here in the anticipation of Municipal Elections. The day long training session was chaired by General Manager DIC, Sameer Jan. The training was attended by ROs, AROs, and concerned election officials.

During the training session, ROs and AROs were imparted training about their role and responsibilities, election management, nomination process, scrutiny of nomination papers, withdrawal of candidature, EVM management, conduct of polls, counting, declaration of results and provisions of the model code of conduct imposed after notification of Elections.

A thorough question answer session was also held to clear the doubts about the procedures and rules for the conduct of free, fair, and transparent Elections in the district.

Anganwadi workers sensitized about their roles & responsibilities as members of SAKHI club at Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today addressed Anganwadi workers during a mega awareness and meeting event organized by SAKHI - Club Ganderbal, to discuss and understand their roles and responsibilities as members of SAKHI club at Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

SAKHI (Support and Knowledge Hub for Improvement) is a community-based initiative aimed at empowering women and promoting gender equality.

The event was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Mushtaq Simnani, District Program Officer, District Social Welfare Officer and other officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the alarming increase in domestic violence against women in day-to-day life and stressed the need for clubs like SAKHI to combat these issues effectively. He encouraged the Anganwadi workers to play a pivotal role in creating awareness and providing support to women in their respective areas.

The DC said that SAKHI club members are responsible for raising awareness about women's rights, gender



equality, and safety within their communities.

The event commenced with an opening address by the organizers, emphasizing the importance of the SAKHI-Club Ganderbal in addressing the issues related to crimes against women and promoting their wellbeing.

They are expected to provide a support system for women who are victims of abuse or violence, connecting them with relevant authorities and resources.

ADDC while speaking on the occasion emphasized the importance of collaboration between different departments to ensure the success of SAKHI - Club Ganderbal.

The District Program Officer discussed the various programs and initiatives that would be undertaken by the SAKHI club in the near future.

DSWO talked about the support and resources that the District Social Welfare Office would provide to SAKHI club members.

Later, the event featured interactive sessions where Anganwadi workers had the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification, and share their ideas for the betterment of the club's objec-

The event concluded on a positive note, with a sense of commitment and enthusiasm among the Anganwadi workers to carry out their roles effectively within the club.

Delegation of JKPS Officers call on Lt Governor

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: A delegation of Officers of Jammu Kashmir Police Services called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today.

The delegation comprises of Sh Joginder Singh; Sh Perbeet Singh; Sh Surjeet Bhagat; Sh Sumir Kotwal; Sh Ramnish Gupta; Sh Raj Kumar; Sh Mushtaq Choudhary; Sh Shazaad Salaria; Sh Suresh Chib and Sh Abhisheik Sharma expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for the release of NFS Scales of Grades.

Shahrukh Khan's movie 'Jawan' screened at Cinema **Hall Handwara**

HT News Network

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 12: After first movie show held last month, Shahrukh Khan starrer Bollywood Movie "Jawan" was screened at Cinema Hall Handwara

The Cinema Hall was inaugurated at Handwara last month with the Screening of Shahrukh Khan starred Movie "Chak De India". On the occasion, large number of people, PRIs and local youth enjoyed the screening of Shahrukh Khan starrer Movie "Jawan".

Meanwhile, people of the district expressed their gratitude towards the UT Government for opening up the Cinema and screening of movies in Kupwara district.

The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir, President Municipal Committee Handwara, Abdul Majeed Pandit; EO MC Handwara, Naveed Aijaz, ARTO, DSWO and other Officers were present during screening of the movie.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Showcases Hilux during North Tech Symposium

HT News Network

Srinagar, Sep 12, KNT: Tyota Kirloskar Motor showcased two special purpose iconic Hilux, modified with the support of an authorised external vendor in Jammu. Commenting on the occasion, Mr. V. Wiseline Sigamani, General Manager - Strategic Business Unit (North) of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said "We take great pride and consider it a true honour at TKM to have the opportunity to present the customized variants of the iconic Hilux, during the North Tech Symposium 2023, thereby displaying our technological prowess and offer solutions to the Indian army. Following an in-depth study conducted by our team, we have identified and developed few upgrades to the Hilux through our authorised external vendor, that can greatly benefit the other special customers and the Indian Army. Needless to mention, world-wide, the Hilux is celebrated for its exceptional off-road capabilities, unmatched reliability, powerful performance, and advanced safety features. Looking ahead, we remain committed to providing unwavering support to our esteemed Indian army by tailoring our Hilux offerings to meet their unique needs and serve specific defence pur-

Globally, the Hilux sales have surpassed 20 million units winning hearts of many discerning customers from over 180 countries. Through more than five decades and eight generations, the Toyota Hilux has created extraordinary experiences and an unbreakable bond with those who desire awesome drives. The Toyota Hilux, which is tailored to meet the needs of customers seeking a versatile utility vehicle, excels not only in off-roading adventures on challenging terrains but also in everyday city use. Furthermore, it caters to emerging businesses, serving as a campervan, supporting farming, defence, mining, construction, and functioning as a rescue van, among other applications.

A one month long Technical Theatre **Workshop takes off in Srinagar**

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, Sep.12, 2023; A one month long technical Theatre Workshop for honing theatre light designing, Set-Designing and other crafts of theatre began here on Monday. Organized by NSD.TIE. Centre, Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. Secretary JKAACL Shri Bharat Singh Manhas JKAS was the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries present on the occasion were NSD Centre In-Charge Shri ArunaKumar Malik, Workshop Director Shri. Suresh Bhardwaj, senior officials of JKAACLand senior theatre activists. According to NSD officials the initiative is aimed atgiving exposure to theatre practitioners and youth of Kashmir who are of theatre on Industry standards. Diverse range of topics dwelling on various aspects help the promotion in theatre in Kashmir of theatre crafts will becovered during the and also help the thetare practitioners of workshop by eminent theatre experts. The Kashmir to get break through role ondifworkshop ismonitoring by NSD's centre ferent platforms.



Director of the Workshop is renowned theatre expert Shri. Suresh Bhardwaj. Speaking on the occasion Centre In-Charge, NSD Shri Aruna Kumar Malik said that NSD will be

organizing such workshops in future interested to learn the techniques and crafts as well to give boost to the theatre lovers and such kind of workshops would

Director Agriculture inaugurates 02 days Seminar on Beekeeping in Srinagar district

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated two days district level Seminar on Bee-keeping in district Srinagar.

The programme was organised by Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare department Kashmir under National Bee and Honey Mission (NBHM) and was attended by Joint Director Inputs, Joint Director Extension, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Technical Officer, Apiculture Development Officer Srinagar, Bee Keepers, Farmers, Unemployed youth and other stakeholders.

Speaking at the inaugural session, the Director Agriculture marked the importance of bee-keeping as a complimentary source to the overall income of the farmers. He said that it is encouraging that a large number of youth is taking bee-keeping as a main venture to earn income and liveli-



Director asked the educated youth of the region to come forward and take benefit from the programme and schemes by the department for the promotion of bee-keeping and other allied activities.

He said that the development of a bee-keeping special project under a holistic agriculture development programme has been approved by the government. He said that bee-keeping as an off-farm activity has a potential of employment generation due to wide agro-climatic diversity enabling round the year bee-flora available.

Early Detection of Colorectal Cancer Can be Lifesaving,

@HEADLINESTODA17

Yet People Avoid Screenings for 5 Common Reasons

eredith Huetter had just turned 46 years old when she was diagnosed with Stage 3 colorectal cancer (CRC) in December 2020.

13TH CHEADLINES

"My symptoms started in March 2020...Istarted to experience some changes in bowel habits. That means anything from constipation to diarrhea to having this flip-flop of things happening from a bowel standpoint," Huetter told Healthline.

In April, she spotted bright red blood in her stool, which prompted her to talk with her primary care physician, who chalked up the cause of blood to hemorrhoids. After six months of living with symptoms, she pushed for more information.

In November, she had a CT scan of her bowel, rectum, and colon that detected inflammation. Then in early December, a colonoscopy determined she had stage 3 colorectal cancer.

"Having a coloscopy at my age at that time wasn't standard of care. At the time, the recommendation was 50 and I was newly 46," said Huetter.

Immediately following the colonoscopy results, Huetter began treatment that involved surgery to install a port and 28 days of chemoradiation, which included five days of radiation treatment while wearing a pump to deliver chemotherapy.

She also underwent six months of chemotherapy followed by infusion and surgery to remove her anus, resulting in a permanent colostomy and her backside being sewn closed.

"Who knows what my world would have been had I been able to detect this earlier," Huetter said.

Screening for colorectal cancer should begin at 45 years old

In 2021, the U.S. Preventive Services Task $Force (USPSTF) released \, a \, recommendation \,$ that adults aged 45 to 75 be screened for



While CRC is most frequently diagnosed among those 65 to 74 years oldTrusted Source, it is estimated that 13% of new CRC cases occur in people younger than 50 years oldTrusted Source.

Additionally, CRC in those aged 40 to 49 years old increased by almost 15% from 2000-2002 to 2014-2016. In 2023, an estimatedTrustedSource 19,550 people under 50 will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and 3,750 will die from the disease.

"We are seeing younger people get diagnosed with colon cancer (there is no settled agreement on why this is happening), and starting screening earlier can allow us to impact this spike in incidence of cancer in younger population," Dr. Arun Swaminath, chief of gastroenterology at Northwell Lenox Hill Hospital, told Healthline.

The disease disproportionately affects different socioeconomic groups, races, and regionsTrusted Source in the United States, with higher rates being observed in certain communitiesTrusted Source, such as Black

and American Indian or Alaska Native communities.

Despite the increase, awareness of CRC is still lagging, said Dr. Paul Limburg, chief medical officer of screening at Exact Sci-

"Unless a person sees a healthcare provider on a regular basis, a 45-year-old is very likely limited in what they know and understand about CRC, the importance of screening, and the various options available including a noninvasive test like Cologuard," he told Healthline.

Cologuard is a simple stool test that you collect at home and mail in to check for hidden blood and certain DNA changes indicative of colon cancer – but if a person has a positive test, it's essential to have a colonoscopy.

Although a colonoscopy is more invasive and requires significant preparation to empty the colon the day before the procedure, it also prevents colon cancer by removing the potentially cancerous polyps before they become cancerous.

Although there are pros and cons with each test, any screening is better than no

The importance of screening comes down to the fact that CRC is the most preventable, yet least prevented cancer, Limburg stressed.

It is estimated Trusted Source that nationwide implementation of an 80% CRC screening prevalence for all eligible adults could save tens of thousands of lives by preventing numerous cases and deaths.

"It's very simple; we can prevent many colorectal cancers through regular screening...screening can identify cancers that are more easily treated, and even precancers that can be removed to avoid a

cancer diagnosis entirely," said Limburg. Why 45-year-olds are not getting screened for colorectal cancer

To uncover the reasons why 45-year-olds in the U.S. are not getting screened for CRC, Exact Sciences led a poll "I Am 45" that was conducted online by The Harris Poll and with steering committee collaborators, including the American Cancer Society, the Colorectal Cancer Alliance, and Fight Colorectal Cancer.

Data was collected among 1,005 adults aged 45 years on March 6-14, 2023. The following were identified as barriers standing in the way of screening for this age

Lack of time due to everyday life respon-

The poll found that 77% of respondents are parents or legal guardians, 79% work full-time or part-time, and most are juggling other responsibilities that may take priority over their health.

"Like everything else, we are learning that we have to take care of ourselves to be here for the long term to look after our loved ones, enjoy life, and be productive in our fields," said Swaminath.

NEWS

reen Peas: Know The Many Health Benefits **Of This Excellent Protein** Source



'n our pursuit of a healthy body, we often rush to buy expensive supplements and protein powders, hoping for quick results. Unfortunately, these purchases can drain our wallets without delivering the desired outcomes. Therefore, it's crucial to consult a nutritionist before taking any supplements. But did you know that a simple ingredient found in your kitchen can provide ample protein, help control blood sugar levels and reduce the risk of health diseases? In an Instagram story, Nutritionist Lovneet Batra shared numerous health benefits of green peas. In the text, she also writes, "Healthy diet going affordable for all." It's a reminder that nutritious choices don't have to be costly.

According to the nutritionist, green peas offer following health benefits:

1. Protein and fiber powerhouse:

Green peas are an excellent source of plant-based protein, making them satisfying and filling. Their high fibre content complements the protein, contributing to a sense of fullness. This combination not only helps control hunger but also supports healthy digestion.

2. Blood sugar management:

As per nutrition ist Batra, green peas play a role inregulating blood sugar levels. They have a low glycemic index (GI), indicating that they cause a gradual and steady increase in blood sugar, rather than a sudden spike. Additionally, their abundant fibre content slows the absorption of carbohydrates, promoting a more stable blood sugar profile. This is particularly beneficial for individuals concerned about blood sugar control.

3. Heart-friendly minerals:

Green peas are rich in essential heart-healthy minerals like magnesium, potassium and calcium. These minerals are vital for maintaining normal blood pressure, which is a key factor in reducing the risk of heart disease. Furthermore, the substantial fibre content in green peas contributes to lowering overall cholesterol levels and specifically, LDL cholesterol (considered the "bad" cholesterol), promoting better heart

Incorporating green peas into your diet can be a cost-effective and practical way to enjoy these health advantages. Whether you include them in side dishes, soups, or salads, green peas offer a straightforward and nutritious solution for enhancing your overall well-being. As per Lovneet Batra, green peas are rich in protein and help control blood sugar levels.

Smoking Can Accelerate Aging Process, Reveals Study

he study, presented at the European Respiratory Society nternational Congress in Milan, Italy, showed that smoking shortens the end fragments of chromosomes in the white blood cells of our immune systems.

The length of these end fragments, called telomeres, is an indicator of how quickly we age and our cells' ability to repair and regenerate. "Our study

shows that smoking status and cigarette quantity can result in the shortening of leukocyte telomere length, which is an indicator of tissue self-repair, regeneration and ageing. In other words, smoking can accelerate the process of ageing, while quitting may considerably decrease the related risk," said Siyu Dai, Assistant Professor in the School of Clinical Medicine at Hangzhou Normal Univer-



sity in China. Telomeres are lengths of repetitive DNA

sequences that protect the ends of chromosomes.

include feeling excessively

full after food (postpran-

the telomeres become slightly shorter, eventually becoming so short that the cell can no longer divide successfully, and it dies. ticipants, related to current This is part of the ageing smokers, those who never process.Telomere length in smoked, and for people until now, there has been little research into whether smoking status and the leukocyte telomere length,

Each time a cell divides, smoked actually caused the shortening in telomere length. The researchers used genomic data from 472,174 UK Biobank parwhite blood cells (called who had smoked previleukocytes) has been linked ously. They found that curpreviously to smoking, but, rent smoking status was statistically significantly associated with shorter quantity of cigarettes whereas previous smokers.

Turmeric Can Help Treat Indigestion As Good As Antacid, Claims Study

natural compound found in the culi-**I**nary spice turmeric may be as effective as omeprazole - a drug used to curb excess stomach acid - for treating indigestion symptoms, claims a study published online in the journal BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine. Turmeric, derived from the root of the Curcuma longa plant, contains a naturally active compound called curcumin thought to have antiinflammatory and antimicrobial properties. It has long been used as a medicinal remedy, including for the treatment of indigestion, in Southeast Asia. The study findings showed that turmericcapsulesimproved digestion as well as omeprazole.While no serious side effects were reported, liver function tests indicated some level of deterioration among curcumin users carrying excess weight, noted the researchers from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. The team randomly assigned 206 patients aged 18-70 with

recurrent upset stomach



(functional dyspepsia) of unknown cause, between 2019 and 2021, to one of three treatment groups for a period of 28 days. These were: turmeric (two large 250 mg capsules of curcumin 4 times a day) and one small dummy capsule (69 patients); omeprazole (one small 20 mg capsule daily and two large dummy capsules 4 times a day (68 patients); and turmeric plus omeprazole (69 patients). Omeprazole is a proton pump inhibitor (PPI).

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PPIs are used to treat functional dyspepsia, the symptoms of which include feeling excessively full after food (postprandial fullness), feeling full up after only a little food (early satiety), and pain and/or burning sensation in the stomach and/or food pipe (epigastric pain). But longterm use of PPIs has been linked to increased fracture risk, micronutrient deficiencies, and a heightened risk of infections, note the researchers. PPIs are used to treat functional dyspepsia, the symptoms of which

dial fullness), feeling full up after only a little food (early satiety), and pain and/or burning sensation in the stomach and/or food pipe (epigastric pain). But longterm use of PPIs has been linked to increased fracture risk, micronutrient deficiencies, and a heightened risk of infections, note the researchers. The findings indicated significant reductions in symptom severity by day 28 for pain and other symptoms for those in the combined, curcumin alone, and omeprazole alone groups, respectively. These improvements were even stronger after 56 days for pain and other symptoms. They acknowledge the small size of the study, as well as several other limitations, including the short intervention period and lack of long-term monitoring data. Further larger, long-term studies are needed, the researchers said.

Nevertheless, "this multicentre randomised controlled trial provides highly reliable evidence.

ADHD Linked to Higher Risk of Mental Health Disorders, Study Finds

ttention deficit hyperactivity disorder, commonly known as ADHD, may be a risk factor for several other mental disorders, according to research recently published in BMJ Mental Health.

According to the findings, mental health conditions associated with ADHD include:

major depressive disorder (MDD) post-traumatic stress disorder

anorexia nervosa suicidal behavior

The study authors note that previous observational studies have found a link between ADHD and various mental disorders. However, it is unclear whether ADHD causes them.

They also suggest that mental health professionals treating patients with ADHD should be aware of the possibility that these other mental disorders could co-occur with ADHD.

What's the link between ADHD and other mental health disorders? The American Psychiatric Association states that ADHD is one of the most common mental disorders expe-

rienced by children. Symptoms of ADHD include: inability to remain focused engaging in excess movement in inappropriate settings

acting impulsively To better understand how ADHD could lead to other mental health disorders, the researchers used a technique called "Mendelian randomizationTrusted Source."



genetic variants to represent risk factors to provide evidence of whether that risk factor is causing the observed effect.

The team examined seven mental health issues to establish what sort of links existed between these conditions and ADHD, including:

major depression bipolar disorder anxiety disorder schizophrenia

PTSD anorexia nervosa

having at least one suicide attempt Their analysis found no evidence that ADHD might be causing bipolar disorder, anxiety, or schizophrenia.

However, it did appear that ADHD increased the risk for anorexia nervosa. There was also evidence that ADHD both caused and was caused by major depression.

There also seemed to be a causal link between ADHD and both suicide attempts and PTSD.

Is ADHD genetic?

The researchers noted that while this type of study can provide stronger evidence of causation than the observational studies that have been done in the past, it does have certain weaknesses.

For example, it's possible that ADHD and another mental disorder could both share the same genetic cause without ADHD itself causing the other disorder.

Dr. Ellen Braaten – who is an associate professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School as well as the executive director of the Learning and Emotional Assessment Program (LEAP) at Massachusetts General Hospital and the author of "Bright Kids Who Couldn't Care Less" - said there are both primary and secondary reasons why people with ADHD are at risk.

"The primary reasons are due to genetics and biology," she told Healthline. "ADHD is a condition that is often inherited, and the genes that are linked to ADHD are linked to other disorders as well. In addition, the genes associated with ADHD are thought to be involved in the development of the brain."

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EXCELLENCE WITH PERFECTION

Rubiya to play for Gujarat **Giants in Women's IPL**

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: The 29-year-old all-rounder Rubiya Syed from south Kashmir, who has been picked up by the Gujarat Giants for the upcoming Women's Indian Premier League (IPL) has a dream to join the national women's cricket team.

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Hailing from village Budasgam in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, Rubiya became the second Kashmiri woman to have been selected for the cricket tournament. Jasia Akhtar, a right-handed batter, was the first woman cricketer from Kashmir who had also played for the IPL team.

Obviously, I am feeling very happy for a call from the IPL ...I am very excited to join the Gujarat Giants as early as possible", Rubiya said.

The woman cricketer has been playing cricket since 2012 and has represented the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) for the last several years.

And after getting selected, she has a dream, which is to join the national women's cricket team.

"I want to see myself in the India eleven to play international cricket to show my capability and to make the name of the country, especially Jammu and Kashmir',



Rubiya said.

She said to achieve a spot, everyone has to fight and struggle very hard. "My teachers did hard work to ensure I reached this spot," she said. "Ifeel excited when I still see my mentors around and guiding me on the right path."

She said her teachers guided her

when school national cricket tournaments were being held, and later coaches taught her technical

and other aspects of the game. "But the foundation was laid at the school by my teachers," she said. Her father, Ghulam Qadir Sheikh, a fruit merchant, has always supported Rubiya despite

financial constraints.

She studied at the girls higher secondary school in Budasgam, and right from school days, Rubiya started playing cricket under the guidance of her teachers, who taught her about the game. "I am sure that I will play cricket in the world arena", she said. UNI

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India go down to UAE in AFC U-23 Asian **Cup Qualifiers**

DALIAN (CHINA), SEP 12: India ended their AFCU-23 Asian Cup 2024 Qualification campaign with their second loss in as many matches, as UAE defeated them 3-0 at Dalian Suoyuwan Stadium here on Tuesday

With this defeat, while India finished at bottom of Group G, they also played spoilsport for hosts China PR, to beat India 2-1 in an earlier match.

It was a do-or-die match for both the sides; a win by two or more goals would guarantee UAE the top spot in Group G of the AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2024 Qualifiers, while three points would give India a chance to qualify as one of the four best second-placed teams out of the 11 groups, the All India Football Federation sources said.

With a victory of 3-0 margin, UAE finished

on top of Group G with four points and a better goal difference. China who ended with four points too, have an outside chance of making the next round as one of the four best second-placed teams.

Both sides sensed the urgency and began the match at great intensity, tackles flying in both halves of the pitch. Jiteshwor Singh picked up a booking around the quarter hour mark for a tackle in the middle of the pitch.

The UAE managed to take the lead in the 26th minute as the Indian defenders were left rather confused after a melee inside the box. Mohammed Abbas Alblooshi was finally awarded the goal after a lengthy discussion between the referee and his assistant.

The side from the Persian Gulf doubled their lead just three minutes after the half-hour mark, when Sultan Adil Alameeri's low drive from inside the box found the back of the net.

Sensing the game slipping away from under their feet, India began to rotate the ball around the park, looking for openings. However, for all their intent, the UAE backline managed to keep them at bay.

After the change of ends, India looked to put some pressure on the UAE defence. Parthib Gogoi made a foray down the right into the attacking third early in the second half, but his cross evaded all the forwards.

India head coach Clifford Miranda made a couple of changes, bringing on Rabeeh Anjukandan and Sourav in place of Sanjeev Stalin and Parthib Gogoi a little after the hour mark, as they looked to pull one back.

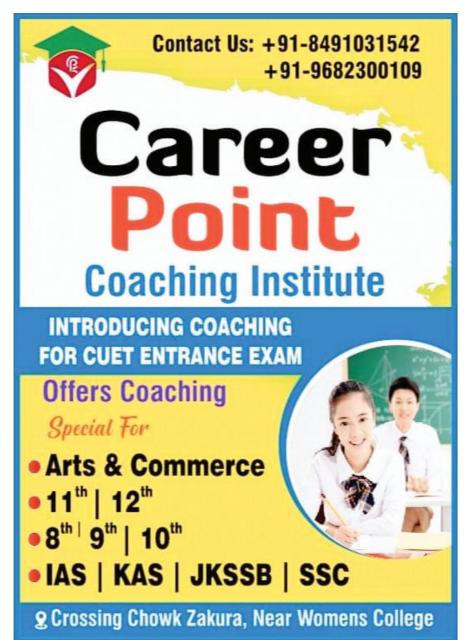
However, UAE sat back and waited for the perfect opportunity to spring a counterattack. Goalkeeper Hamad Abdulla Almeqbaali launched a long ball forward, as Eisa Khalfan finished off the move, to make it 3-0.

More changes were in store for India as Rohit Danu and Ayush Chhetri replaced Suhail Bhat and liteshwor Singh, followed by the final substitution of the day for India, as Amarjit Singh Kiyam replaced Vibin

Three substitutes combined with 18 minutes of regulation time left, as Danu cut it back to Rabeeh, who passed it on to Sourav, whose shot was blocked.



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