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HEADLINES TODAY

NEWS IN BRIEF

SC collegium recommends Gauhati HC judge Justice N. Kotiswar Singh as CJ of J&K

Srinagar, Dec 13: The Supreme Court collegium on Tuesday recommended Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, as Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

Policeman, motorcyclist died in road accidents

Srinagar, Dec 13 (UNI) A police cop and a civilian died in separate road accidents in Kashmir valley on Tuesday.

Couple dies in Doda accident

Jammu, Dec 13 : A couple was killed when a vehicle they were travelling in fell 100-150 feet from the road into a gorge in Doda district.

War against drugs will continue with full might: DIG RP Range

Rajouri Deputy Inspector General of Police, Rajouri Poonch Range, Dr. Haseeb Mughal, IPS said that war against drugs will continue with full might and police has taken stern actions against people involved in the crime.

Chinese Neferious Attempt Contested in a Firm, Befitting and Resolute manner at Tawang

Armed Forces committed to protect territorial integrity of country: Rajnath Singh

HT NEWS DESK | AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today informed that no fatalities or serious casualties have occurred on Indian side during the face-off between the Indian and Chinese troops at Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh.



He said, the Chinese attempt was contested by Indian troops in a firm and resolute manner. He said, face-off led to a physical scuffle in which the Indian Army bravely prevented the Chinese troops from transgressing into Indian territory and compelled them to return to their posts.

diplomatic channels. Singh assured the House that Indian Forces are committed to protecting country's territorial integrity and will continue to thwart any attempt made on it.

LG flags off Shri Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust's Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul

HT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Dec 13: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul of Shri Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust on Tuesday.



Appreciating the Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust for engaging in the commendable work of preserving, developing and propagating the Sanskrit language and message of the ancient sages, the Lt Governor called for working together with flexible and non-formal approach to popularize the

Al-Badr militant associate arrested in Pulwama, IED destroyed in Sopore: Police 'Chargesheet produced in IED case in Pulwama'

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 13: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a militant associate in South Kashmir's Pulwama district and also said that Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was destroyed in Sopore.

In this regard, police said that a case under FIR number 358/2022 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Pulwama and further investigation is in progress.

2,639 govt jobs, 6,000 transit accommodation for Kashmiri migrants, portal also launched for grievance: MHA 'Net infiltration from across Indo-Pak border into J&K in 2021

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 13: Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that as many as 2,639 government jobs have been provided to Kashmiri migrants under Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDDP), 2015.



He also said the government of J&K has launched a portal on September 7, 2021 to address the grievances of Kashmiri migrants.

Rs 64k cr investment proposal for J&K, Rs 25k cr already received: MHA

Srinagar, Dec 13: Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that J&K government has reported an investment proposal to the tune of Rs 64,000 crore of which over Rs 2,500 crore has already been received.

"Hard work paid off": Srinagar girl after winning medal at World Junior Wushu Championship



HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 13: A young girl from Bemina area of Srinagar, who created history by winning a medal at World Junior Wushu Championship, Tuesday said the hard work has paid off and also expressed gratitude to her parents and coach for supporting her.

'Enso Wellness': Pahalgam girl's mental health initiative bags International Business Award

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 13: The initiative of Arouba Kabir, Mental & Emotional Health Therapist who is basically from Pahalgam area of Anantnag and now settled in Gurgaon, has bagged an international business award 2022-2023.

Lt Governor Chairs Review Meeting of Industries & Commerce Department



SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 13: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a high-level meeting to review the sectoral progress of the Industries & Commerce department here today.

GN Azad deputed to J&K ahead of elections to benefit BJP: JKPCC Chief

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 13 Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president, Vikar Rasool Wani on Tuesday said that Ghulam Nabi Azad has been deputed to J&K ahead of elections to benefit Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

J&K Admin rejuvenating agriculture sector with multi-pronged approach J&K among top five States/UTs of country in terms of farm income

Progressing J&K

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 13: J&K Administration took several measures to rejuvenate Agriculture and allied sector by filling credit gaps, diversification, high-density plantation, building storage capacity, market linkages and extension services.



and Fisheries are becoming engines of high growth, and Government is doing massive efforts for creat-

ing awareness amongst the farmers to tap its tremendous potential and benefit. In the last two years, government has come out with a viable strategy to achieve the historic task of ensuring higher incomes to farmers.

Unfortunate that ties with neighbours mismanaged: Omar Abdullah

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 13 (UNI) National Conference Vice-president Omar Abdullah on Tuesday hit out at the union government saying it was unfortunate that India has not been able to maintain good relations with its neighbours.

and they had yet not fully vacated and now there was the news about the scuffle in Arunachal Pradesh. He asked the Centre to follow the advice of former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee for better relations with neighbours.

TS Wazir Murder Case, Gandhi Nagar Dacoity Accused Nabbed: ADGP Jammu

M S Nazki

Jammu: At least five persons wanted in a high-profile murder case and a dacoity incident at Gandhi Nagar, have been nabbed by police, ADGP Jammu sharing details said on Monday.

Addressing a presser, the top police officer Mukesh Singh, as per a statement to GNS, said that on 7th of December 2022, a dacoity took place in the house of Rakesh Aggarwal, resident of Gandhi Nagar, where 10 masked men wearing police uniform, of which five had come with weapons and reportedly looted 15 lakh at the gun point and had kept the entire family and domestic helpers hostage for 5 long hours.

"In this regard case FIR no 310 u/S 395, 452, 120-B IPC and 3/25 IAA was registered in Police station Gandhi Nagar and investigation was set into motion", he said.

"Working on various leads and technical intelligence gathered during the investigation, the police team was able to identify the locality in Shastri Nagar from where the dacoits started on foot for the commission of the crime. Some more evidence was gathered and one person namely Harjinder Singh, son of Jasvir Singh, resident of Badiana, Jalandhar Punjab was arrested yesterday", he said.

"It transpired during the investigation that the



main conspirator is Amit Rana, a resident of Delhi and while following Amit Rana, it was gathered that he was duping people in Jammu by various means and finally, a lead was gathered regarding his movement in general area of marble market Jammu, he said adding for nabbing the accused, different teams were formed by SSP Jammu and in the general area of marble market during along chase, the accused namely Amit Rana fired upon police party but he was overpowered and finally nabbed by the police party.

"A case under relevant section has been registered in the Channi Himmat police station. During his questioning, he admitted having hatched a conspiracy at the instance of a few persons to barge into the house of Rakesh Aggarwal and from there call Nagar Singh so that he could be eliminated. For this purpose, he had tied up with one criminal;

make his arrest", the top police officer said.

The arrests, as per the police officer made so far include; Harpreet Singh @ Amit Rana, son of Lt. Paramjeet Singh, resident of C-35 Hanuman Road Connaught Place New Delhi A/P 684 Digiana Jammu, Manjeet Singh, son of Surinder Singh, resident of Ralhan Tehsil Dasuya District Hoshiarpur Punjab, Harjinder Singh, son of Jasvir Singh, resident of Badayana, Jalandhar PS Adampur Punjab, Raja Singh @ Raja, son of Gurdev Singh, resident of Panwah Tehsil Dasuya District Hoshiarpur, Punjab and Pinto Singh, son of Lt. Shri Krishan Lal, resident of Abohar Punjab have been arrested so far in the case.

"A Cash amount of around five lakhs, two pistols, live pistol cartridges, six police jersey, ten police caps, mobile phones are recovered so far in the instant case", he said.

"During sustained questioning of the conspirator, the Police team got apprehensive regarding his name, address and other particulars. His address mentioned in his Aadhar card was checked and it was found to be false. So he was using a forged aadhar card. Further questioning led to his confession that he is duping his identity and his actual name is Harpreet Singh Khalsa, a resident of Digiana Jammu. After this, Police team got more apprehensive and finally it came to fore that he is the main accused in Sardar Tarlochan Singh murder case of 2021 in which FIR was registered in Delhi. Delhi Police had issued a hue & cry notice, so as to

DC Jammu reviews performance of Revenue Department

Emphasizes on early completion of digitization of Jamabandis

JAMMU, DECEMBER 13: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa today reviewed the functioning of Revenue department besides various revenue related matters in the district here at a meeting held in the DC Office Complex.

ADC (ADM), Sandeep Seonetra; ACR, Piyush Dhotra; SDMs, Tehsildars along with senior officers from Revenue department were present in the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review regarding writing of Jamabandis and their digitization, writing of Khasra Girdawari



Registers, Attestation of Mutations, Demarcation of state land, eviction of encroachment from state land, status of disposal of court cases, scanning of revenue documents etc.

While reviewing the progress on writing of Jamabandis and its digitization, attestation of mutations and writing of Girdawari, the DC directed the Tehsildars to

complete the same at the earliest. She set timelines for speedy submission of details of mutations and updation of Jamabandis/Girdawari.

The Deputy Commissioner also asked the officers to launch anti-encroachment drives to vacate State, Kahcharai and common land in their respective areas. She also directed the Tehsildars for speedy disposal of court cases related to revenue. The Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned officers to work with zeal and zest and ensure completion of the work within targeted time.

DC Poonch interacts with Bal Ashram Children

Distributes warmers, inners among 55 inmates

POONCH, DECEMBER 13: District Development Commissioner Poonch Inder Jeet today visited Bal Ashram Poonch and distributed Warmers, Inners among the inmates under Red Cross.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner also checked the rooms, kitchen, overall arrangements and expressed satisfaction over the hygienic conditions maintained in the Bal Ashram. He advised the District Social Welfare Officer to keep



it up, provide good facilities and good nutrition

to save the children from malnutrition.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the children and inspired them to work hard and get the benefits of Govt schemes and facilities.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed to provide a special power line to Bal Ashram Poonch so that the children do not face any problem. District Social Welfare Officer, Mohinder Paul, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Mohd. Azam Rather and other staff members were present on the occasion.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name in school Records is wrongly mentioned as AQIB YOUSUF DUGLOO S/O MOHD YOUSUF DUGLOO. INSTEAD OF ACTUAL NAME AQIB YOUSUF GUGLOO S/O MOHD YOUSUF GUGLOO. Now I intend to make necessary correction if any person having objection to it may please fill his/her objection before the PRINCIPAL ISLAMIA HIGH SCHOOL RAJORI KADAL Srinagar within a period of seven days of publication of this notice falling which no any objection shall be entertained.

AQIB YOUSUF GUGLOO
S/O MOHD YOUSUF GUGLOO

Salute 72

Rehmatal-lil-Aalameen Blood Donor Group

PUBLIC NOTICE

Members of Salute 72 are here by Strickly informed that the Id Cards Issued to them are being Cancelled by the organisation. So if any such member use this card he will be taken action according to the rules. mean while all the administration are requested not to conceed any such card from any of our member.

Regards
Salute 72
9419200598,9906613142

1996 Assembly elections in J&K were fixed in New Delhi: Rana



JAMMU DECEMBER 13: In a sensational disclosure, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said that the 1996 Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections were fixed in New Delhi that paved way for a particular political party in the sensitive state to form the government after nearly six years of gubernatorial rule. "The beneficiaries of the crucial 1996 elections know the fact that the number of seats to be won by the contesting political parties were fixed on a High table in New Delhi", Mr Rana said while interacting with media men on the side-lines of a function here this afternoon. Mr Devender Rana took head on those pointing fingers on the Indian Army and said that the observations on the Army are regrettable, condemnable and shameful. He said the Indian Army is known for its professionalism and apolitical character the world over and the valiant officers and jawans have offered supreme sacrifices to defend the integrity and sovereignty of the nation. It is because of their valour and vigil that the compatriots feel a sense of security and pride, he added. Mr Devender Rana said the BJP is credited with holding free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir in 1977 under the leadership of Mr. Morarji Desai, 2002 under the premiership of Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee and 2014 under Mr Narendra Modi. The people, therefore, must remain reassured about the fairness of the assembly elections that will empower them to choose their own government, he maintained.

Sunset Point At Wular Lake: A new attraction for tourists in Bandipora



Suhail Rather

Bandipora, 13 Dec: Sunset Point located on the banks of Asia's largest freshwater lake in Bandipora's saderkoot has become the centre of attraction for the visitors across J&K. The newly established point by District Administration Bandipora has been attracting major crowds and is winning the hearts of visitors. Joint Director Planning Bandipora, Intiyaz Ahmad while complimenting the men and machinery involved in establishing the point said that the idea & its subsequent execution

has attracted praises from one and all. "We wanted to serve our guests in a unique way with unique picturesque and the idea of doing something dramatic for our guests and patterns have worked. It has attracted a large number of tourists and this new attraction has become a selfie point in Bandipora," the Joint director Planning Bandipora said. "I am visiting Bandipora for the second time. But this time this selfie point has surprised me so much. I am very happy that I have come here and also recommend others to visit it once," Saba, a resident of Srinagar said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 220 of R&B /9797-9806/2022-23 Dated:- 13/12/2022

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

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

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contractor	AA NO & DT	TS NO & DT
1	Renovation and Repair of Sub Division Office and Residential quarter at Chadoora.	2.47	200.00	4940	10	2059 M&R	MSEs	N/A	Sanctioned
2	Renovation and Repair of Old Divisional Office at Chadoora.	2.48	200.00	4960	10	2059 M&R	MSEs	N/A	Sanctioned

Position of AAA: - Accorded,
Position of funds: - Available.

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13/12/2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13/12/2022
3	Bid submission Start Date	13/12/2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	19/12/2022 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	19/12/2022 at 4.10 PM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

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

2.1 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for beyond bid validity.

2.2 Bidders registered as Micro and Small Enterprise are exempted from depositing Earnest Money/Bid Security and Tender Document Fee. Proof of valid MSME registration certificate must be enclosed for availing these benefits. The bidders availing this benefit shall upload a copy of Bid Security Declaration Form as per Annexure A.

3. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)

4. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP. Note: The Bidders shall mention the name of the advertised work/ reference to NIT & S. No. on the EMD / Bid security (CDR/FDR/BG) while submitting the bidding documents, in order to avoid using the same multiple times for multiple works.

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

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

7. The earnest money/ performance Security shall be forfeited if:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DIPK-15045/22

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Chadoora

Office of the Principal Arifeen I.R.P School Ellachi Bagh Buchpora Srinagar Govt. Recognised		
Fee Structure for L.P.D Classes of the School		
S.No	Heads	Fee
1	Admission fee	100
2	Games Fund	5
3	News Fund	5
4	Poor Fund	195
5	Printing Fund	20
6	Red Cross Fund	15
7	Building Fund	290
Total		630/=
Sd/ Principal		

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9596080256

CSC
COMMON SERVICE CENTRE

Digital India
DIGITAL SEVA

DIGITAL SEVA KENDRA
Ministry of Electronic & Information Technology Govt. of India

VLE NAME: NAWAZAHMAD LONE
CSC ID: 25745236007

EMAIL: LONETELECOM945@GMAIL.COM
CELL NO.: 8082080256-9596080256

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LOAN SUVIDHA CENTRE
DAR GANIE GUND

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VEHICLE INSURANCE

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PROPERTY RETURN

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- 4 FSSAI REGISTRATION
- 5 ITR FILLING
- 6 GST REGISTRATION
- 7 PASSPORT SEVA
- 8 FLIGHT & TRAIN BOOKING
- 9 EMI FINANCE CENTRE
- 10 ATM FACILITY
- 11 AYUSHMAN BHARAT YOJNA
- 12 LEARNING AND DL RELATED SERVICES
- 13 HDFC BANK ACCOUNT OPENING
- 14 DAK MITRA SERVICES
- 15 ADHAR REALVED

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MCs seek suggestions, objections from public on ODF+ status

JAMMU, DECEMBER 13: Several Municipal Committees of Jammu Division have self-declared as Open Defecation Free plus status after complying with all bye-laws and development done in Municipal limits as per the Swachh Bharat Mission norms.

The Municipal Committees Vijaypur, Surankote, Jourian, Batote, Basohli and Ramgarh after proclaiming ODF Plus status have sought Feedback/suggestions/objections within 15 days to perform all necessary action on the comments/suggestions/objections received.

The Municipal Bodies have also declared Open Defecation, open urination, and unauthorized dumping of sewage in open areas, drains and water bodies as punishable offences. The Civic authorities of these Municipal areas have informed

the public that a penalty of INR 200 would be imposed for open defecation, INR 100 for open urination and INR 500 for unauthorized dumping of sewage in open areas, drains and water bodies.

Meanwhile, Vijaypur and Ramgarh MCs have enjoined upon all concerned that a penalty will be imposed for violation of National Sanitation by laws related to open dumping/desludging of Faecal Sludge in Street/Nallas/Open Drain/Water bodies/open spaces within Municipal Jurisdiction. The violation of National Sanitation by laws by the Households would attract a fine of Rs. 2000 for 1st offence and Rs 3000 for 2nd offence. Similarly, Commercial establishments, Offices, Hotels and Private Desludging Operators would be charged Rs. 3000 fine for 1st offence and Rs 5000 for 2nd offence.

Over 10.38 lakh Aadhaar cards issued in Srinagar DC Srinagar reviews progress on Aadhaar saturation and Aadhaar seeding under beneficiary oriented schemes

SRINAGAR DECEMBER 13:- With a view to achieve saturation under Aadhaar enrolment process, a meeting of all concerned Officers was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner(DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here on Tuesday at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex.

Besides Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer and Mohammad Yaseen Lone, the meeting was attended by all District Officers of concerned Departments.

At the outset, the DC took department wise review of the Aadhaar seeding with regard to Government sponsored beneficiary oriented

schemes and stressed on 100% Aadhaar coverage in District Srinagar within a specific time frame. He asked the concerned to pace up the speed of the process and mobilize its men and machinery to achieve the left out target.

On the occasion, the DC asked for holding special Aadhaar Enrolment camps in all Wards of the District over next two weeks to register the uncovered population.

The DC said that Aadhaar is a unique identity of every citizen by which they are able to avail any Government service in hassle free manner. He directed all the Officers to take up Aadhaar saturation in mission mode so that effective and efficient public services are pro-



vided to the people. The DC enjoined upon the Officers to formulate a concrete plan for opti-

mum utilisation of Aadhaar centres in order to achieve the 100% saturation. He also stressed on

mass mobilization to designated Aadhaar centres through awareness campaigns by involving local representatives.

The DC was informed that a population of over 10.38 lakh have been covered under the ambit of Aadhaar enrolment in Srinagar so far and process of registration of remaining population is being carried out across the District. The DC was also apprised that most of the Departments providing beneficiary oriented schemes have already achieved 100 percent Aadhaar seeding including FCS&CA, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Co-operatives, KVIB, KVIC, Labour, Social welfare and RDD through different beneficiary oriented

schemes like PM-Kissan, KCC, IDDS, IPDP, FD, Soil cards etc. On the occasion, the DC asked for holding special Aadhaar Enrolment camps in all Wards of the District over next two weeks to register the uncovered population. The DC said that Aadhaar is a unique identity of every citizen by which they are able to avail any Government service in hassle free manner. He directed all the Officers to take up Aadhaar saturation in mission mode so that effective and efficient public services are provided to the people. The DC enjoined upon the Officers to formulate a concrete plan for optimum utilisation of Aadhaar centres in order to achieve the 100% saturation.

1-Day training programme on Registration of Births & Deaths held at Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 13: A one day training programme on Registration of Births and Deaths through CRS portal was today held for functionaries of Udhampur and Reasi District here under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Krittika Jyotsna.

The training was organised by Planning Development and Monitoring Department, J&K District Registrar/Additional Registrar of Births and Deaths Udhampur, in collaboration with District Administration Udhampur, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K and Directorate of Census operations J&K.

The training programme was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Ranjeet Kotwal; District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, Darshan Kumar; District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, Reasi Ashok Kumar; BDOs, BMOs and other concerned officers.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Vijay Basotra, who is also the District Registrar of Births & Deaths, welcomed all the participants.

During the training programme, Resource persons from Census Department, Manmeet Singh Loomba, ADCO and Himanshu Koul, SIG -II gave a detailed powerpoint presentation on Civil Registration System (CRS). They briefed the participants about the duties and responsibilities of functionaries involved in the Civil Registration System with special focus on the role of local registrars for the issuance of Birth and Death Certificates in the areas falling within their jurisdiction.

They urged the registrars BDOs & EOs to put in dedicated efforts for the implementation of Civil Registration System in letter and spirit in their respective areas.

School Education Department Kishtwar hosts online orientation workshop on JK career portal "Manzilein"

KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 13: An online orientation programme cum workshop on JK career portal "Manzilein" was today organised by District Guidance and Counselling Cell of School Education Department Kishtwar. The programme was organised under the close supervision of Chief Education Officer (CEO) Sudarshan Kumar Sharma and under the guidance of District Counselling Coordinator Sandeep Kumar Rathore and District Counsellor Arvind Kumar sen.

Faculty members of Directorate of School Education Jammu Dr. Alka Sharma, Bindu, Preeti and other members were special Guests on the occasion.

In this online meet/workshop, the Principals/Headmasters/Faculty counsellors/Teachers and students from the different Higher Secondary and High Schools participated with great enthusiasm and zeal.

The online orientation programme started with the welcome address which was followed by the lecture by Dr. Alka Sharma, who laid emphasis on exploring the online career portal and insisted all the participants to register the Teachers and students regarding Pariksha Pe Charcha 2022 by and before 30-12-2022.

Besides, the zonal counselling coordinators (ZCCs) of the 7 zones of the district namely, Babu Lal Sharma, ZCC Marwah; Abid Hussain ZCC warwan; Ram Rakesh ZCC Drabshalla; Ajay Thakur ZCC Kishtwar; Bilal Ahmed ZCC Inderwal; Rakesh Kumar ZCC Padder and Khaliq Hussain ZCC Nagseini also attended the online meet/workshop. JK career portal was recently launched by Principal Secretary Education Department J&K Alok Kumar and Director School Education Jammu Ravi Kumar Sharma in collaboration with UNICEF at a function organized by the Head counselling cell Directorate of School Education Jammu.

Chairperson DDC, DC inaugurate JJM Scheme Kun Kanyala in block Panthal

REASI, DECEMBER 13: Retrofitting and augmentation of water supply scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme was today inaugurated and dedicated to public of Kun Kanyala by District Development Council Chairperson, Reasi Saraf Singh Nag in presence of Deputy Commissioner, Babila Rakhwal.

Executive Engineer PHE apprised the chairperson that the scheme was approved at an estimated cost of Rs 252.69 lacs. He informed that under this scheme 5000 souls would benefit.

Chairperson DDC said that the Jal Jeevan Mission is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the government of India with the objective to provide tap water to all households across the nation. He stressed on tapping all sustainable water resources for the benefits of the community. Chairperson DDC further stressed that the PHE sector was the main priority sector and all officers/officials should work hard to provide best services to the people. He called upon the people to come forward to avail the benefits of various government schemes and programmes.

The DDC Chairperson stated that functional tap water connection for every household is the goal of the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission as "Access to drinking water facilities is the basic right of every citizen." Local people thanked the District Administration.

"Nidhi Aapke Nikat" for December 2022 conducted by EPFO Regional Office Jammu

JAMMU, DECEMBER 13: "Nidhi Aapke Nikat" and "Pension Adalat" for the month of December 2022 was conducted by EPFO Regional Office, Jammu today for the stakeholders of Jammu & Kashmir.

The EPFO is servicing the entire area from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with regard to settlement of claims, redressal of grievances, and facilitating stakeholders and so on. Considering the large number of grievances and to ensure service delivery at doorstep, various online initiatives of EPFO such as balance enquiry, filing of online claims including transfer and advance claims and members' basic details were explained with hands-on demonstration.

Varun from Dishnet Wireless has visited the office regarding bank KYC approval and the Establishment's representative Preetu Raina was contacted over telephonically and directed



to approve the KYC. Establishment has reportedly authorised Srinivas, who would approve KYC within two days.

Sumit Sharma, Naresh Sharma, Sanjay Kumar who have worked in Future Retails in Jammu visited for their transfer related issues. Their transfer claim (form-13) was submitted online which would be approved by the present employer M/s Monalisa and M/s Excel Security respectively.

Altaf Hussain, Principal M/s Nawaz Public School Rajouri visited to generate a password. A re-

quest letter through user ID was generated during "Nidhi Aapke Nikat" in the chamber of Rizwan Uddin, P F Commissioner and Ajit Mishra, RC-II was advised to approve the same. A Password was generated and provided to the School on the spot.

Raviraj Singh submitted a form -19 (final settlement claim for P F) three days ago and approached P F Commissioner during the Programme. His claim was initiated immediately by Arun Kumar, SSSA which would be finally processed today.

DC Kishtwar chairs District Road Safety Committee meeting

KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 13: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav today chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee to review the measures being taken for the effective implementation of road safety plan in the district besides discussing further measures to prevent mishaps.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on the action plan regarding raising awareness about road safety, implementation of provision of Motor Vehicles Act, removal of illegal encroachments/hoardings, fixing of road safety signages, installation of Crash barriers and safety measures along accident prone road stretches and at designated black spots. Speaking in the meeting, the DC said that effective execution of the road safety plan was necessary for prevention and protection of road acci-



dents. He called for strict enforcement of road safety rules and implementation of stringent safety measures by the enforcement departments.

Taking note of the illegal encroachment along the roadsides, the DC passed strict instructions to the concerned officers to remove the same at the earliest. Regarding corrective measures, the NHIDCL and other concerned authorities were directed to rectify designated blind spots to prevent mishaps. Concerned Officers were asked to constitute Joint teams of NHIDCL, Traffic Police,

MVD and concerned Tehsildars to monitor the safety and rectification process. Stress was also laid on installation of crash barriers and other safety measures.

The Tehsildar Kishtwar was asked to identify no parking zones and ensure strict enforcement. He was also directed to remove illegal and unethical hoardings from the road sides.

The meeting was attended by SSP Kishtwar Shafiq Hussain Batt, ADDC Kishtwar Sham Lal, ACR Kishtwar Varunjeet Singh Charak, DGM NHIDCL.

Secretary Health reviews action plan for strengthening of District Hospitals as per IPHS 2022

JAMMU DECEMBER 13: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, today chaired a meeting to review and discuss the action plan for strengthening of District Hospitals as per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), 2022.

Pertinently, IPHS is a set of standards that provide a uniform benchmark to assess the quality and functionality of public health facilities. It was first framed in 2007 and then revised in 2012 followed by another revision in 2022. These standards provide guidance on the infrastructure, human resource, drugs, diagnostics, equipment, quality and governance requirements for delivering quality health services to all the citizens with dignity.

In an effort to improve the quality of services, National Health Mission J&K in collaboration with Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) has taken the initiative to conduct rapid baseline assessment of all DHs and CHCs as per IPHS 2022.

During the meeting, Secretary had a detailed review regarding



findings of baseline assessment of District Hospitals and action plan for their strengthening. He sought inputs on the subject and discussed various interventions with the stakeholders for filling the identified gaps in different areas at the earliest so as to make these hospitals IPHS compliant.

Secretary asked the Directors of Health Services, Jammu and Kashmir to cross check the findings of the assessment with respect to Human Resource, Equipment/Instruments, Drugs and Diagnostics, Infrastructure and other areas and submit the proposals for the next financial year as per the actual gaps in

District Hospitals.

In addition, Secretary laid emphasis on implementation of Quality Assurance program and directed the concerned to conduct quarterly internal assessments, identify gaps and prepare time bound facility wise action plans for filling the gaps. This will ensure that all

JKTPO sponsors over 30 exhibitors at Punjab International Trade Expo Amritsar

JAMMU, DECEMBER 13: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) participated in 16th edition of Punjab International Trade Expo (PITEX), held from 8th to 12th of December 2022 at Amritsar, Punjab, a flagship B2B and B2C event.

Pavilion setup by JKTPO showcasing the UT's Culture, Heritage, Handloom and Handicraft besides Agricultural products was one of the biggest attractions at the PITEX which received huge rush of visitors. PITEX, which brought together industry, trade and business from all over the country and abroad as well, worked as a catalyst of economic growth in the country. The J&K exhibitors displayed and promoted the uniqueness and strength of J&K among the National and International visitors.

More than 30 exhibitors including women entrepreneurs from Hausla, NGOs and Societies along with departments and corporations of J&K government

exhibited unique and wide range of products during the event. The products exhibited included Pashmina shawl from Kashmir, Kani shawls, Sozni work, Handicrafts from Jammu and Kashmir region, Walnut, Kishtwari and Kashmiri Saffron, Honey and Rajmash from Doda and Kishtwar, modern textiles, toys and accessories. Special feature of JKTPO pavilion was presence of women entrepreneurs and societies comprising specially-abled. Media interaction with Hausla Women Entrepreneurs of J&K was organized in which women entrepreneur of J&K shared their experience with media. Hausla women also shared their entrepreneurial journey, their experiences and briefed about the support which they are getting from the present government of UT of J&K to make their business more progressive and sustainable. The event has provided an excellent platform to the budding and established entrepreneurs of J&K.

DC Samba reviews delivery of revenue services, functioning of department

SAMBA, DECEMBER 13: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ms. Anuradha Gupta on Tuesday reviewed the functioning of Revenue Department and the status & progress of the delivery of different public services in the district, here at a meeting held in DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by ACR, Manu Hansa; SDM Ghagwal, Ramkesh Sharma; SDM Vijaypur, Vinay Kumar; Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars besides other officials. Assistant Commissioner Revenue gave a detailed powerpoint presentation on status of updating and digitization of jamabandies, digitization of cadastral maps, delineation of land records, generation of land passbooks, status of eviction of Roshni land, land acquisition cases, change of land use cases, status of RC-CMS portal and other issues. During the meeting, it was informed that digitization of jamabandies for 373 villages has been completed while the process for 7 villag-



es is on and that of 2 villages is yet to be started. He further informed 1142 Kanal 08 Marla roshni land has been evicted during anti encroachment drives conducted across the district in the past couple of weeks. Similarly, pendency of inheritance mutations of 574 cases has been observed against a total 1211 cases. The Deputy Commissioner directed to expedite the generation of Land Passbooks. Digitization of land records in the district.

DC Srinagar conducts late night inspection of City Hospitals; oversees patient-care facilities

SRINAGAR, : The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad conducted late night inspection of various City hospitals during the intervening night of 12th and 13th December to oversee the healthcare facilities being extended to the patients.

The DC paid surprise visits to SMHS, JLN, CHC Gousia Khanyar and other Hospitals and checked night duty roster of Medical & Paramedical staff, heating arrangements, availability of drugs/ medicines at pharmacies and functioning of laboratories/diagnostic units.

Meanwhile simultaneous inspection of SDH Hazratbal and PHC Zadibal was also done on the directions of Deputy Commissioner by SDM East and SDM West respectively.

During the night inspection, the DC made a thorough round of various Units of the Hospitals including Emergency Block,

Surgical Wards, Cardiology Wards, Operation Theatre, Dialysis Unit, Orthopaedic Unit, Ayushman Bharat Help Desk etc. He also oversaw the operationalisation of Jan Aushadhi stores aimed at providing generic drugs to the patients.

On the occasion, the DC interacted with the patients, attendants, Doctors and the Para Medical staff on duty. He also took direct feedback from the patients regarding the available patient care facilities, besides provision of medicines, meals and other medical facilities to the patients and their attendants.

While interacting with the Doctors and Para-Medical staff on duty, the DC advised them to perform their duties with added zeal and passion to serve the public. He asked them to ensure availability of Medical and Para-Medical staff strictly as per the devised roster so that



patients do not face any difficulty.

The DC advised the Medical Superintendents and concerned CMOs to display duty roster conspicuously on the Hospital Information Board. He stressed on adopting a caring and compassionate attitude towards the patients. He also appreciated the Medical staff at various hospitals for working with dedication especially during night hours of the winter. He also told few 24*7 Hospitals to utilise their full capacity and avoid unnecessary referrals which puts a burden on the Tertiary care Health System. The DC also passed instructions to the Hospital Administrations to maintain complete cleanliness and hygiene in and around the Hospital, besides proper heating and lighting facilities in the hospital. During the inspection, the DC stressed on ensuring round the clock presence.

District Level Committee meeting for implementation of PMMSY held at Pulwama



PULWAMA, A District Level Committee (DLC) meeting for implementation of District Fisheries Plan under centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was today held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama, Dr. Sheikh Abdul Aziz at Mini Secretariat, here

The ADDC discussed the modalities for effective implementation of PMMSY in the district.

He informed the meeting that PMMSY is a flagship programme launched with the purpose to augment the fish production, create employment avenues and welfare of the fishermen community and fish farmers.

On the occasion, 10 and 02 beneficiaries were selected

through a draw of lots for availing financial assistance to construct their Trout Rearing Units under centrally sponsored PMMSY and State Capex Budget respectively, whereas 01 beneficiary was selected for construction of Carp Pond under State Capex Budget.

PMMSY under Aatm Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan is covering all the aspects of fish production and productivity, Post-harvest infrastructure and strengthening of value chain, establishing a Robust Fisheries management framework and Fisher's welfare.

The scheme envisages establishment of Fish Raceways and Ponds, Trout Hatcheries, Housing and Insurance for fishers and Trout Feed Mills.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC said that the District

Administration is committed to increase the trout production in the district and achieve the set targets, besides providing every possible help to the farmers connected with the fish farming.

The department of Fisheries Pulwama is providing Rs 2.20 lac, 40 percent financial assistance for construction of Trout Unit and Rs 1.30 lac (100 percent) for construction of low cost house to registered and Fish farmers and are also provided premium less insurance cover of Rs 5 lac against accidental death.

Among others, the meeting was attended by SE Hydraulic Circle Pulwama, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Head Krishi Vigyan Kendra Malangpora Pulwama, District Lead Bank Manager, Pulwama, Assistant Director Fisheries Pulwama.

JKEDI organizes day-long 'Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme' for school students

PULWAMA, : A one-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP) was today organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) for the students of the Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Nishat at its Pampore Campus.

This Awareness Programme was organized by JKEDI as part of its efforts to create mass awareness among the educated youth of J&K about the realities of the labour market in the Union Territory and the scope for entrepreneurship and self-employment across various sectors.

Senior faculty members of JKEDI coordinated the event and spoke about various activities and initiatives of the Institute.

Dr. Nyla Khanday, In Charge, Centre for Women Entrepreneurship, gave a detailed presentation about the Institute and its role in creating a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Union Territory of J&K. She enumerated different



opportunities available to the youth and also spoke about the importance of women entrepreneurship and its challenges. Various other initiatives were also discussed.

Imtiyaz Ahad Malla, Associate Project Manager, JKEDI discussed opportunities available under the J&K Startup Policy. In an elaborate presentation, he spoke about the help provided by the Government for aspiring entrepreneurs who are contemplating to start a business.

Faculty members of JKEDI, Dr. Sameer Jan and Agha Wahid also spoke on the occasion and apprised the students about the challenges and charms of entrepreneurship. They provided an

insight into the world of entrepreneurship to the participating students and acknowledged the fact that there is a need to mould young minds towards entrepreneurship and that schools are the best places to induce a positive mindset towards choosing entrepreneurship as a viable career option.

Later in the day, the students also visited the incubation centre at the Institute and were apprised about benefits to the startups registered under the J&K Startup Policy. The students were accompanied by the teachers of the school. Later in the day, the students also visited the incubation centre at the Institute.

Workshop on 'Elimination of Violence Against Women' held at Seer Anantnag

ANANTNAG, D: Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) Anantnag today organised a workshop on 'Elimination of Violence against Women' in collaboration with DLSA, National Commission for Women (NCW) and Women's Police Station Anantnag at Block Training Centre Seer Hamdan, Anantnag. Razia Malik spoke at length on free legal Aid, Domestic Violence and Gender Inequality. Resource persons from NCW also spoke on various aspects of elimination of violence against women. Sheikh Kifayat ullah, DPM JKRLM Anantnag spoke at length on the role of JKRLM (UMED) in women empowerment particularly with economic/financial aspects.

BPMs and Officials from line departments/organizations also spoke during the workshop. The speakers said that concepts like gender inequality have become archaic concepts and females have the same right to aspire. They said that given the right opportunities, females have proven to be active collaborators in Nation building and have been valuable contributors in development. The participants also pledged to work towards eliminating violence against women from the society and seek help if they encounter such cases. The participants also pledged to work towards eliminating violence against women from the society and seek help if they encounter such cases.

DC Ganderbal inspects progress of work on Transit Accommodation at Wandhama

GANDERBAL, : The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today visited the site of Transit Camp Accommodation at Wandhama to have first-hand appraisal regarding the progress of works there.

The DC was briefed by all the concerned officers of various departments regarding the progress of works pertaining to their departments including electrification, Water supply and other additional works.

The DC directed all the concerned departments and implementing agencies including police and revenue to work in synergy and ensure installation of utilities at the locations to be decided in consultation with each other in a time-bound manner.

The R&B was directed to execute the works strictly as per the provi-



sions of sanctioned DPR and ensure provision for car parking, pathways, lighting, proper drainage without compromising with quality and quantity parameters.

All the line departments were directed to ensure the completion of all the formalities for the activ-

ulated time frame without compromising the quality of work.

Meanwhile, the DC visited the site of Wayil bridge and inspected the work progress on the bridge and also discussed the status of the approaching road.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, CEO, Tehsildar Lar and other concerned officers from various departments. All the line departments were directed to ensure the completion of all the formalities for the activities proposed and expedite the work so that the prestigious project gets completed on time.

The DC exhorted the concerned departments to expedite the progress of work by engaging more men and machinery so that both the projects get completed within the stip-

DC Kupwara chairs District Environment Committee meeting Directs for strict compliance of Government regulations for scientific disposal of solid waste

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 13: The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray today convened a meeting of District Environment Committee to review the implementation of District Environment Plan in Kupwara district.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of District Environment Plan which includes Solid Waste Management Plan, Water Quality Management Plan, Domestic Sewage Management, Industrial Waste Water Management, Air Quality Management, Mining Activity Management and Noise Pollution Management plans.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all the concerned officers to ensure strict compliance of the Government regulations regarding scientific disposal of solid waste. The Deputy Commissioner direct-

ed all Executive Officers of Municipalities to ensure submission of Solid Waste Management Plans within a week's time.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the EOs to ensure no waste is dumped in the town areas.

He directed the EO Handwara to identify state land for scientific disposal of the solid waste.

The DC directed District Pollution Controlling Officer to regularly evaluate the implementation of solid waste management in the district, besides, he was also directed to conduct capacity building programmes for awareness of the stakeholders regarding scientific disposal of the waste.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the EOs of Municipalities to increase the door to door garbage collection.



It was given out in the meeting that the meeting regarding review of Solid Waste Management shall be held on every week.

ACR Kupwara, ACP, DMO, FM-DIC, EO MC Handwara, EO Langate, PCB Officer and other concerned attended the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner directed the EOs to ensure no waste is dumped in the town areas.

He directed the EO Handwara to identify state land for scientific disposal of the solid waste.

The DC directed District Pollution Controlling Officer to regularly evaluate the implementation of solid waste management in the district, besides, he was also directed to conduct capacity building programmes for awareness of the stakeholders regarding scientific disposal of the waste.

07 Day STRY commences at KVK-Anantnag

ANANTNAG, DECEMBER 13: A seven days Skill Training for Rural Youth (STRY) on "Skilling of Youth in Advanced Walnut and Apple Cultivation for Entrepreneurship Opportunities" started at KVK-Anantnag.

The programme is being organized in collaboration with SAMETI-Kashmir, Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir and sponsored by MANAGE Hyderabad. STRY training programmes are aimed at imparting skill based training to Rural youth on Agro and allied based vocational areas to promote employment of rural youth and for creation of skilled manpower to perform farm and non-farm operations.

In the training programme, 28 rural youth (male/female) in the age group of 18-40 years from across the district are participating who shall be given hands on training on different aspects of advancement in walnut and apple cultivation which shall serve as an opportunity for taking walnut/apple cultivation as an enterprise. Prof. Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, Head, MCRS Sagam SKUAST-K, who was the special guest on the occasion spoke about the importance of conducting such skill development programmes and urged the participants to take full advantage of resources/ technological support from the Kendra.

Earlier, the programme started with a formal welcome address to the participants by Dr. I. A. Mir, Scientist of the Kendra. Dr. Ishiyaq A. Khan, Head, KVK Anantnag who is also the training coordinator presented the training overview.

DC Srinagar reviews status of ongoing National Highway Projects in the district

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 13: The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Asad today convened a meeting of officers to review the progress of work on Ring Road Srinagar, Grade Separator at Lasjan, Flyovers at Bemina, Nowgam & Sanatnagar, Circular Road, other major roads having issues with revenue department besides impediments faced by agencies while executing the works.

DC while reviewing physical and financial status of the NH projects, it was informed that work on the projects including culverts and foundations is going on smoothly.

Regarding Grade Separator at Lasjan, Deputy Commissioner was apprised that more than 80 percent work has been completed and after NHAI placed indent recently few structure falling in the alignment are under evaluation and compensation to the owners will be given shortly.

Further, DC also reviewed the present position of ongoing work of flyovers and dateline for completion.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner was briefed about the ongoing work on flyovers where in it was informed that more than 30% of work has been completed on both Nowgam and Bemina Flyover projects.

Besides, it is informed that the project of Sanatnagar Flyover has been already sanctioned while the design of the project is awaiting final approval.

The meeting was informed that the completion date of Bemina Flyover has been fixed for March, 2023 while the dateline for Nowgam is scheduled for January, 2023. However, it was apprised that due to delay in shifting of utilities at Nowgam the completion date may extend.

Regarding the Circular Road Srinagar, Deputy Commissioner was apprised by a concerned officer that due to non availability of funds for compensation several cases are pending for settlement.

Reacting to the issue, DC asked concerned officers of Circular road to ascertain source of funding of such works whether the source of funding is currently active or not besides to ascertain whether the work has been started on any such projects or not.

Among others, the meeting was attended by officers of NHIDCL, NHAI, PWD, SE R&B circular, R&B, CRP, O&M, revenue and District administration.

IIM Jammu organises IPR Workshop for students, teaching fraternity

JAMMU, DECEMBER 13: IIM Jammu's Foundation for Entrepreneurship Innovation and Skill Development on Tuesday organized an IPR (Patent) workshop for the benefit of the student, and teaching fraternity at its Canal Road Campus.

The session was organized by IIM Jammu in association with National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM) and under the guidance and able leadership of the Director Prof. B.S. Sahay.

The session was conducted by Divyendu Jha, a resource person from NIPAM, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India. The welcome note was delivered by Dr. Prateek Jain, Chairperson, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, IIM Jammu.

The Resource Person spoke about the various aspects of the IPR with special reference to Patenting and Geographical Indications. During his interaction, he put forward the simple and hassle-free process of making Applications to the Patent office at a very low fee. He motivated the participants to make their own applications and participate in the innovation mission of Govt. of India (GoI).

HEADLINES TODAY

EDITORIAL

'BOUIN'; The Heritage tree of Kashmir at the Verge of Extinction.

The growing concern world over about the environment protection and saving mother earth from further degradation gaining momentum day in and day out. However in our part of the world different parameters are being adopted. Majority of the water bodies across rural as well as urban Kashmir have dried up. Great saint of Kashmir Nund RESHI (RA) had predicted and given lessons on environment long back when he said..

ANN POSHE TELI
YALI WAN POSHE...

'BOUIN', the tree which was historically introduced to Kashmir by the Islamic missionaries, which later became an identity of Kashmir has turned out to be the victim to unplanned and so called developmental activities. With every passing year 'BOUINS'. The Chinar trees, are becoming a rare sight. Thanks to the unplanned construction activities and absence of any future planning to save this heritage tree. Gracing the paths and gardens of exotic Kashmir, over the years the Chinar is now at the verge of depletion because of human apathy and the administrations indifference.

As spring dawns into Kashmir and plantation season begins. Administration will soon be seen holding ceremonial plantation drives across Kashmir. However these Chinars, once abundant, are increasingly becoming a rare sight. Gods of nature have always taken mercy on Kashmir. If there is a heat wave there is rain immediately after. If there is drought there has been snow too, but despite this mercy Kashmir continues to suffer. That is because the cruel human hands continue to destroy what nature has given in abundance. Cruelty with nature and human interference galore is eating up the vitals of the paradise. Take for example the environment; immense damage is done to it undermining the nature's benevolence. The natural environment is getting decayed due to rapacious interference by human beings. All its facets like rivers, jungles, pastures, gardens are on the verge of destruction. Nothing has been spared, not even its unique feature, the majestic Chinar tree. Due to the apathy of administration and lack of self-discipline of the people, this 'king of trees' is under the axe of smugglers and their mentors among the officialdom. Visit any corner of the valley, including the protected Naseem Bagh on the shores of Dal Lake, one gets the impression that the gracious Chinar tree, which has added to the picturesque beauty of Kashmir for centuries is close to extinction. Every year, the number of Chinars is decreasing. The Chinar trees, which flourished everywhere in the valley, is increasingly becoming a rare sight even though there is a lot of clamour about the rule of law, economic prosperity and environmental awareness. The Chinar was considered to be a wealth, because it contributed not only to the beauty of Kashmir but also to its resources. Chinar wood is as good for furniture, as for making 'papier mache' items like wall hangings. It has also been one of the main sources of firewood for the rural lot whose firepots (Kangris) are filled by charcoal of red chinar leaves in winter. Gone are the days when one would come across gigantic chinar trees. These have been and are still being cut down ruthlessly. Revenue, forest or police agencies either do nothing or connive actively. The laws are flouted. It is unfortunate that there is no government agency, which would use government land, parks or gardens or even highways for the conservation of this majestic tree. Both the administration as well as citizens seem to be totally apathetic to this great loss. People shun its growth to save land. It is also normally planted in kitchen gardens for ornamental purposes. Chinar leaves engraved on Kashmiri traditional pots like 'Samavar' (tea pot) etc and other decorative items are used to adorn drawing rooms. The chinar tree is grown in Greece, Macedonia, Armenia and Northern Persia, besides Kashmir and western Himalayan region. Chinar or oriental tree (botanical name - *Platanus orientalis*) popularly known as 'bouin' in Kashmir is a large, graceful deciduous tree, which is closely associated with the culture and folklore of Kashmir. It is considered to be the manifestation of nature's bounty that the valley is blessed with. There are frequent references to the grandeur of Chinar in Kashmiri literature. The famous mystic poetess Lal Ded, also known as Lal Ishwari (1320-1390 AD) made the reference to this tree in an epigram containing: "Virtuous and loving wife to the cool and refreshing shade of bouin (chinar) on a hot summer day." In the Akbarname written by Abul Fazzal, it is mentioned, "The emperor took 34 persons inside the hollow trunk of an aged chinar tree." Similarly, emperor Jahangir, in his memoirs has made mention of a huge plain tree, in the hollow of which he and his seven companions could be comfortably accommodated. These and other references were used as a source to try and establish the date when the Chinar was introduced in Kashmir, which usually has been ascribed to the Mughal emperor Jahangir (1605-1627 AD) and Shah Jahan (1627-1658 AD) who brought it from central Asia. But history was rewritten some years ago when an investigation on charcoal remains from archeological site at Simthen in South Kashmir revealed that this tree was in existence centuries before.

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BRIJ BHARDWAJ

Indian democracy is fascinating, elections are even more amazing because of the variety and different scenarios they present. The three states where elections concluded on Dec 8 and counting took place on Dec '09 presented different sets of conclusions, different results and were won by different political parties. While elections in Gujarat broke all records in terms of number of seats won, the desecration of a political party which had come close to winning in previous poll and virtual elimination of third party which made enough noise even to make deaf sit up and notice..

BJP not only won the home State of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but established a record in term of winning 156 seats out of a total of 182 and a vote share of 53 per cent. On the other hand Congress which had won 77 seats in 2017 poll was reduced to 17 and will not be able to qualify as a opposi-

tion party having won less than 10 per cent of seats. The AAM ADMI party which not only declared that they will form the Government by winning but declared the name of future Chief Minister could win only five seats.

This happened despite the fact that ruling BJP had changed three chief Ministers during its term and had dropped many sitting members of State assembly who defied party order and contested as independent candidates. The victory in Gujarat is result of simple fact that Gujarat status and identity is now closely associated with Prime Minister who with help of Union Home Minister Amit Shah were able to defy the incumbency of seven terms during which they have ruled the State. Another factor which worked in favour of BJP was the Patidhar community which was annoyed and led state wide movement against the ruling BJP was neutralised and the young patidhar leaders who had joined Congress were back in BJP fold

and were contesting elections on BJP tickets.

It is true that Prime Minister was backed by a very powerful election machinery of BJP and top leaders of the party from different States pitched in to run a campaign of type which has never been seen before. It is agreed that BJP may not have won so many seats, if the opposition vote was not divided with the entry of Aam Admi Party in a state where it was direct fight in the past between Congress and BJP. But there is little doubt that margin may have been less but there is no doubt that BJP with a vote share of over fifty per cent would have been clear winner in any situation.

It also indicates that the difference between the State polls and national election is getting sharper. BJP has not been able to win State Assembly polls either in Himachal or in election of Delhi Municipal Corporation. In Himachal Pradesh Congress has won 40 seats while BJP 25 which indicates a comfort-

able win. But hard fact is that difference in terms of votes polled is only one per cent. Congress gained two per cent vote while BJP lost five per cent making it a close fight. Fight was close in terms of votes polled but large in terms of seats won.

More so Himachal Pradesh has a tradition where every five years a different party is voted to power. It was also at a disadvantage because State employees whose number is large were upset with new pension scheme and there were many rebels in the field. Attempts were made to persuade rebels to withdraw but it did not work. The result a consolation prize for Congress party a win after a long time in a direct contest against BJP in State election.

The third poll was for Delhi Municipal Corporation. The BJP which has been in power for three terms was challenged by Aam Admi Party with promise to clean up Delhi. The BJP claim that they could not clean Capital city

because they were denied funds by the Delhi administration.

The Aam Aadmi Party promise to clean up Delhi and make it modern city as double engine model of governance by being in power in Delhi Administration and municipal corporation. Contrary to the impression created by exit polls Aam Aadmi Party could get narrow majority only instead of sweeping the polls. The South NDMC areas were won by Aam Aadmi Party and North and East area were won by BJP.

Congress won few seats only in areas dominated by minority community and areas which were affected by communal riots.

The elections took in a different setup while Gujarat is considered a highly developed and industrialised state, Himachal Pradesh is a hilly state rural in character and agriculture based and Delhi is rich urban state where affluent areas voted for Aam Aadmi Party and poor working class areas voted for BJP.

Impact of Water and Sanitation Policies on Environmental Health

RAM RATTAN SHARMA

Contaminated water and poor sanitization or linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis A, Typhoid and Polio. Inappropriately managed water and sanitation services expose individuals to preventable health risk. Sanitization is the hygienic means of promoting health through prevention of human contact with the hazards of washes as well as the treatment and proper disposal of sewage or waste water. Hazards can be physical, micro-biological, biological or chemical agents of diseases. Wastes that can cause health problems include humans and animal excreta.

While unsafe drinking water as part of environmental health has long been realized as critical to healthy life, improved sanitation in India has of late, been recognised as essential for provisioning Safe drinking water. This is because people get exposed to faecal transmitted infections through exposure to faecal in their environments, which can result from open defecation and poorly constructed toilets. Approximately 88% of diarrhoeal deaths in children can be attributed to unsafe water supply, inadequate sanitation, and hygiene behaviour. In 2017, WHO estimated that 5.25,000 children under five died due to diarrhoeal diseases, globally, out of which 1,17,000 children under five died in India. Therefore, environmental health and resilience are only as good as the investment in sustainable and effective sanitation and safe water provisions. The system for Solid and Liquid waste management, including faecal sludge management and drainage, are important for better prevention of faecal contamination in the environment. Attaining safely managed water and sanitation requires policies that invest more on frame work seeking to go beyond simply providing toilets and water supply. They must encourage community and individual ownership over



the results to ensure positive, long term outcomes. Since 2014, over 10 crore toilets have been built in rural areas. Over 5.9 lakh villages, 699 districts, and 35 states and union territories have declared themselves open defecation free. The ten year rural sanitation strategy aims to achieve the vision of ODF- Plus, which focuses on sustaining behaviour change achieved under SBM, universal usage of sanitation facilities, inclusion of new households, as well as effective Solid and Liquid Waste disposal. The type of toilets constructed in the entire sanitation programming in India is mainly of three categories, single leachpit, twin leachpit and septic tanks. Single pits need retrofitting-either converting it into twin pits with consideration of space, so that the human excreta over the time degrade completely and turn to solid pathogen free manure for agricultural use or making provisions to empty the pit periodically. Similarly, the effluent from septic tank, under no circumstances, should be allowed into an open channel drain or body of water without treatment. Experience from the field says that majority of septic tank designs are faulty which are used as holding tanks of sewage. The liquid waste of house hold and community includ-

ing human excrement some septic tanks are found to be connected to open drains, agricultural fields, country-yard, and rivers. These contaminate water, soil and some agricultural products, which is detrimental to health. As per the Indian standard code for installation of septic tank, the unsatisfactory design constructions, and maintenance of septic tanks constitute health hazard. It is therefore, considered essential to lay down minimum standard for guidance of concerned authorities. At this juncture of ODF Plus initiatives both single leachpit toilets and septic tanks would be challenging as far as faecal sludge and septage management is concerned. Programmers with special focus on toilets retrofitting and more of managing the substructure of toilet units both at house hold and community level are needed. Proper septic tanks offer a preliminary treatment of sewage prior to final disposal which restricts damaging the environment by protecting water sources and soil.

Ministry of Jal Shakti issued Jal Jeevan guidance note in March 2019, which informs that only 18.33% of rural households in the country are connected through piped water supply. The present estimate being discussed is around

14.60 crore rural households that will need functional household tap connection at the rate of 55 liters per capita per day through JJM by 2024. This ambitious target setting of 100 per cent coverage of functional house hold tap connection from their current 18% demands the rise of an adequate and proportional pool of skilled human resources, institutional strengthening, strategic planning consistent monitoring including on site field verification, supportive supervision, and participation of community members at local level.

Water quality testing is a tool that is universally used to identify state of drinking water, whether at source, with in a piped distribution system, or at point of use by consumers as per WHO, the most effective means of consistently ensuring the safety of a drinking water supply is using a comprehensive risk management approach that encompasses all steps in water supply from catchment to consumer, considering the importance of ensuring safe drinking water quality monitoring protocol in March 2019. The protocol is suggestive in nature and plays an advisory role in guiding and supporting the states and union territories in water quality testing, monitoring and surveillance activities effective

tively. The protocols speak in detail on the monitoring of water quality using field test kit at the gram panchayat level and confirmation test at water testing laboratories and water quality surveillance, to detect the risk through an investigative activity for identifying and evaluating the factors that can pose risk to health directly or through undesirable environmental conditions.

While the country has been declared to be free from the practice of open defecation, it is pertinent to continue looking at the necessity for faecal sludge and septage management, without which the quality and safety of drinking water may be affected negatively. Concurrently, it is also important to look at the possible challenges posed by intermittent water supply and the interaction between pipes and their external surrounding due to flux in water pressure.

Safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene are crucial to human health and well being. Safe water is not only a pre-requisite to health, but contributes to livelihood, school attendance and dignity and helps to create resilient communities living in healthy environments.

Overall, to ensure the success of Jal Jeevan mission or any other programmes catering to rural communities, it is crucial to involve gram panchayats and village water and sanitation committees in the decision making processes. This will ensure ownership over and sustain ability of any achievements made over the coming years and once communities can tangibly appreciate the value of a functioning system, they would be more willing to invest in operations and maintenance efforts that will be necessary down the line. Therefore, it is important that Govt.'s at all levels work together with local leaders and representatives, who rise to become champions of the cause. So that resources can be synergized to gain maximum outputs.

(The author is former Dy. Librarian of Jammu University)

Promoting Women 'Agripreneurship'

LUQMAN AHMED WANI

Since the launch of the Startup India initiative by the Government of India on 16 January 2016, the growth of start-ups and new-generation enterprises has been remarkable. However, the number of women participating in entrepreneurship activities has been relatively less when compared to the number of their men counterparts, for a variety of reasons. Women's participation in economic activities is about 25% while they constitute over 48% of the Indian population. India's rank is 113 out of 135 countries in the index of gender inequality in workforce. According to Global women entrepreneurs leader report 2015, India was ranked 29th out of 31 countries. Similarly, World Bank's India Development Report 2018 said that India has one of the lowest female participation in the workforce globally, with a rank of 120 among 131 countries.

Considering the above dimensions and ground realities, there is an urgent need to design institutional strategies to promote an



ecosystem for women entrepreneurship in general and women 'Agripreneurship' in particular, both of which are essential for the integrated development of India.

Agripreneurship is a synthesis of agriculture and allied sectors with entrepreneurship to generate commercially viable products/

services and high-value business processes. Agripreneurship comprises the creation, development, nurturing and expansion of agri-business enterprises in agri-based and its allied sectors, which include entrepreneurial interventions of agri-tech, farming, and marketing of agri-products in organised

business practices, moving away from the unorganised sector. Agripreneurs are similar to entrepreneurs in any other sector.

Women entrepreneurs, and especially women agripreneurs, represent the fastest growing category of entrepreneurship worldwide and India is no exception to this in recent years. Women play a vital role in the integrated development of agriculture and allied sectors while adding considerable value to the transformation of society by silently adding fuel to the robust growth of rural economy. Like in every other sector, the scope for women agripreneurship has been growing and is witnessing an upward growth trend. At present, women in India comprise about 14% of agri-business owners. According to various estimates and surveys, more than one-third (1/3) of the total agri-rural start-ups are being managed by women agripreneurs, who are setting new benchmarks for viable and profitable business enterprises, especially in the last two decades.

There is unlimited scope for women agripreneurs, especially

because 70 of agriculture and allied activities are predominantly managed by women. It only requires a concerted effort and an institutional support mechanism, apart from access to quality training, funding opportunities, marketing network, e-commerce platforms, innovative approach to take products to target customers, etc.

Women are expected to dominate the workforce and leadership positions in India in the coming decades, and this trend is similar in case of women agripreneurs. As per a recent report by India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), a trust established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, more than 30 million additional women-owned business enterprises are expected to create about 150-170 million jobs by 2030. It can be said that the economic outlook is very favourable for women as a consequence of this enabling ecosystem of women entrepreneurs and women agripreneurship.

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'ADHORE KHwab- UNFULFILLED DREAMS' BY SHAIb SHADAB



BOOK REVIEW

RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

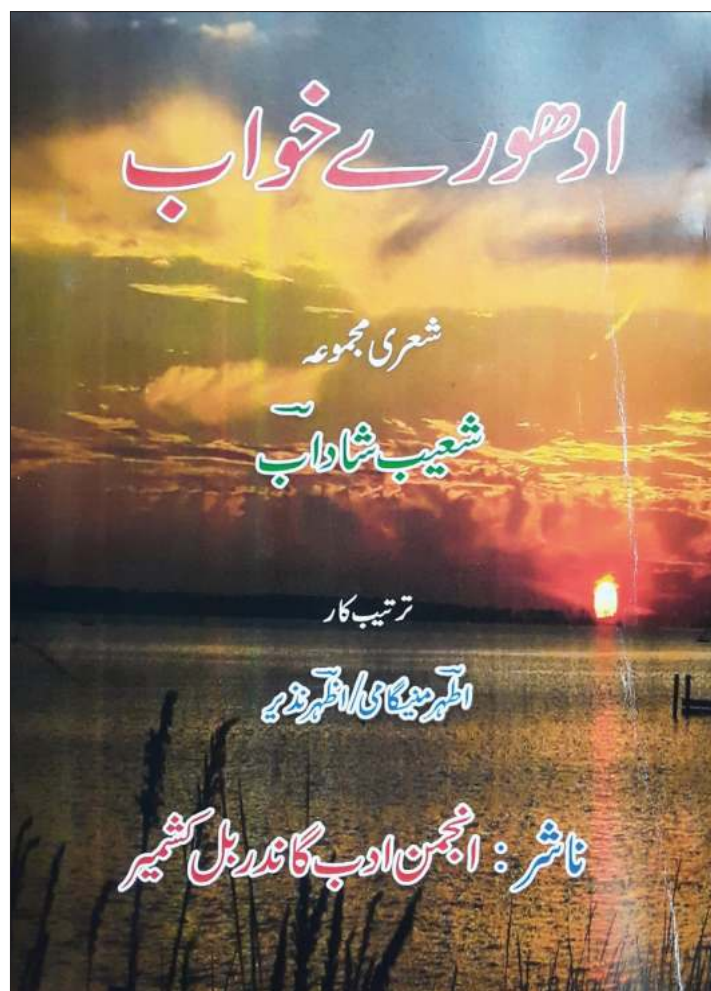
Shaib Shadab - born on 23rd of August 1999 at Najwan, a remote and far-flung village of sub-division Kangan of Ganderbal district to Nazir Ahmad Mir a farmer by profession. He has done his basic schooling from Mohamdiya English Medium school Kangan. Then he went to Sheikh-ul-Aalam public school Kangan where from he passed his matric with flying colours. After passing his 12th class exam from Govt Boys Higher Secondary school Kangan, he took his admission in Govt Degree college Kangan to pursue graduation. Apart from traditional schooling, Shaib Shadab was a learned guy of Islamic teachings as well. He would treat every villager and relative humanly and with decency. He would often participate in religious and cultural programmes conducted by school and Anjumani Adab Ganderbal. From his early teen-age he had developed utmost interest and love for poetry, was a passionate poet and has written a series of Urdu couplets. Last year (2021) when Shaib was busy in his online exam of 3rd semester, on 11th of July 2021 he went to have a bath in river Sindh near Dumping park to beat the scorching heat of summer. Unfortunately he lost his balance and the gushing water of Sindh river washed him away. He couldn't be rescued and ultimately lost his life while drowning in the river. May his soul rest in peace and may almighty Allah grant him highest place in Jannah.

On 11th of December 2022 his poetry compilation 'Adhore Khwab' was released in a grand literary event organised by Anjumani Adab Ganderbal. Shaib Shadab's creative Urdu poetry which he had written before his unfortunate death in his notebook has now been compiled by Azhar Nazir-president of Anjumani Adab Ganderbal and author of 'safaar goun pushrith' and Athar Manigami- the distinguished Kashmiri poet, author, translator and above all a well-known Islamic

scholar. In the book release function distinguished and prominent poets, litterateurs and writers from all parts of valley thronged to the residence of Shaib Shadab at Najwan Kangan to pay homage, respect and offered prayers to the departed soul. The prominent personalities and famous poets who graced the occasion include Azhar Nazir, Athar Manigami, Wajid Hasan Chittarguli (general secretary Anjumani Adab Ganderbal), Hilal Ahmad Lone (National level best teacher awardee 2021), Sheikh Bashir Ahmad (well-known broadcaster), Sheikh Nazir (sr. Journalist and prominent social worker of Kangan), Gani Nizampori (popular personality and social worker), Dr Nazir Ahmad Kumar, Yaseen Drigami, Ghulam Qadir Attar, Asadullah Asad, Mubarak Lone, Tanha Shalpur, Molvi Riaz HaK-abari, Shah Nawaz Ahmed, Rayees Ahmed Kumar Qazigund, Shamima Shabnam Budgam, Dr. Mubarak Lone, Shahzad Manzoor, Shamima Tabasim, Fahmida Farooq, Muzaamil Pal, Ansar Rafiq and Jamsheda Arif Shah.

It was difficult to control the emotions and every eye turned moist the moment few recorded audio clips were sounded in the function. Shaib's parents, his sisters and all other participants amid moist eyes were bereft afresh during the event.

The book 'Adhore Khwab' (unfulfilled dreams) by late Shaib Shadab is a 130 page poetry collection beautifully designed and well-printed. It's cover page too is eye catching. It is compiled by Azhar Nazir and Athar Manigami under the aegis of Anjumani Adab Ganderbal. On page 11th of the book, one can read tearfully few words by Azhar Nazir under the title 'hum youn hi magmoom nahi'. Wajid Hasan Chittarguli has also written a note on Shaib Shadab on page 12th 'Ah! Shaib Shadab'. Shaib Shadab's poetry collection 'Adhore Khwab' is divided into three sections. In its opening section from page 14-20, the book contains poems describing praise for almighty Allah (Hamud) and dear Prophet saw(Naat). One of the poems goes like this "hamara maalik wa khaliq hai khuda, banaye insan sab juda juda Banaye pead powde jis ne, taare asmaan main sajaye jis ne". Another poem is written like this "ye kamali zikri Rasool hai, ki meri duwa bi qabool hai. Hai mere Nabi ka Kalam haq, ye jahan ki batein fazoool hai". The second section of the book is



comprising of 77 ghazals of varied themes from page 22-102. Shaib Shadab's poetic stature and level can best be imagined from the very first ghazal of the book on page 22. Here it goes "zinda reh kar marn se mar kar jeena acha hai, tere chehre par dekha mousam kitna acha hai. Rahi kathan se kya darma aage badna acha hai, jhoot bari is duniya main apna dandha acha". From these couplets we can beyond any doubt say that Shaib Shadab was really a brilliant poet of future but his unfortunate death has not only shattered his dreams but also the family and locality has lost an iconic litterateur. In his another ghazal on page 24 one can realise Shaib Shadab's good intentions "Dushmani aag laga deti hai, dosti isko fana kar deti hai". "Huwe hain jab se din dushwar mere, bichadte ja rahe hain yaar mere" - these are the opening words of another sweet ghazal of Shaib. He has used utmost poetic techniques in composing his poetry. It can be judged

from this "Hain mere ghar ke sab sheeshe salamat, kahan soye hain rishta daar mere". "Aksar wahi lough charagon ko bujaya karte hain, jo unhai shouq se pehle jalaya karte hain" - this one is indeed a majestic composition found on page 28. Shaib's religious minded nature can be realised from this couplet "Hai kya faida akhir musalman ban ne se Shaib, umur youn hi jab guzri dari butaan ke pass" on page 33. Shaib's belief on almighty Allah is evident from this couplet of a ghazal on page 35 "Na kabi zalat dekhi na dekhi kabi ruswayi, saya tera jo utha khud ko ruswa dekha". On page 45 these words "sow bar rub ne bana kar sow bar mitaya hoga, tab ja kar ae sanam mere tera wajood huwa hoga. Houton ki sajawat ke liye gulaban ka ras laya hai, dantoun ki banawat ke liye koi qeemiti heera laya hai" of the ghazal depicts the intellectual and cognitive level of Shaib. What kind of aspirations and desires did Shaib had, can be

best imagined from "Hum faqeer-on ko bas khuda hi mile, hum ko matlab nahi hai janat se" on page 70. Shaib's another fantastic poetic piece is on page 73 "Apne qadmon ke sabi naqsh mitane honge, hum ko nazron se kayi deep jalane honge". This couplet on page 80 "Bichde logon se ab mulaqat na hogi, mil kar unhai dil chalo yaad karen ge" has been so nicely composed that it seems Shaib was aware of his early departure from this mortal world. Shaib's unique style of composing poetry pieces is also evident from this magnificent one on page 87 "Buhut routh gaye hain apne tu hum se, zara sochu unko ab hum manain kaise". Tears roll down when we read this one "Mere dil ka dard bada du, muje marn ki koi dawa du" on page 98. The 3rd section of the book contains 13 poems of different titles from page 104-120. On page 104 Shaib's poem on "meri maa - my mother" is a masterpiece. His another magical poem "Gangeen musalman" depicts his art and depth of Islamic knowledge "kar Mohammed ki itaeat aur suhaba ki qurbani ko yad, phir ja kar tu ban jaye ga parinda azad" page 107. Shaib has composed another poem "tawheed" a great one through which it appears that he had a firm belief on monotheism. About the tragedy of Karbala Shaib didn't lag behind in paying homage to Karbala martyrs through a poem found on page 113. Likewise Shaib has composed few poems "kitaboun ki pukar, Qabar, Umeed, Bachpan" etc which keep every reader of the book stucked to it's pages till completion. "Jab mera zikr aaye ga kahani main, doob jayen gi ankhen teri pani main. Main tumhain yad awoun ga budape main, kyunki main marni wala hoon jawani main" - one gets battered while reading these four lined couplets of Shaib on the last few pages of the book. Azhar Nazir and Molvi Riyaz Hakbari have paid glowing tribute to Late Shaib Shadab through their poems on last three pages of the book. One can take the glimpse of late Shaib Shadab through the pictures attached at the end of the book. In nutshell I without any prejudice claim that Najwan village of Kangan has lost Alama Iqbal's shaheen in the form of Shaib Shadab. May Shaib Shaib's soul rest in peace and may almighty Allah grant him highest place in Jannah.

Writer is from Qazigund Kashmir.

CONGRESS AND REGIONAL PARTIES CAN JOINTLY GIVE A GOOD FIGHT TO BJP IN 2024 POLLS

CAPITAL CAMEO
KALYANI SHANKAR

Now that the voters in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh have given their verdict, what next? Each of the main parties got some gains but also suffered some losses. The immediate challenge before them and the Opposition are to set right things before the final 2024 polls.

BJP won a spectacular victory in Gujarat and is the only party other than the Communist Party of India (Marxist) to have won seven straight Assembly elections in Gujarat. The CPI(M) ruled West Bengal from 1977 to 2011. Being Modi's home state and a BJP bastion, Gujarat has held particular importance since Modi took over in 2014. Stakes were high as losing Gujarat would have been a loss of face for Modi, but the record win has added to his prestige.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's main challenge now would be defeating the regional satraps. Congress has proved it will not disappear as Prime Minister predicted a Congress-Mukth Bharat. AAP has also expanded. With these, the Opposition got some moral boost to face the upcoming Assembly polls in 2023 and the next Lok Sabha polls in 2024.

The BJP got a drubbing in Himachal and Delhi Municipal Corporation elections. For the party, Himachal's loss was disappointing, as Prime Minister himself campaigned heavily. Undoubtedly, its calculations had gone awry, but the BJP is a party not bogged down by defeats. Even panchayat elections are as important as a Parliament poll to the BJP leadership.

The BJP President J.P. Nadda had already called a meeting of all national and state level office bearers in Delhi on December 5 and 6. He discussed preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha and 2023 assembly elections. The BJP is eying 350 plus seats in 2024 to improve its 2019 tally. The party's strength is due to its immense resources, well-knit workforce, and committed cadre. The RSS and the rest of the Sangh Parivar also work for the party to mobilize votes.

Congress is quite enthused at the unexpected bonanza in Himachal, although it has been wiped out in Gujarat and Delhi. It had no concerted policy or strategic designs to win. Each candidate fought on its own with the Gandhis avoiding the campaign. Priyanka Gandhi, in charge of the Himachal, did the bare minimum. Rahul Gandhi briefly campaigned in Gujarat and completely skipped Himachal. Sonia Gandhi did not campaign at all due to her ill health.

Himachal's win has given some moral boost to the Congress workers demoralized by the successive defeat in 2014 and 2019. If Congress is defeated again in 2024, the party will be out of power for three consecutive terms.

Thirdly, Congress must keep the remaining flock together though many senior leaders have already quit and joined other parties. Projecting the younger leaders and retaining the seniors should be its goal. Also, there is a need to develop second-rung leadership.

Congress must also build a new narrative, as it did in 2004 and coined the AAM ADM I slogan. People want to know what the party will do in the future rather than what it has done in the past The Bharat Jodo Yatra of Rahul Gandhi might help, but the momentum needs to be maintained until 2024.

The Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal got a boost after winning five seats in Gujarat and getting the national party tag. AAP is the only regional party ruling two states - Delhi and Punjab. Kejriwal wants to emerge as a challenger to Modi in the 2024 polls.

The AAP also wrested the prestigious Municipal corporation of Delhi from the BJP. Kejriwal now will have the government and the corporation, which would help his administration.

The bye-election results should cheer up the Opposition. The ruling BJP in UP lost to Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) but wrested the Rampur Sadar seat. The Samajwadi Party retained the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat with a big margin. The BJP wrested the Kurhani constituency in Bihar from the Nitish Kumar-led alliance. The Congress had retained its two assembly seats - in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

These give a positive message that the Opposition must not give up. At least half a dozen powerful regional satraps firmly hold on to their voters. They want to keep the choice of the Prime Ministerial candidate open. It includes West Bengal (Mamata Banerjee), Telangana (K. Chandrashekhara Rao), Tamil Nadu (M.K. Stalin), Bihar (Nitish Kumar), and Delhi. (Arvind Kejriwal).

The secret of Modi's success is the divided Opposition. Bringing all the anti-BJP parties on one platform would go a long way in defeating the BJP. There are still fifteen months left for the Lok Sabha polls. It is up to Congress and the Opposition to prepare for that final battle in 2024 with the present advantage. The BJP, in any case, is poll ready.

IPA SERVICE

CENTRE ARMTWISTING STATES IMPLEMENTING OLD PENSION SCHEME

DR. GYAN PATHAK

The Devil of a New Pension Scheme (NPS) has now surfaced impacting government employee-pensioners in India, many of whom are getting a paltry monthly pension in the range of Rs 2000-Rs 4000 per month retiring after 18 years of service as a government employee. In the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), they would have been getting a minimum pension of Rs9000 per month apart from other benefits. The situation led to - a demand of restoration of OPS, assurance given by non-BJP political parties during recent state elections to fulfil it, and even tweaking of NPS by the BJP.

AAP had promised restoration of OPS in Punjab during the Vidhan Sabha Election campaigns. AAP even won the election and formed its government in the State. Congress has promised restoration of OPS during the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha election. Congress has also won the election and formed its government. The ruling BJP in Gujarat has tweaked the NPS just before the Vidhan Sabha election, and they have won it, and formed their government. Though on cannot argue the issue of pension as the only deciding factor for voters in general, but it cannot be denied that it has influenced the voters from the families of government employees, and also the employees themselves who are demanding better old age security in lieu of their lifelong service in the form of enough amount of pension to take care of their needs.

The newly election Congress government in Himachal Pradesh has become the fifth state to have decided to replace NPS with OPS. The other two Congress ruled states Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh had already decided to restore OPS. The JMM led alliance government in Jharkhand, of which Congress is a part, has also decided to revert



back to the OPS. AAP led Punjab government has also decided to implement OPS in place of NPS.

The BJP led Gujarat government's tweaking NPS before the elections has led to rumours that the Modi Government was going to replace NPS with the OPS. A message even went viral on social media claiming it, but there is no such plan being considered by the Union Government right now. In a reply to a question by Member of Parliament Asaduddin Owaisi on December 12, the Union Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Karad has said, "There is no proposal under consideration of the Government of India for restoration of old pension scheme."

The reply does not include tweaking of even NPS, but there is strong possibility of it, as we have seen how the BJP had tweaked it just before Gujarat election. The BJP led Gujarat government keeping the state assembly elections in

mind had reduced the restoration of commuted pension after 13 years instead of 15. Apart from this, in the OPS also, the ages for different level of increase on pensions have been reduced. Tweaking of NPS is also possible since the Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended that pension should be increased by one per cent every year that is five percent after 65 years and soon.

Though the Modi government is aware of the political implications of the issue, which the Gujarat tweak indicates, it is sticking for now on the NPS. Not only that the government is also trying to armtwist the states who are trying to revert to OPS by denying their demand to return the accumulated corpus of subscribers under the NPS.

In the reply in Parliament, the Union Minister of State for finance has said that proposals to return the accumulated corpus under NPS

have been received from Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand, but no such proposal has been received from Punjab. It should be worth mentioning that the Government of Punjab had issued a notification on November 18, 2022 regarding implementation of OPS to the government employees who are presently being covered under NPS.

The Minister has said, "PFRDA has informed the respective State Governments that there is no provision under Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 2013 read along with PFRDA (Exits and Withdrawals under the National Pension System) Regulations, 2015, and other relevant Regulations, as amended from time to time, vide which the funds, which are already deposited both in the form of Government contribution and Employees' contribution towards NPS, along with accruals, can be refunded and deposited back to the State Government."

In the meantime, government employees of the Centre and several states have been demanding restoration of OPS and demonstrating in support of their demand. All India Pension Restoration United Front (AIPRUF) and National Old Pension Restoration United Front (NOPRUF) have announced joint protest on January 1, 2023 for the demand of restoration of Old Pension Scheme. In Jammu and Kashmir, the local unit has declared that they will be fighting for OPS until it is restored. All Assam Government NPS Employees' Association has also threatened to start a fresh agitation for revocation of NPS and restoration of OPS. In Kerala, AITUC led government employees "March to Secretariat". Even defence civilian employees had recently organised sit-in protest in Delhi. The agitation has been spreading across the states in the country.

CPI has even passed a resolution in 24th Congress in October 2022 against the NPS implemented in 2003 by the then BJP led NDA government. The resolution demanded restoration of defined, guaranteed and non-contributory old pension scheme in place of no-guarantee NPS.

When NPS was introduced in the country, all left front state governments - West Bengal, Kerala, and Tripura - had refused to implement it and stucked to OPS. However, with change of governments later, Kerala and Tripura implemented the NPS, while West Bengal continues with OPS.

The issue is thus likely to haunt the Modi government during the states' elections in 2023, and the Lok Sabha Election in 2024. More non-BJP political parties are likely to come forward in support of restoration of OPS to derive its political benefit, while Modi government may go for some changes in NPS to limit political damage to the party.

IPA SERVICE

BRIEFLY NEWS

Makers release Nawazuddin's remarkable transformation for 'Haddi'

Over the years we have all seen Nawazuddin Siddiqui in versatile roles, but the actor still manages to surprise us every single time with his choices.

In his upcoming film 'Haddi' the actor who is always game for a challenge, will be essaying the role of a transgender.

As soon as the makers released Nawazuddin's looks from the movie, the images took netizens by surprise and shook the digital world.

Zee Studios' 'Haddi' has been a subject of heated conversation ever since the makers released the first asset of the film featuring the actor as a transgender woman. Given the drastic transformation, it was only natural that eyebrows were raised with Nawazuddin's look and the entire process of him not just looking the part but embracing the character.

Taking to social media, the makers unveiled a timelapse video of Nawazuddin getting into the prosthetics of his character. In the video, we can see Nawazuddin transforming into his character and it's fair to say that it was a long and tedious process. The actor had more than one hair stylist who worked with him throughout the shoot to create varied looks, alongside make-up artists who worked in sync to ensure that every single detail was in place.

The process took close to three hours every single day, but worth the while to entirely transform Nawazuddin's look.

Audiences caught a glimpse of this transformation in the video where the actor had donned a white kurta and looked completely unrecognizable by the end of the timelapse-style video.

Talking about the same, the powerhouse performer said, "As an artist, I'm always hungry for roles that push my boundaries as a performer. A big portion of that portrayal is the actual look. It's for the very first time in my career that I spent close to 3 hours in a chair while the experts weaved their magic. The look empowered me to go out there and take this character to the next level. Haddi has truly challenged me in unimaginable ways and I can't wait to see how audiences react to it."

'Haddi' will release in 2023.

Zee Bangla to host grand audition of Dance Bangla Dance Season 12 at Kolkata

Zee Bangla, one of the most popular General Entertainment Channels is all set to host the audition of Dance Bangla Dance Season 12 in Kolkata on December 18 at Mitra Institution, Bhawanipur, from 9 am to 4 pm. After the glorious success of last season, Zee Bangla will be back with its immensely popular Bengali reality show Dance Bangla Dance which celebrates the spirit of dance.

The show gives rise to infinite emotions in the hearts of millions of Bengalis across the globe. The greatest achievement of Dance Bangla Dance is to create a platform for dancers above four years to showcase their talents in solo, duet, or in groups in front of a wide audience.

Disney+Hotstar to stream 'Strange World' from Dec 23

Disney+ Hotstar has an exciting holiday gift for fans as Walt Disney Animation Studios' "Strange World" is heading to the streaming service beginning December 23.

"Strange World" introduces a legendary family of explorers, the Clades, as they attempt to navigate an uncharted, treacherous land alongside a motley crew that includes a mischievous blob called Splat; Legend, the family dog; and a slew of ravenous creatures.

The voice cast includes actor Jake Gyllenhaal as Searcher Clade, a family man who finds himself out of his element on an unpredictable mission; Dennis Quaid as Searcher's larger-than-life explorer father, Jaeger; Jaboukie Young-White as Searcher's 16-year-old, adventure-seeking son, Ethan; Gabrielle Union as Meridian Clade, an accomplished pilot and Searcher's partner in all things; and Lucy Liu as Callisto Mal, Avalonia's fearless leader who spearheads the exploration into the strange world.

Helmed by director Don Hall and co-director/writer Qui Nguyen, with Roy Conli producing, "Strange World" is in theatres now.

'The Kashmir Files' selected in 'Official Selection' of SIFF

Filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri's box office wonder "The Kashmir Files" is unstoppable.

While the film is about one complete year of the magnificence glory that it garnered, it still is achieving milestones. Now after making the country proud with several global nominations, Vivek Agnihotri's "The Kashmir Files" gets selected in the 'Official Selection' category of the prestigious Switzerland International Film Festival (SIFF).

Taking to social media, Vivek wrote, "Happy to inform that #TheKashmirFiles has been selected in the 'OFFICIAL SELECTION' category of the prestigious Switzerland International Film Festival."

"The Kashmir Files" is a heart-wrenching tale that captures the pain, suffering, and struggle of the Kashmiri Pandit community in 1990. The film managed to collect Rs 340.92 crores worldwide.

Janhvi's 'Good Luck Jerry' wins big

'GOOD LUCK JERRY' won hearts all through 2022 and now that it is awards season, the movie is winning all the awards too!

An Aanand L Rai production and Siddharth Sen directorial, the movie made waves for being the first of its kind female led black comedy. With a crisp storyline and Janhvi Kapoor's mind blowing performance, the movie became an instant hit. So it is no wonder that come award season, the movie is bagging them all.

Winning the award for Most Popular OTT film for 'Good Luck Jerry' at Indian Television Awards, Producer Aanand L Rai said, "Making Good Luck Jerry with Siddharth was a very different experience. The storyline was unique and we had a very particular vision for it. It also had a lot of high risk high reward variables in it."

Director Siddharth Sen added, "I feel extremely happy to see how loved this movie is. Of Course Good Luck Jerry holds a special place in my heart, it was a brilliant movie making experience for me. But to see it being this appreciated is something else entirely."

Zahrah S Khan emerges as hit machine of 2022

One of the most successful and popular performers of the industry today, singer and actor Zahrah S Khan has had a dream run in 2022 with undeniably the most number of chartbusters to her credit, both in films and non-films category.

After delivering some of the biggest chartbusters last year with Kusu Kusu and Dance Meri Rani amongst others last year, Zahrah S Khan has had an even more splendid year in 2022, ruling the charts with some of the most popular and loved songs.

Beginning the year with the peppy and foot-tapping song 'Tera Saath Ho' with Guru Randhawa, Zarah moved on to one of the most buzzing songs of the year - The Punjabban Song from Jugjugg Jeeyo. Creating a wave, not only across the nation but also the world, the song became an instant hit with a load of reels created to the tunes.

Riding on a high and continuing to soar, Zahrah further delivered the sensational 'Aafat' from Liger, which took no time to spread like a fire on Insta reels, emerging

as one of the most top-charting songs of the year, and an absolute party favourite.

Flaunting her acting and dance skills, Zahrah also collaborated with the social media's current favourite King for the quirky and fun 'Oops'.

Recreating one of the most golden eras of retro music, Zahrah S Khan crooned 'Mere Dil Gaaye Ja' from Dhoka Around D Corner.

Lending her voice to Katrina Kaif for 'Kinna Sonu' from Phonebhooth, Zahrah yet again offered a testimony of her sensational voice. Ending the year with a bang, Zahrah presented back-to-back hits including 'Fakeran' featuring Mouni Roy, 'Main Tenu Chad Jaungi' with Shaheer Sheikh and 'Aap Jaisa Koi' from An Action Hero.

Be it crooning for the absolute beauties of Bollywood like Kiara Advani, Katrina Kaif, Ananya Panday, Mouni Roy and Malaika Arora or lightening up the screen with her own enchanting presence in music videos, Zahrah S Khan has the best of both worlds, and is gearing for an even more musical and sensational year ahead in 2023.



Movie title initials 'TJMM' for Ranbir-Shraddha starrer out

Luv Ranjan known for his unique blend of filmmaking which matches humour with social commentary and a tongue-firmly-in-cheek take on relationships has kept audiences guessing on the title of his upcoming movie starring the super fresh pairing of Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor.

While it looks like he is finally ready to reveal the title, but then not yet. Before the reveal the maker has dropped a teaser with the acronyms of the movie title which has sent the internet into a frenzy. The only thing which is now known are the initials "TJMM" and has left everyone guessing on what it stands for.

The excitement around the movie has been immense since it went on floors. While the title has been a mystery and curiosity it has been palpable, the expectations also run high. With the reveal around the corner, netizens are having a field day in trying to guess what the title actually is.



Luv's films are known to have rather interesting and effervescent titles, be it 'Pyaar Ka Punchnama' or 'Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety' and this one seems to keep the tradition.

The film is directed by

Luv Ranjan, produced by Luv Films' Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg, presented by T-Series' Gulshan Kumar and Bhushan Kumar. It is all set to have a festive release worldwide in cinemas on Holi, March 8, 2023.

Deepika owns the song: Vaibhavi Merchant on 'Besharam Rang'

Producer Aditya Chopra and director Siddharth Anand unveiled the first song of 'Pathaan', 'Besharam Rang', which broke the internet.

The song has been trending worldwide ever since its release and fans and audiences have gone berserk complimenting how SRK and Deepika Padukone are looking in the song and how hot the choreography is because the verdict is unanimous - Deepika has looked her hottest best in 'Besharam Rang'.

Ace choreographer Vaibhavi Merchant, who is known to present the hottest versions of leading ladies on screen - Aishwarya Rai Bachchan in Kajra Re from Bunty Aur Babli, Katrina Kaif in Kamli from Dhoom: 3 to the scintillating Deepika Padukone in Besharam Rang, etc is over the moon with the response to the song.

She said, "In my body of work, I have probably consciously made an effort to ensure that the female leads are always presented very aesthetically. For instance, with Ash (Aishwarya Rai Bachchan) in Kajra Re, I made it a point to kind of enhance the expressions in the way she did her adaa-kari. In Kamli with Katrina again, I kept in my what Katrina would look great doing."

"One must always study the actor you're choreographing for because it doesn't matter if the movement looks great on me or my assistants, but it must look fantastic on the actor, it



should bespoken to the actor," said Vaibhavi.

Vaibhavi further says, "Strangely, I've never been able to choreograph something for Deepika until Besharam Rang. So, this is my first song with Deepika and I knew I had to do something really special for this one. It was very endearing for me to see her approach me and say finally we get to work with each other and I said Deepika I truly want to make this very special for you because this is our first and I don't want to shoot a better song than this for you in future."

Vaibhavi says she went all out in making Deepika look the hottest heroine that India has ever seen on screen. She says, "I wanted to go all out to present her in a way that she has never been presented before. I must give it to Shaleena Nathani for the costumes. Deepika has a great rapport with her and I was pleasantly surprised to see her being so comfortable in her own skin. She owns the song and she is looking gorgeous in every frame."

Vaibhavi adds, "Deepika

put in a lot of hard work to look the way she is looking in Besharam Rang. She had an entire crew - dietitian, her physical trainer and the stunning costumes by Shaleena. I was mighty impressed with the way she just approached all the costumes she's like, yeah, she's cool to wear this, she's cool to wear that. So, I think that really triggered a certain style in which this song should be shot. Because I was like, I can't make her wear those costumes and make her do steps in a way that we usually shoot songs."

The song features a sizzling Deepika with SRK, who plays a gun-toting spy with a license of kill in Pathaan. Both are looking their hottest and fittest best as Deepika flaunts her hot bod in bikinis and SRK - a perfectly chiselled eight pack. 'Besharam Rang' was shot in Spain's most gorgeous coastal towns Mallorca, Cadiz and Jerez.

The adrenaline pumping, visually extravagant film is set to release on January 25, in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

Prime Video to air 'Half Pants Full Pants' on December 16

Prime Video has announced the premiere of its latest comedy-drama, 'Half Pants Full Pants' on the service from December 16.

The eight-episode light-hearted series showcases joyful moments from one's childhood and promises to be a delightful nostalgic ride. Produced by OML Studios and directed by V. K. Prakash, the series stars child actors Ashwath Ashokkumar and Kartik Vijan along with renowned actors Ashish Vidyarthi and Sonali Kulkarni.

Adapted from Anand Supti's eponymous book, 'Half Pants Full Pants' is set in a small town in South India, before the age of internet and mobiles, where the adventurous and ambitious seven-year-old boy Anand aka Dabba lives. He along with his friend, the obedient and well-mannered Giddi go on adventures that will warm audiences' hearts and make them miss the good old simple days of mischief and innocence.

'Half Pants Full Pants is



an experience that takes us back to a simpler time where life was untouched by technology and yet sparkling with wonder. Through the story of Dabba, his family, and friends the series captures the magic of childhood in a period without phones or the internet - an unhurried pace of life that we often yearn for," said director VK Prakash about the series.

"The cast and crew unanimously gravitated towards telling this story because of its simplicity and innocence. We cannot wait to share this with the world," he added.

"We are extremely excited to associate with Prime Video for this series and

take it to audiences across the world. Half Pants Full Pants is a wholesome show that will resonate with viewers because of its universal theme of exploring childhood nostalgia in the 1980s," said Akansh Gaur, Creative Head of OTT Content, OML Entertainment.

"The joy of discovery and the fickleness of dreams told through the eyes of a 7-year-old is something that we believe will engage viewers. We are looking forward to everyone being taken back to the warmth of their childhood by watching this show," added Gaur.

'Half Pants Full Pants' will premiere on December 16 on Prime Video.

Trailer of 'Pitchers' S2 out

ZEE5 has unveiled the trailer of the second instalment of the much-loved and cherished series 'Pitchers'.

Produced by TVF, Pitchers made its debut in 2015 and went on to break the internet as it became an instant hit. Even on IMDB, Pitchers is one of the highest rated Indian shows with a star rating of 9.1.

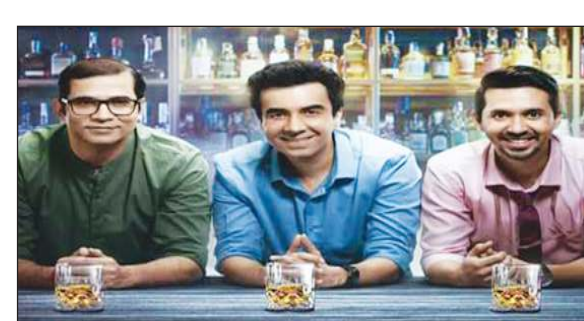
While the first season revolved about four friends leaving their day jobs and starting a company together, S2 is about growing the company and surviving in the cut-throat world of start-ups.

Directed by Vaibhav Bundhoo, the series stars Naveen Kasturia, Arunabh Kumar, Abhay Mahajan, Abhishek Banerjee, Ridhi Dogra, Srikander Kher, Gopal Dutt, and Ashish Vidyarthi in key roles.

As seen in the trailer, we meet the Pitchers - Navin, Yogi and Saurabh - 2.5 years after they started their tech company PRAGATI.AI. The Pitchers have now grown into a 25-member team and are seeking investors who will help them take their start-up to the next level of growth.

But with big dreams come bigger responsibilities and challenges so will the Pitchers be able to survive their cut-throat world of start-ups? Flavoured with inspirational quotes, humorous one-liners, friendship goals and the reality of the start-up world, Pitchers S2 is a deep dive into the nitty-gritties of the entrepreneurial life.

Naveen Kasturia said, "Pitchers will always be special to me. The amount of love and respect I got because of that show is inde-



scribable. Adulation from fans and their love didn't die down all these years. They were persistent at asking us to come back with another season and we had to give in. While S1 was about taking that leap of faith and leaving our jobs to start our own company, S2 is about dreaming bigger and taking our start-up to the next level. Our start-up family becomes bigger, and the risks are higher. I am excited for our fans to witness this epic journey in S2 and shower us with more love so that TVF is compelled to bring back another season."

Abhishek Banerjee shared, "Pitchers is like homecoming because I started my web series journey with Bhati's character in TVF Pitchers. No matter how many roles I essayed after it, but fans kept asking me about the return of Pitchers so here we are finally with the trailer of S2. While the boys have graduated from beer to whisky and from founding a start-up to growing the start-up, but the essence of Pitchers remains the same - it is still the story of relatable characters with real problems, big dreams and bigger determination to make it work."

Ridhi Dogra said, "As an actor, I couldn't wait to

hop onto the bandwagon of the fan-favourite franchise. Pitchers as it has received so much love and admiration over the years. While at the core of it, it's a story of the start-up life but what pulled me to be a part of it was that it says so much about aspirations, dreams and hope, which is not restricted to those in the start-up world but anyone who dreams and wants to achieve them. I'm thrilled to be a part of that franchise as my part in the show connects the dreams of these friends in the big bad world of capitalism."

Abhay Mahajan said, "Pitchers has given me not only love, fame and recognition but also another family. Naveen, Arunabh and the TVF guys are my family now and anything and everything with them is always fun. I have immense respect for Arunabh and his eye for storytelling. Pitchers is a prime example of a simple, relatable story of four guys leaving their day jobs and starting their own business however the way it is told is what makes it inspiring, entertaining and engaging. Pitchers S2 is a much-needed reminder for all entrepreneurs as to why they started out in the first place and why they need to keep going."

Advocate General condoles demise of Senior Advocate, Kulbhushan Gupta

JAMMU, DECEMBER 13: A condolence meeting was held here today to condole the demise of Senior Advocate, Kulbhushan Gupta, father of Sanjeev Gupta, Registrar General of High Court of J&K and Ladakh. The meeting was presided by Advocate General, D C Raina and attended by Law Officers and Government Counsels (Senior Additional Advocate Generals, Additional Advocate Generals, Deputy Advocate Generals, Government Advocates), officers and employees. Meanwhile, a condolence meet was also organized by the Law Officers and Government Counsels at Srinagar Office.

Advocate General expressed profound grief over the demise of Senior Advocate Kulbhushan Gupta saying that he was a veteran and noble personality.

Other participants also express grief over the demise of father of Registrar General and extended sympathy to the bereaved family.

During the meeting, a two-minute silence was observed to pray for eternal peace to the departed soul.

PMFME awareness camp organised at Arnas

REASI, DECEMBER 13: In continuation to series of public outreach programs being held in the Reasi District, an awareness programme was today organised in Block Arnas to educate the farmers and youth of the area regarding benefits of PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME-ODOP) Scheme.

The camp was inaugurated by Chief Agriculture Officer/District Nodal officer PMFME, Reasi, Harbans Singh.

District Agriculture officer, Rajesh Verma; ASCO, Varinder Dogra; SDAO, Dharmari, Rupinder Singh Bedi; SMS, Vikas Sharma; AEO, Anil Thakur, Concerned JAEOs and field functionaries besides representatives of allied departments, PRI members, SHG members, farmers including women & youth attended the program.

District Nodal officer discussed in detail all the facets of the scheme and enjoined upon the youth to set up micro food processing units of Mustard Chutney, Chili powder packing & marketing, spices grinding, garlic paste etc. The District Agriculture officer elaborated the eligibility and terms of subsidy, interest and other related details of the scheme. DRP, Liaqat Ali also addressed the farmers and elaborated the steps involved in the process for availing the benefits of the scheme and encouraged the youth of the far flung area of the District to come forward for the same.

Pertinently, the PM FME is aimed at establishing Micro Food Processing Industries at Micro/Village level through individuals, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Cooperatives and Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs). Under the programme, 35 per cent subsidy/capital support with a ceiling of Rs 10 lakh is being provided to the beneficiaries.

Sarpanch, Kanthan, Sansar Singh lauded the efforts of the agriculture department in mitigating the problems of the farming community in remote and hilly areas.

Chairman DDC Doda chairs Bio Diversity Management Committee meeting

BHADERWAH, DECEMBER 13: Meeting of District level Bio-Diversity Management Committee was held today under the chairmanship of Chairman District Development Council Doda, Dhanantar Singh Kotwal, here at Forest Information Center Bhaderwah.

The Committee members, vice Chairperson DDC Sangeeta Bhagat, Conservator Forest Chenab Circle, Dr Jatinder Singh; Secretary, Dr Sumit Kotwal and DFO Bhaderwah Chander Shekar attended the meeting.

At the outset, Dr Sumit highlighted the salient features of the Biodiversity Act 2002 and also the functions of the District Level Biodiversity Management Committee. The Chairman, while talking to the media, thanked the government for constituting District level Biodiversity Management Committee and stressed upon the protection and preservation of natural resources by the citizens.

ADDC Kathua reviews progress of District Capex works

KATHUA, DECEMBER 13: Additional District development Commissioner Kathua, Ankur Mahajan today chaired a meeting of officers at conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the progress and status of works under District Capex budget 2022-23.

During the meeting, the ADDC took sector wise review and progress of works in Education, RDD, JPDC, PDD, Irrigation, Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, PHE, Ground Water, Tourism, Fisheries and other sectors.

A detailed review of allotment of works, works started on ground, works completed, tendering and other related issues was conducted during the meeting.

The ADDC directed the officers to achieve the completion targets of the works and ensure expenditure of funds released. She asked them to personally monitor the quality and progress of all allotted works.

The meeting was attended by CPO, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers from R&B, Jal Shakti, PDD and Irrigation, AD FCS&CA besides other officers also attended the meeting.

DC Ramban inaugurates newly established Video Conference Room

RAMBAN, DECEMBER 13: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Mussarat Islam today inaugurated an additional Video Conference Room in District Administrative Complex established with the technical support of National Informatic Centre (NIC) at Ramban.

Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Kasturi Lal, district officers and NIC officials were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the creation of modern IT infrastructure will help in providing video conferencing facilities to the departments.

He also said that the video conference studio has been equipped with a modern audio and visual system. He said in the present age of technology the digital media has become an important medium for smooth conduct of public business.

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Commissioner STD reviews status of issues popped up during B2V4

Directs stakeholders to expedite saturation of deliverables, resolve identified issues on priority

KATHUA, DECEMBER 13: Commissioner, State Taxes Department (STD), Rashmi Singh, who is Prabhari Officer (Mentor) for Panchayat Billawar, today convened a meeting of concerned officers and PRIs to review progress on the issues flagged during her visit in the recently concluded B2V4 programme of the government.

Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Pandey briefed the meeting about the focal points of deliberations and the action taken as a follow up to the flagged issues. Besides, discussion was also held on road map for the matters requiring intervention of higher authorities.

While taking comprehensive review of the popped up issues related to Panchayat Billawar, Commissioner enquired about the steps taken by stakeholders to resolve the issues besides extending support to the departments requiring assistance of the mentor.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the issues ranging from provision of piped drinking water supply, road connectivity, mobile connectivity, provision of toilets, opening of Fair Price Shop, Rural Hatt, Skill Development and Self employment, issues of drop outs/ out of school children, holding of disability camps and related matters.

The Prabhari Officer was apprised that



piped drinking water supply will be ensured at the earliest besides the issue regarding provision of ICT Lab, school

benches in GHS Sukral has been taken up with the School Education Department.

The department of Revenue, Health and Agriculture informed the meeting that Land Passbooks, Golden Health cards, KCC cards have been completely saturated in Panchayat Billawar.

During the meeting, directions were passed to DSWO and AD Employment, who is the Nodal Officer for District Skill and Self Employment Plan respectively, to identify and cover all eligible candidates under skill and self employment schemes by holding camps with stakeholder departments.

Regarding the issue of road connectivity, up gradation of PHC to Health and Wellness Centre and mobile connectivity it was assured that these will be taken up at appropriate level for early resolution.

Emphasizing the role of PRIs, Commissioner said that the public should be sensitized and made aware about the medical emergencies helplines 102/108, holding of ward sabha/ gram sabhas, mobilization of Women self help groups and exploring the tourist potential of the Panchayat so that holistic development of the Panchayat can be achieved.

ADC Billawar, Executive Engineer PWD Basohli, Executive Engineer PDD, Executive Engineer Irrigation, AD FCS&CA, Tehsildar Billawar, BDO Billawar and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

DC Doda interacts with Specially Abled persons

Asks stakeholder departments to formulate livelihood plan for all types of PwDs



DODA, DECEMBER 13: Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan today interacted with Specially Abled persons here at Community hall Doda in an event organised by 'Humanity Aid' NGO.

More than 100 specially abled persons attended the program and gave

their feedback on various government schemes being implemented for the welfare of Divyangs (Specially abled persons). They also projected their issues and demands before the DC.

Some issues like providing Wheelchairs, Hearing aids etc were immediately addressed by DC by giving directions to DSWO for issuing the same after receiving the required formalities from them.

He urged the educated and skilled PwDs to opt for self employment, avail the subsidised loans and expertise being provided by different departments.

He asked them to send their concerns and feedback to the district administration through public representatives, Field functionaries and helpline numbers, for immediate and timely response. He asked the NGO (Humanity Aid) to create their whatsapp groups and clubs where they can discuss their issues and grievances.

The DSWO was asked to establish fully equipped Physiotherapy Clinic under DDRC in the District.

DDC Chairperson Ramban launches work on Dhalwa -Mahakund road, listens to people's issues

RAMBAN, DECEMBER 13: Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan today kick-started construction work on Rs 8.17 crore Dhalwa -Mahakund road project being constructed under Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY).

BDC Member Sangaldan, Naveda Begum; Officers of PMGSY, Sarpanches, Panches and prominent citizens, locals were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the locals, Dr. Shan informed that the road from Dalwa to Mahakund via Mongoli was an up-gradation scheme of PMGSY Phase-3 and it would provide surface connectivity to a population of 50000 souls of 5 major villages namely Dalwa, Mahakund, Sheerkund, Bolmitop and Mangoli having 5000 households. She said that the government was committed to meet the genuine demands of the people and the PRIs should bring public demands and issues in the notice of the administration for their timely redressal. Meanwhile, the Executive Engineer PMGSY, Arvind Langleh said that the road was an up-gradation scheme wherein the department will use new technology for road construction by using waste plastic for laying bitumen.

While interacting with the people the Chairperson informed about the initia-



tives taken by the District Development Council and the government departments especially for the development of the rural and far-flung areas of the district. After listening to issues and demands highlighted by the locals, the Chairperson directed the concerned officers to resolve all genuine issues especially pertaining to the basic amenities.

The Chairperson also inspected various developmental projects being executed under different sectors in the area, besides taking review of the implementation of developmental and flagship schemes meant for the welfare of weaker sections of the society. While interacting with the people the Chairperson informed about the initiatives taken by the District Development Council and the government departments especially.

District Development Council meet held in Rajouri

RAJOURI, DECEMBER 13: Chairman District Development Council Rajouri, Chowdhary Naseem Liyaqat today called for maintaining close collaboration between PRIs and departments to achieve the desired results under Government schemes and timely completion of developmental projects.

He was speaking at the meeting of the District Development Council, which was convened to review the progress of different departments under various schemes and programs.

The meeting was attended by DDC Member Darhal, Iqbal Malik; DDC Member Sunderbani, Rajinder Sharma; DDC Member Dhangri, Rameshwar Singh; DDC



Member Rajouri, Sai Abdul Rashid and DDC Member Budhal Old-A, Shazia Kouser; BDC Rajouri, Darbar Chowdhary; BDC Qila Darhal, Khalid Firdoz; BDC Siot, Bal Krishan; BDC Budhal Old-A, Javed Iqbal Chowdhary; BDC Moughla, Surekha Kotewal; BDC

Doongi, Raiz Chowdhury; BDC Nowshera, Bodh Raj; BDC Seri, Neena Sharma; BDC Budhal New, Shamim Akhter; BDC Plangarh, Parveen Akhter also attended the meeting.

From the administration side, the meeting attended by DDC Rajouri,

Vikas Kundal; SSP, Mohammad Aslam; ADDC, Pawan Kumar; ADC Sunderbani, Vinod Kumar Behnal, ADC Kalakote, Krishan Lal, ADC Nowshera, Kartar Singh, ADC Koreranka, Surinder Mohan Sharma; PO ICDS, Shoket Mehmood Malik, CPO, Mohammad Khurshid, ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; SDM Thanamandi, Vikas Dhar, GM DIC, Ashwini Sharma, PO IWMP, Sheraz Chowhan; SE Hydraulics, JP Singh; SE PDD, Kamal Kishore, CMO, Dr Abdul Hamid Zargar, and other officers.

At the outset, the meeting was informed about the physical and financial progress on the development projects taken up by different departments.

DFCO team conducts inspection of medical stores in Ramban district



RAMBAN, DECEMBER 13: The Drug and Food Control Organization carried-out inspection of various medical stores in far-flung areas of the district Ramban to check the registration, authorization and record of availability and sale of medicines, besides checking standard parameters of medicines, available in the chemists' shops.

On the directions of Dep-

uty Commissioner Ramban, Mussarat Islam, the Drug Control Officer (DCO), Imtiyaz Ahmed today inspected various medical stores including Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra in Sub-Gool.

During the inspections, the inspection team sealed 2 medical stores for not maintaining sales records under the Drugs & Cosmetic Act 1940.

Digital Door Number (Smart Address) provides a smart solution for improving governance in Jammu: JSCL

JAMMU, DECEMBER 13: Following the mapping of residential and commercial properties, the citizens in Jammu city will be able to avail maximum benefits of civic services as well as governance.

The Jammu Smart City Ltd (JSCL) in coordination with Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is expeditiously working on the Project Geographical Information System (GIS) wherein all the residential and commercial properties falling in the JMC limits would be Geo-tagged and a Unique Digital Door Number (DDN) would be assigned to each property.

Apart from this, the project includes mapping of all the natural and manmade assets such as Streams, Rivers, Elevations, Drainage network, Road net-

work, Utility Poles etc. on to the Digital Ward Map of Jammu. Such captured data would also equip the administration for conducting "spatial" planning for various projects pertaining to infrastructure development in the Municipal Wards of Jammu. The technology can further be leveraged to strengthen the existing Grievance Redressal System. "The project will not only provide the digital addresses of property but also revamp the delivery and monitoring of all civic services being provided by government," an official of Jammu Smart City Limited said adding that the project will play a vital role by reducing manual interventions which will further plug the leakages in the systems and thereby promoting transparency.

He informed that the QR code based Digital Door Number (Smart Address) will be allotted and subsequently a DDN Plate will be fixed outside each property. For this purpose, the Survey team duly authenticated by Jammu Municipal Corporation is capturing the data against few property attributes such as Owner details, property measurements like plot area and built-up area, Electric/Water connection details and other relevant information. The data thus captured would be linked to the DDNs which will bring in several benefits like availability of digitized data for promoting online services, ease of address navigation for the citizen on digital Map, Garbage Collection Monitoring as the QR Code will be used by the gar-

bage collector to scan and mark the completion of garbage collection task based upon which a notification will be sent to the concerned DDN owner on Mobile App for the appropriate feedback. Further, the registration on the Mobile App against a particular DDN will enable the respective citizen to make timely payment of the rents/usage charges owing towards JMC assets and therefore ensuring revenue realization.

The GIS technology can be exploited up to such extent wherein the dimensions (length & width) captured against road and drainage network across the city would act as one of the deciding factors for critical vehicular movements such as Fire Brigades, Ambulances etc.

The property attributes like no. of people residing, built-up/plot area along with the associating lanes and drains would enable the authorities to study the density and hence forecast the waste generation and effluent outflow in a particular ward and would also help the administration understand the deployment of the sanitation staff. The "change detection technology" along with photographs of property would help administration with enforcing Building bye laws by keeping an eye on the building construction violations happening across the city. Furthermore to this, the Online Building Permission System will be integrated with the GIS application to record the permissible measurements of the upcoming and ongoing constructions which will help.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

FORMERS

productivity but also about food security, empowerment of farmers and prosperity of small farming families. The Government is determined to translate the benefits of growth into the financial security of farmers.

UT Government is providing as many benefits to the agriculture sector as available to those in the manufacturing sector, like, easy access to credit, infrastructure, pre and post harvest facilities, covering risks & uncertainties and various interventions and schemes for the benefit of farmers.

Notably, the UT of J&K is now among the top five States/UTs in terms of farm income with a monthly income of Rs 18,918 per farmer. A renewed thrust is also given to organic farming to bring about a paradigm shift in agrarian policy, rural prosperity and improving the incomes and the quality of life of the farmers.

CHINA

Party, Aam Admi Party, Left and others staged a walk out.(CNS)

LG

language. "Sanskrit is more than a language. It is the source of our social values that has been guiding humanity since time immemorial. Our ancient sages gave the message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- world as one family in Sanskrit that is showing the path of peace, progress and oneness", said the Lt Governor.

In the Globalized world, many foreign universities are strengthening their efforts for promotion, development and research on the treasure of Sanskrit. It is the result of India's growing stature in the world and acknowledgement of India's rich cultural heritage and social, spiritual values, he added.

The Lt Governor also expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for revival of Sanskrit, Yoga and other ancient schools of Indian philosophy.

The Central Sanskrit Universities Act, 2020 converted 3 deemed to be Universities into Central Sanskrit Universities and thus provided more opportunities to spread the knowledge of Sanskrit language not only in India but also across the world, he added.

The Lt Governor also made valuable suggestions for popularizing the extraordinariness of the Sanskrit language.

Sanskrit is the mother language of all the civilized languages of the world. During the G20 presidency event, we must showcase our intangible heritage, values and ideals from the ancient scriptures. All the eminent Institutes can plan a year-long calendar of activities in collaboration with Government departments, added the Lt Governor.

Atal Peethadheeshwar Swami Vishwatmanand Saraswati Maharaj, who presided over the event, said that everyone should strive to promote Sanskrit language which has been protecting our cultural heritage since ages.

Prof JP Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu highlighted the need to adopt and promote Sanskrit language. Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul is aimed at taking Sanskrit to every village, every household, he added.

Prof. Madan Mohan Jha, Director, Central Sanskrit University, Ranbir Campus, Jammu threw light on initiatives taken in the last one year for promoting Sanskrit language through various reputed Sanskrit education institutions.

Sham Lal Sharma, former minister, highlighted the significance of Sanskrit language as a key language of the ancient tradition and culture.

A vehicle for the Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul has been provided by Rakesh Gandotra, Chairman, SDM Memorial Trust. This vehicle shall carry Sanskrit teachers to villages where they will teach Sanskrit to the residents of the area, it was informed.

Mahant Rameshwara Dass; Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust; Trustees & members of the Trust and Sanskrit scholars were present on the occasion.

Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; RK Chhibber; Board Member J&K Bank; Vivek Gupta DIG; Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu were also present—(KNO)

GOVT JOBS

Kashmir on providing the following facilities to the eligible Kashmiri migrants settled in Jammu, he said.

"Monthly cash relief at current rate and Total of Rs.13,000/- per family subject to a ceiling of Rs.3250/- per person Ratio. In the form of 9 kg rice, 2 kg flour per person and 1 kg sugar per family, 3250/- per head in case Kashmiri migrants settled in Delhi," he said.

"Reimbursement of expenditure incurred by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) for providing monthly cash relief of Rs.1000/- to GNCTD. per person," he added.

In another reply, the minister said that net infiltration from across the Indo-Pak border into J&K in 2021 stood at 34 in 2021, down from 51 in 2020 and 138 in 2019. In 2021, 12 infiltrators were killed on the border but none were arrested—

J&K

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), he further said that the government of J&K has reported receiving proposals for investments worth approximately Rs 64,000 crore so far—(KNO)

HARD WORK

She further said the hardwork has paid of and also the support extended by her parents and coach helped her to achieve this feat.

Chisti also said the children should follow their goal along with their studies and parents should also extend support to their children.

Ayeera's mother also expressed happiness over the achievement of her daughter and said she is very happy and has no words to express her joy.

"My daughter has always made us proud and today also, she made the entire country proud," she said.

She also appealed to parents to support their children in their endeavour.

Pertinently, Ayeera reached home today morning. She was received by the officials of Sports Council at Srinagar Airport, who also visited her home later in Bemina here.

Notably, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha also congratulated Ayeera for winning the medal at the championship.

Union Minister for Sports, Anurag Thakur also congratulated her.

"Congratulations to Ayeera Chisti on becoming the first female athlete from J&K to win a at the 8th #WWC. Earlier she won for India at the #IWC in Georgia, along with many national-level medals. Her stupendous achievement will motivate the girls from J&K and the nation," Thakur tweeted—(KNO)

ANANTNAG

myself," she said. "In college, I preferred Psychology as my subject and teacher helped me to come out all such things. After pursuing masters in Psychology, I got training of other things like hypnotherapy, cognitive behavior therapy and other things."

She said: "In 2015, I started Enso Wellness in Gurgaon with an aim to spread more awareness and become a one-stop solution for those who have been struggling with the issues and challenges of emotional and mental health."

Pandemic changed the definition and made it globally possible for people to ask Help by using online platform keeping their identity anonymous as reaching out to a mental health professional is still a stigma, she said.

"I have been awarded many times before and this award is for working online in Covid-19 for having best counsellors," she said.

"We have been hosting many online series- like Stand up to Stigma, One minute Mental Health, Ask the Doctor with eminent personalities from across the globe and conducted various online and offline workshops for Kashmir in last 5 years," she added. "Mental health is as important as physical health-one definitely impacts the other. We need to start talking about mental health as we do talk about physical health and make it normal for people to reach out for help when they need it. And if you want to see the change we have to be the change, so talking about your emotions, challenges, struggles and visiting a professional definitely does help make it normal"

She said one doesn't need to suppress the emotions as every emotion is must about whom "we have the talk but we need to learn how to navigate these emotions better." "We don't buy emotions, it is inborn in us and rather than suppressing and not talking about it. we need to come out and share feelings, reach professional to get out anxiety as mental health is as important as physical health and we have to remove stigma about it so as to see the change and be the change," she added—(KNO)

ALBADIR

has scuttled the nefarious plans of terrorists to derail peace and harmony," police said.

Meanwhile, Police in Pulwama produced a chargesheet before the competent court of law against eight accused persons involved in a case under FIR number 65/2022 of Police Station Litter regarding recovery of an IED at Arnulla Lassipora area of Pulwama.

"On 16/06/2022, Police received information that an IED had been placed in Arnulla Lassipora area of Pulwama. Subsequently, Police swung into action and raided the said location and recovered an IED weighing about 15Kgs fitted in a pressure cooker and also apprehended 02 accused persons."

During the course of investigation, the arrested accused persons confessed their involvement in the crime and also disclosed the names of five more accused persons associated with Al-Badr for their active involvement and role in procuring and transporting the said recovered IED.

Accordingly, police said that a case was registered and on the basis of evidence gathered offence punishable under relevant sections of law for commission of instant crime were established.

"The investigation of the case concluded and chargesheet against 08 accused persons including one foreign militant handler has been produced before the Court of Special Designated Court under NIA Act at Srinagar," police said—(KNO)

GN AZAD

according to him are involved in unlawful activities," he said—(KNO)

COMMERS

The Lt Governor exhorted the officers to give an active push to exports, marketing promotion programmes for handicrafts focusing global market, development of industrial estate connected to significant economic nodes to maintain the momentum of growth.

The Lt Governor also took note of progress made under 'Ease of Doing Business' initiative across various parameters. He asked the senior officials to review the implementation of reforms regularly to remove bottlenecks.

The Lt Governor directed the revenue department to work in close coordination with Industries & Commerce department to expedite setting up of Industrial Estates and to resolve all pending issues within one month.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh. H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department; Sh Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Revenue Department; Sh Achal Sethi, Law Secretary; Ms. Smita Sethi, Secretary in the I&C department; HoDs; Managing Directors and other senior officers attended the meeting.

DRUGS

In district wise breakdown, DIG said that in Rajouri 27 cases have been registered against 41 accused persons, out of which 04 main peddlers have been detained under PITNDPS Act for a period of one year, besides preventive actions under CrPC has been initiated against 210 accused/suspects.

He said that the seized drugs/narcotics substances made in these cases include Heroine weighing 6.065 Kgs as compared to 2.6 Kg in 2021, Charas weighing 390 Grams, Poppy straw weighing 8,300 Kgs, Bucky (Bhang) 04 Kgs, Spasmo proxvyon capsule 300.

In District Poonch, 47 cases have been registered, against 59 peddlers while 03 main peddlers have been detained for one year under PITNDPS besides preventive action under CrPC has been initiated against 155 accused/suspects.

In Poonch, seizure include Heroine 106 kilograms, Poppy straw 62 kilograms, Tab Tramadol 9750 number.

In Rajouri Poonch range, 74 total cases have been registered with 100 arrests and 7 detentions for one year under

PITNDPS while Preventive action has been initiated under CrPC against 365 accused and there is a huge increase in the seizure of heroin this year, DIG said.

He further requested general public to share any drug peddling related information with Police through Drugs helpline numbers active in both district Rajouri and Poonch.

Rajouri : 9596047100

Poonch : 9622003495

He also emphasized that war against drugs will only be successful if the general public and all other stakeholders put their heads together and work in complete sync. PITNDPS while Preventive action has been initiated under CrPC against 365 accused and there is a huge increase in the seizure of heroin this year, DIG said. He further requested general public to share any drug peddling related information with Police through Drugs helpline numbers active in both district Rajouri and

Mamta Book Depot gutted in Srinagar fire

Srinagar, Dec 13, KNT: A fire that broke out at Mamta Book Depot at Regal Lane Srinagar late Monday night gutted thousands of books.

An electrical short circuit is said to be the reason behind the blaze.

Firefighters rushed to the spot soon after the fire broke out. Two fire engines and several fire-fighters were engaged in bringing the flames under control for 2 hours.

Muhammad Shafi Lala – the owner of the book depot told news agency Kashmir News Trust that the loss is estimated to be about Rs.70 to 80 lakhs.

He said over one lakh textbooks have been consumed by the flames.

Police visited the spot to assess the quantum of loss. [KNT]

DC Doda interacts with Students, staff at GHSS (Girls) as School Prabhari



DODA, DECEMBER 13: District Administration Doda has taken up a unique initiative of adopting government schools by District level officers as School Prabhari in the district.

The School Prabhari has to visit the concerned school on regular intervals or connect through Virtual means to listen and resolve the issues, grievances, demands and aspirations of the students. The Prabhari Officer shall act as bridge between the school and the administration and also guide the students in choosing their goals and helping them to reach their life destinations.

Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan today visited his adopted institution- the Government Higher Secondary School Girls as the School Prabhari.

During the visit, he inspected the building of the institution, interacted with students and staff. The School has a strength of 783 students studying in different streams. The DC asked students to focus on their studies and goals. He asked them to think differently on every issue faced by humanity, come up with out of box solutions and discuss them with their teachers, parents and Mentors. He urged them to set their targets for winter vacations. Teachers were asked to give them projects and remain in touch with the students during vacations also.

He had a special interaction with athletes and players of GHSS Girls Doda. He urged them to work hard and bring laurels to the district by getting first positions in the national and international events.

He said that administration shall be holding Mock tests for competitive exams after winter vacations. He informed that virtual classes shall be started during this winter so that students remain in touch with their students.

DC was accompanied by CEO Doda Prahalad Bhagat, DIO DIPR Doda Mohd Ashraf Wani and Principal GHSS Girls Doda Madam Nazia.

Udhampur: DIPR organises symposium under Nasha Mukta Bharat campaign



UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 13: The Cultural Unit of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu today organised a symposium on the topic Nasha Mukta Bharat here at Government Girls Middle School Shakti Nagar.

As many as 6 students participated in the event. Divyanshi Singh bagged first position, while Sonu and Praylatta secured second and third positions, respectively. All the winners and participants were felicitated with prizes and certificates.

The competition was judged by Rachna and Sheenu. Speaking on the occasion, the Head of the school Gharo Devi shared her views on the topic and also appreciated the Cultural Unit of Department of Information and Public Relations for organizing such a meaningful program to aware the future of the nation.

Among others staff members, officials of Information Department, Mohinder Kumar and Suresh Kumar Cultural Assistants and a large number of audiences witnessed the program. Program was coordinated by Seema Sharma of the host school. The whole program was conducted under the supervision of Cultural Officer Parul Khajuria.

Up-Scaling of Aapda Mitra' Training concludes for 7th batch at SDRF 1st Bn. Hqrs Srinagar

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 13: As part of GOI sponsored scheme 'Up-Scaling of Aapda Mitra', 12 days training programme (7th batch) regarding Disaster Management for 71 Aapda Mitra Volunteers of Baramulla and Kupwara districts concluded today at SDRF 1st Bn. Hqrs Srinagar, here. The valedictory ceremony was chaired by Haseeb-Ur-Rehman, Commandant SDRF 1st Bn Srinagar. Merit Certificates were also distributed among the Volunteers.

Similarly, 8th batch of the 12 days training programme for Aapda Mitra Volunteers of Kupwara and Baramulla districts shall commence w.e.f 14 December, 2022 at SDRF 1st Bn Srinagar.

The valedictory ceremony was chaired by Haseeb-Ur-Rehman, Commandant SDRF 1st Bn Srinagar. Merit Certificates were also distributed among the Volunteers.

Indus Towers to provide digital literacy course to 50 J&K Police martyr's wards

Graduates will also be put in touch with potential employers for placements

Naresh Thakur



Jammu, 2022: Indus Towers Limited, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, in partnership with the Impact Guru Foundation - a not-for-profit education society created to have a positive impact on society- will offer Digital Literacy Lessons to 50 J&K Police martyrs' wards.

The initiative was inaugurated by the Hon'ble, Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, as Chief Guest along with the Guest of Honour Shri. Dilbag Singh, DGP, Jammu & Kashmir.

Indus Towers' Digital Literacy programme is aimed at making beneficiaries digitally literate by equipping them with IT and employability skills that will help them earn a sustainable livelihood. Successful candidates will qualify for entry level jobs as data managers, secretaries, receptionists, and administrators. The support of connecting the beneficiaries with potential employers for placements will also be offered as part of this course.

Hon'ble, Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, as Chief Guest said, "Inaugurated Digital Skill Development programme for the wards of J&K Police Martyrs to generate sustainable livelihood. The govt is committed to take concrete measures for the families of the martyrs so that they may live a life of comfort and dignity. The initiative under CSR by Indus Towers Ltd is a tribute to JKP bravehearts who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country. Welfare of the families of those, who served and protected the country's integrity & sovereignty, will always be our top priority."

Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief of Regulatory & CSR, Indus Towers said, "Indus Towers has always believed in taking an active role and responsibility in transforming the lives of communities by improving their socio-economic conditions. We're grateful to the J&K Police department for providing not only the training facility at the locations but also, the basic amenities of electricity, water, tables and chairs to seamlessly execute the programme. Beneficiaries will not only undergo through Digital Training and education, they will also be exposed to career development skills.

Sukesh Thareja, Circle CEO, Jammu & Kashmir, Indus Towers said, "Indus Towers has been engaging in various CSR activities focusing on education and skill development. Education, including digital literacy is the key to our nation's future. J&K Police martyrs made the supreme sacrifice and hence, it's our duty to support their families by giving them the means to earn a dignified and sustainable livelihood."

Indus Towers programme will become sustainable over the long run applying a four-pronged strategy which includes: the establishment of the centre in a safe and accessible location as per the guidance from J&K Police Department, the employment of community development workers who would reach out to and recommend deserving beneficiaries, engaging beneficiaries by creating a learning environment conducive to intellectual growth, and enlisting the support of potential employers in granting jobs to those who complete the course. Identified Candidates are above 18 years of age and have minimum education qualification as class 10th. The classes will be held for 30 days for 6 hours per day.

About Indus Towers Limited (formerly Bharti Infratel Limited) is India's leading provider passive telecom infrastructure and it deploys, owns, and manages telecom towers and communication structures, for various mobile operators. The Company's portfolio of over 187,000 telecom towers makes it one of the largest tower infrastructure providers in the country with presence in all 22 telecom circles. Indus Towers caters to all wireless telecommunication service providers in India. The Company has been the industry pioneer in adopting green energy initiatives for its operations. For further details visit www.industowers.com

How was the file lost in BDO office Mankote Under whose custody was it?

M S Nazki

MENDHAR:Corruption glitters in District Poonch (UT Jammu and Kashmir and thisis one amongst many stories!- When corruption is the priority, honesty becomes evil!-'I did not know how to start this one but I changed mu guard anddecided to play this way', and above all, watch with glittering eyesthe whole world around you because the greatest secrets are alwayshidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it!-'But we found horrendous one and too ar horror we found out that affle had gone missing and the officialdom was absolutely callous aboutthe same!-'Trust me such things can only happen in District Poonch where theclever crooks in the administration think that the people can be takenfor a giant wheel joy ride! I'm afraid that this is not the case now!-'The people for a change are far ahead of the administrative working roulette which is nothing but a corruption spinner!' Though it is happening in every District of UT Jammu and Kashmir but today we willprefer to remain restricted to District Poonch!-'The deserts and the oceans of corruption are the realms ofdesolation on the surface of District Poonch! Many know it but nonespells the same out so ruthlessly. But we are and we will keep doing so because the desert is a place of bones, where the inwards areturned out, to desiccate into dust. The ocean is a place of skin, richouter membranes hiding thick juicy insides, laden with the soup ofbeing! In both the circumstances it are the influential and thecorrupt who dictate terms to the powerless and the helpless!

'-In the case which we are going to present th same! How it happenedis not known but it did happn is the talk that is going around in theDistrict (Poonch)!

'The administration in District poonch by now should know that, 'ifyou go down the rabbit hole of our unconsciousness and try to unravelthe knotty points of our life story we may encounter a bunch of hiddencities or emotional stowaways. Forgotten details in the windmill ofour mind may daintily reveal, where things might have gone wrong. Inthis case the things have gone terribly wrong!-'The hidden side of the administration characters suggests exactlythis, people are seen through the stained glass window of ourimagination. And the imagination os the people in the District thinksthat the characters managing the affairs are corrupt to the core!'

'-Why we are telling the readers the same, well this letter speaks itall! We are just hiving away the excerpts in paragraphs!-Mahmood Ahmed, Panchayat Khasblari Upper Block Mankote, wrote thisletter and it was addressed to the Additional District Development

29th All India Conference of Surnandan Bharati

Sourav Dutta:



The 29th All India Conference, Convocation Ceremony and Surnandan Festival at Gyan Manch in December 4 was inaugurated by Eminent Manipuri Dancer Guru Kalavati Devi, Hon'ble Justice Apurba Sinha Roy, Dean of Rabindra Bharati University Prof. Dr. Puspita Mukherjee, Tabla Maestro Pt. Mallar Ghosh, Economist of South Korea Prof. Dr. Gouranga Das and Poet-Singer-Artist of Prague Papiya Ghoshal. It announced with the award giving ceremony followed by a cultural programme where a repertoire of songs, dance and recitation by aspiring artists kept the audience spellbound.

Ninety Six celebrities from Assam, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal were honoured with different awards. Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to Pt. Kalyan Deka, Tabla Maestro of Guwahati, Assam; Dr. Tanya Das, Scientist and Singer of Kolkata; Smt. Snuhi Chowdhury, Dancer of Kolkata; Mrs. Jayalakshmi Arun, Dancer and Choreographer of Vadodra, Gujarat and Sri Badal Kr. Mandal, Artist of Rourkela, Odisha. Best Centre In Charge trophy was given to Sri Dhruva Jyoti Sharma Baruah, Principal of Shankar Madhab Chitralaya Vidyalaya, Bebejia, Assam. Smt. Nirmali Das, student of Shankar Madhab Chitralaya Vidyalaya, received Best Student Award.

Singers, Dancers, Elocutionists and Artists presented various types of programmes on the stage. The poetry book 'Muhurter Kobitaguchha' written by Prof. Dr. Gouranga Das of Seoul, South Korea, a short story book of Ritish Ranjan Chakraborty 'Dyotonar Deyal' and story of 84 outstanding personalities in the field of art and culture 'Refulgent Luminaries' edited by Ritish Ranjan Chakraborty were inaugurated in the conference. A colourful souvenir was also inaugurated by Hon'ble Justice. The entire programme was compered by Elocutionist Debasish Basu (TV Personality), Debasish Sarkar and Simantika Bhattacharjee.

"Not 1962 Anymore...": Arunachal Chief Minister On Border Clash With China

New Delhi: Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu today said the Indian Army will give a befitting reply if someone tries to transgress. His remarks come just days after the soldiers of the two countries clashed in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh.

"Yangtse is under my assembly constituency & every year I meet the Jawans & villagers of the area. It's not 1962 anymore. If anyone tries to transgress, our brave soldiers will give a befitting reply," Mr Khandu said in a tweet. Earlier today, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a statement in Parliament on the incident in Yangtse, Tawang on December 9. Mr Singh said Chinese troops tried to transgress the LAC which led to a scuffle between the troops. But the Indian soldiers "compelled the Chinese soldiers to return to their posts and prevented a land-grab," Mr Singh said. There were no casualties or serious injuries to Indian troops in the scuffle, he added. Border tensions between India and China vastly escalated in June 2020, when clashes broke out at Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh, in which 20 Indian soldiers died for the country and over 40 Chinese soldiers were killed or injured.

This was followed by several confrontations between the two nations, including one at the South Bank of Pangong Lake. After multiple meetings between military commanders, Indian and Chinese troops pulled back from key points including Gogra-Hot Springs in Ladakh.

Don't Talk To Media When On Interim Bail: Delhi Court To Umar Khalid



New Delhi: A court has directed activist and former JNU student Umar Khalid, an accused in the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, to not talk to media or give interviews while granting him interim bail to attend the marriage of his sister. While ordering Umar Khalid's release on bail for a week on Monday to attend the marriage related functions of his sister, the court imposed several conditions. Umar Khalid had moved an application seeking interim bail for two weeks from December 20 to January 3. In view of the marriage of the real younger sister of the accused, this court is inclined to grant interim bail for attending the marriage-related functions. Regarding apprehensions of prosecution, those can be taken care of by attaching conditions in the bail...." Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said in the order which was accessed on Tuesday.

Noting that marriage-related functions were to be held from December 26 to 28, the judge said the court in its "discretion" was exercising its "latitude" and found it fit to grant him interim bail for seven days from December 23. He will have to surrender on December 30. "Accordingly applicant or accused Umar Khalid is directed to be released on interim bail...on furnishing of personal bond in the sum of 25,000 with two sureties of the like amount," the court said. The court, however, made it clear that Umar Khalid's bail will not be extended. "The accused...upon his release shall not get in touch with any of the witnesses nor will tamper with evidence and will provide his mobile (phone) number to the investigating officer (IO) and shall keep his mobile phone open (on) till the period of interim bail," the court said. The court directed Umar Khalid to contact the IO through video calls daily, besides not talking or giving any interviews to "any media, including social media." "He shall not meet any members of the public.

Foreign Funding Licence Of Gandhis' NGOs Cancelled For Chinese Link: Amit Shah

New Delhi: No one can capture an inch of land till the Narendra Modi government is in power, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday, as the opposition demanded a discussion on clashes between Indian and Chinese forces along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh. On the border issue, the minister made it clear that the "BJP government will not allow any incursion on land. We will not leave an inch of land. The bravery shown by soldiers is appreciable, they have saved our land".

Mr Shah said Lok Sabha proceedings were disrupted by the Congress citing clashes on the border, but the actual reason was that it did not want to hear facts about the RGF as a question was listed about it during the Question Hour in the House. "Between 2005 and 2007, the RGF had received 1.35 crore from the Chinese embassy. After following due diligence, the



home ministry cancelled the FCRA registration of the RGF," he said.

According to law, any NGO which intends to receive foreign funding must register itself under the FCRA. Amit Shah alleged that while the Congress claimed that the money from the embassy was meant to undertake research on ties between India and China, the country wanted to know if the research covered the issue of land that India lost during the 1962 war. Recalling that China had raised questions about then Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh's visit to Arunachal Pradesh on October 13, 2009, he asked if the party carried out research on the issue.

The minister asked whether the party also researched issues like incursion of thousands of hectares of land by China, Jawaharlal Nehru "sacrificing" India's seat in the United Nations Security Council, denial of visa by China to the then Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Dorjee Khandu and issuing of staple visa to residents of Jammu and Kashmir. r Shah also alleged that when the In-

dian soldiers were fighting the Chinese PLA at Galwan, someone from the Congress was throwing a dinner for an official of the Chinese embassy and asked why work on vital infrastructure projects was stalled in 2012 following a threat from China.

The FCRA registration of the RGF and Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT) were cancelled in October last year after an investigation carried out by an inter-ministerial committee formed by the home ministry in 2020.

The trustees of the RGF are former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress leaders P Chidambaram, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Suman Dubey, and Ashok Ganguly. The trustees of the RGCT are Rahul Gandhi, Ashok Ganguly, Banshi Mehta, and Deep Joshi. Set up in 1991, the RGF worked on a number of critical issues, including health.

Biden To Sign Bill Granting Protections To Same-Sex Marriage

Washington: President Joe Biden will on Tuesday sign into law a bill granting federal protections to same-sex marriage -- gathering thousands of guests at the White House to celebrate the legislative milestone.

It comes 12 years after Biden -- then Barack Obama's vice president -- took a public stand in favor of same-sex unions, well before they became legal in the entire United States through a 2015 US Supreme Court decision. After the Supreme Court -- now significantly more conservative -- overturned

longstanding abortion rights last June, lawmakers from the left and right came together to prevent any subsequent move to curb same-sex marriage rights, feared by some. The legislation's final adoption by Congress last week marked a rare show of bipartisanship in deeply divided Washington. In celebration, Biden will be gathering a group of Republican and Democratic lawmakers on the White House grounds, along with advocates and plain-



tiffs in marriage equality cases across the country, his spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said Monday. Jean-Pierre, who herself made history as the first openly gay White House press secretary, also touted "musical guests and performances to celebrate this historic bill." The legislation, she said, "will give peace of mind to millions of LGBTQI+ and interracial couples who will finally be guaranteed the rights and protections to which they and their children are entitled."

- Growing support - Hundreds of thousands of same-sex couples have married since the Supreme Court's 2015 decision legalizing the unions throughout the United States. Public acceptance has grown dramatically in recent decades, with polls now showing a strong majority of Americans supporting same-sex marriage. But some conservatives and the religious right remain opposed. The new legislation, known as the Respect for Marriage Act, does not require

states to legalize same-sex marriage but does require them to recognize a marriage so long as it was valid in the state where it was performed.

It repeals previous legislation defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman, and also protects interracial couples by requiring states to recognize legal marriages without regard to "sex, race, ethnicity or national origin."

In the House of Representatives, 39 Republicans joined a united Democratic majority in supporting the bill, while 169 Republicans voted against. It was previously adopted in the evenly-split Senate by 61 votes to 36. Jean-Pierre said Biden would stress Tuesday that "there is much more work to be done to protect LGBTQI+ individuals across the country." Biden's spokeswoman recalled that the 80-year-old Democrat was among the first American political leaders to publicly support same-sex unions at the highest levels of government.

Bilkis Bano Case: Supreme Court's Justice Bela Trivedi Opts Out Of Hearing

New Delhi: Justice Bela M Trivedi, part of the Supreme Court bench that was to hear Bilkis Bano's plea challenging the remission and release of 11 convicts in the 2002 case related to her gang rape and murder of seven members of her family on December 13, recused herself from the hearing today. The matter was hence adjourned, and will have to be listed in a new bench. As soon as a bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi took up the matter for hearing, Justice Rastogi said that his sister judge will not like to hear the case.

"List the matter before a bench in which one of us is not a member", the bench headed by Justice Rastogi ordered. The bench did not specify any reason for the recusal of justice Trivedi.

Bilkis Bano, in two separate petitions, had challenged the early release of the convicts by the Gujarat government on August 15, saying the state gov-



ernment passed a mechanical order completely ignoring the requirement of law as laid down by the Supreme Court. Bilkis Bano was 21 and five-month pregnant when she was gang raped during the 2002 Gujarat riots that followed the Godhra train burning incident. Her three-year-old daughter was also among the seven members of her

family who were killed. "The decision to once again stand up and knock on the doors of justice was not easy for me. For a long time, after the men who destroyed my entire family and my life were released, I was simply numb. I was paralysed with shock and with fear for my children, my daughters, and above all, paralysed by loss of hope," she had said at the time of filing of the petitions. The investigation in the case was handed over to the CBI and the trial was transferred to a Maharashtra court by the Supreme Court.

A special CBI court in Mumbai had on January 21, 2008 sentenced the 11 to life imprisonment.

Their conviction was later upheld by the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court. However, in October, the Gujarat government told the Supreme Court that it had the Centre's approval for the release of the 11 convicts and also cited their "good behaviour".

16 Lakh Cyber Crime Incidents Reported Since 2020: Minister In Parliament

New Delhi: Over 16 lakh cybercrime incidents have been reported in the country in the last three years following which more than 32,000 FIRs were registered, Lok Sabha was informed today.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the 'National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal' (www.cybercrime.gov.in) allows easy reporting of all types of cyber crimes and the incidents reported on this portal are routed automatically to the respective State and UT law enforcement agency for further handling as per the provisions of law.

"As per the data maintained, more than 16 lakh cybercrime incidents have been reported and more than 32,000 FIRs have been registered from January 1, 2020, to December 7, 2022," he said replying to a written question. The minister said, the 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System' has been launched for immediate reporting of financial frauds and to stop siphoning off funds by fraudsters. So far, financial fraud transactions amounting to more than 180 crore have been saved. A toll-free Helpline number '1930' has been operationalised to get assistance in lodging online cyber complaint, he said.

Centre Has Neglected Meghalaya, Other Northeast States: Mamata Banerjee



Shillong: West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee today alleged that the BJP government at the Centre has neglected Meghalaya and other northeastern states. Ms Banerjee, addressing a TMC workers' convention here, said her party wants to assist the people of Meghalaya to ensure that the state is ruled by sons of the soil.

"The central government has totally neglected Meghalaya as well as other northeastern states. We will ensure that we bring change and the hill state prospers... Let us walk together on path of progress; why divide people based on caste and religion?" she said. Ms Banerjee also promised a financial inclusion scheme under which a direct transfer of 1,000 per month will be made to woman in every household of Meghalaya.

"Women in Meghalaya have suffered enough. While the state government neglects them, we aim to empower them," she said.

Assembly polls are due in Meghalaya early next year. Earlier in the day, the Trinamool Congress supremo also distributed 5 lakh cheques to next of kin of those killed in clashes along the Assam-Meghalaya border last month.

"Today, I met the families of the victims of the tragic Mukroh firing. It was my duty to stand by them in their time of grief. As a small act of assistance, I handed over ex gratia cheques of 5 lakh to their kin," she said.

Violence had broken out at Mukroh village near the disputed border between the two states in West Karbi Anglong district in November, after a truck allegedly laden with illegally felled timber was intercepted by forest guards from Assam six people - five tribal villagers from Meghalaya and a forest guard from Assam - were killed in the clashes.

The TMC is now Meghalaya's main opposition party in its 60-member assembly by virtue of the defection of 12 of the 17 Congress MLAs, including former chief minister Mukul Sangma in November last year.

However, one of the 12 resigned from the assembly and also from the party last month, reducing the TMC's strength in the House to 11.

Besides Tripura and Assam, Meghalaya is one of the northeastern states where the TMC is trying to make inroads. The party had also contested the assembly election in Manipur in 2012.

China says 'shocked' at Kabul attack, firmly opposes all terrorism

China on Tuesday said it was "shocked" by a deadly attack on a Kabul hotel popular with Chinese business people, adding that five of its nationals were wounded. "This terror attack is abominable and China is deeply shocked. We firmly oppose all forms of terrorism... We express our grief for the Afghan military police who died, and express sympathies for the injured," foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said. At least three people were killed when gunmen attacked the hotel in the Afghan capital Monday, with witnesses reporting multiple blasts and several bursts of gunfire. The militant Islamic State (IS) group has claimed responsibility. "As far as we know, five Chinese citizens were injured in the terrorist attack, and several Afghan military and police were also killed," Wang said. He added the Chinese embassy in Afghanistan had "made serious representations to the Afghan interim government, asking the Afghan side to spare no effort to rescue the injured, thoroughly investigate the incident, bring the terrorists to justice, and take further measures to protect the safety of Chinese citizens in Afghanistan".

Need 800 Million Euros Aid For Energy Sector: Ukraine's Zelensky

Kyiv: President Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday said Ukraine needed emergency aid for its energy sector totalling around 800 million euros to help his country survive Russia's bombing of its civilian infrastructure. Failing to make an impact on the battlefield in its invasion, Moscow has switched tactics since October when it began airstrikes targeting Ukraine's energy network, plunging millions into cold and darkness at the onset of winter. The alarm over Ukraine's ability to cope comes nine months into the Russian assault against its neighbour, which has seen Moscow make only slight territorial gains in the face of fierce Ukrainian resistance. Zelensky made the request for 800 million euros at international conference

in Paris designed to raise material and money to repair Ukraine's damaged infrastructure. It is hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron with whom he has sometimes had tetchy ties. "Of course it is a very high amount, but the cost is less than the cost of a potential blackout," Zelensky told the gathering in Paris via video link. "I hope that decisions will be made accordingly." Zelensky said that Ukraine needed transformers, equipment to repair damaged high-voltage power lines, as well as generators and gas turbines. "Because of the destruction of our power plants by terror attacks we will need to use more gas this winter than expected," added Zelensky, whose wife Ole-



na attended the conference in person. Zelensky urged G7 nations on Monday to provide "about two billion cubic metres" of addition-

al gas to get through the winter as well as more tanks and missiles to fight the invasion. - Russia wants 'darkness' - Ukrainian Prime Minister De-

nys Shmygal also appealed for help from the 70 states and international agencies gathered in Paris for the "Standing with the Ukrainian People" conference. "They (Russians) want to put us into darkness and it will fail, thanks to our partners all over the world," he added. Shmygal also said Tuesday that the UN nuclear watchdog IAEA had agreed to dispatch permanent teams to the country's nuclear plants, including the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia plant, a hotspot of fighting. The prime minister said after a meeting with IAEA chief Rafael Grossi that teams would deploy to plants at Zaporizhzhia, Rivne, Khmelnitskyi, Pivdenoukrainska and Chernobyl without specifying a timeframe.

IND vs BAN: Test of KL Rahul's Captaincy As India Aim To Push For WTC Final Qualification

KL Rahul's tactical acumen will be tested along with his batting prowess when a depleted Indian team clashes with a tricky Bangladesh in the high-stakes two-match series, the result of which will have an impact on India's chances for the World Test Championship final qualification. India are currently fourth in the WTC table behind Australia, South Africa and Sri Lanka. The only way of qualifying for the final in June is to straightaway win both the Tests against Bangladesh and then all four at home against Pat Cummins' Australia to eliminate any ifs and buts. The journey starts at the Zohor Ahmed Stadium, which has traditionally favoured the batters but also offers some turn towards the business end of the match. The visitors will start as overwhelming favourites in Test format, in which the Bangladesh is yet to beat India but the absence of Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Ravindra Jadeja could hurt the side.



Jadeja's absence on these kind of tracks always puts Indian team on the back-foot especially when the opposition team is batting in the third innings or fourth innings. Jadeja-Ashwin duo, at least against lesser Test nations on sub-continental tracks could be lethal but Axar

Patel has done his hard yards over the past two seasons as the second choice left-arm spinner. As many as 10 Indian players, if all are fit, select themselves in the playing XI and the most important call that the two Rahuls -- skipper KL and head coach Dravid -- need

to make is about the fifth specialist bowler -- a third pacer or a third spinner. Whether India will field a third choice specialist spinner in wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav or slow left-arm orthodox Saurabh Kumar is there to be seen. Saurabh, who has been a star performer for India A team in the recently concluded two-Test series against Bangladesh A with 15 wickets, would feel that he has made his case for a Test Cap in at least one of the two games. KL Rahul's test as a leader In the past one year, Rahul hasn't been exactly exceptional in terms of cricketing smarts as far as captaincy is concerned and this series where he is likely to get two games will be an acid test as far as his long-term leadership ambition is concerned. On Monday, during the trophy unveiling ceremony with his counterpart Shakib al Hasan, Rahul told the mediapersons that his team.

ICC rates Rawalpindi pitch 'below average' after Pak vs Eng Test

Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium has been handed one demerit point after the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday rated the pitch for the first Test between Pakistan and England as "below average". England won the Test by 74 runs after posting 657 all out in the first innings and 264-7 declared in the second. Pakistan made 579 in the first innings before they were bundled out for 268 in the second. "It was a very flat pitch which gave almost no assistance to any type of bowler. That was the main reason why batters scored very fast and both sides posted huge totals," said Andy Pycroft of the governing body's elite panel of match referees. "The pitch hardly deteriorated during the course of the match. Since there was very little in it for the bowlers, I found the pitch to be 'below average' as per the ICC guidelines."

IPL 2023 Auction: 405 Players To Go Under The Hammer For 87 Vacant Spots

The TATA IPL 2023 Player Auction list is out with a total of 405 cricketers set to go under the hammer in Kochi on December 23rd, 2022. Initially, a total of 369 players were shortlisted by 10 teams from the initial list of 991 players. Thirty Six additional players were requested by teams, which are added into the final list which makes a total of 405 players which will be presented at the TATA IPL 2023 Auction.

Out of 405 players, 273 are Indians and 132 are overseas players of which 4 players are from associate nations. The total capped players are 119, uncapped players are 282 and 4 from associate nations. A maximum of 87 slots are now available with up to 30 being slotted for overseas players. INR 2 crore is the highest reserve price with 19 overseas players choosing to be slotted in the highest bracket. 11 players are in the auction list with a base price of INR 1.5 crore. Manish Pandey and Mayank Agarwal are the two Indian players in the list of 20 cricketers with a base price of INR 1 crore.

Tahlia McGrath becomes No.1 in ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings



Dubai, DEC 13 (UNI) Australia batter Tahlia McGrath's superb performances in the first two matches of their ongoing series against India have catapulted her to the top of the ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings in the weekly update carried out on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old, who struck unbeaten knocks of 40 and 70 in Mumbai, has overtaken compatriots Meg Lanning and Beth Mooney as well as India opener Smriti Mandhana to become the fourth Australian and 12th batter to top the women's T20I rankings.

Mooney had been at the top since 3 August this year when she overtook Lanning. ICC Hall of Famer Karen Rolton is the other Australian to have been at the top of the rankings.

McGrath is No. 1 after only 16 matches. The last woman to reach the top in fewer matches was star West Indies player Stafanie Taylor in 2010 (15 matches) while India opener Shafali Verma has been the fastest in recent years, reaching the summit after 18 matches.

In the latest update that also considers performances in the third match of the series between New Zealand and Bangladesh and the first match of the series between the West Indies and England, Sophie Devine of New Zealand, Verma and Australia's Alyssa Healy have gained one spot each to reach fourth, sixth and eighth positions.

FIFA WC: French record breakers set for SF



Doha, Dec 13 (UNI) France goes into their World Cup semifinals against Morocco as the favorites to repeat their place in the final from 2018, when they also won the title.

The French also reached the final of the 2016 European Championship, where they were runners-up in the tournament, so Didier Deschamps's men have the semifinal experience they need to go into Wednesday's match at Al Bayt with confidence.

Not only do the French have a great record in the semifinals, but this World Cup has seen four players set records to highlight the challenge they pose to rivals.

The first of those is striker Olivier Giroud: The AC Milan forward, who is a clear candidate for this year's Golden Boot, scored twice against Australia to take him level with Thierry Henry's record of 51 goals for France.

He then broke the record with the opening goal against Poland and ex-

tended it to 53, with the winner against England last Saturday.

Kylian Mbappe has also broken a record at this World Cup, with the two wonderful goals he netted against Poland taking him to nine goals in World Cups. That makes him the first 24-year-old to reach that total, passing the great Pele's seven goals by that age. What is frightening is that Mbappe also has more goals in World Cups at 24 years old than Cristiano Ronaldo in his entire career.

Emphasizing the threat the French attack poses in this World Cup, Antoine Griezmann's two assists against England take his total to 28 for the French national team - beating Henry's record of 27, although the fact Mbappe already has 18 assists hints that one day that record will be his.

And finally, goalkeeper Hugo Lloris was one of France's heroes against England, with a series of fine saves and also winning the mental battle against Harry Kane.

I don't see problem with Brazil having foreign coach: Ronaldo

Doha, Dec 13 (UNI) Brazil legend Ronaldo has lent his support to appoint a foreign manager following the team's elimination from the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Friday's quarterfinal loss to Croatia on penalties marked the fifth consecutive time that Brazil has been knocked out of football's showpiece tournament by a European opponent.

"I reiterated his previously announced decision to step down after the World Cup, saying "the cycle has finished" after the match at Education City stadium in Doha.

"I would love to see names like (Pep) Guardiola, (Carlo) Ancelotti or (Jose) Mourinho coaching Brazil," Ronaldo told reporters here on Monday. "But I am not the one who chooses, we will see what happens. These names have emerged in Brazil, but I don't know if it's true.

"I don't see a problem with Brazil



having a foreign coach. There is going to be a lot of discussion about who will be the next coach of Brazil. I see these names very favorably." Ronaldo, who won the World Cup with Brazil in 1994 and 2002, said Brazil had paid the price for poor defending that led to Bruno Petkovic's 116th-minute equalizer for Croatia.

Neymar had given the South American side the lead in the 106th minute by starting and finishing a superb team goal after the scores were tied at 0-0 at the end of normal

time. "We weren't able to run down the clock in extra time after the goal," Ronaldo said. "We needed to be smarter, it's the only thing we needed to get through the tie."

Ronaldo also said he was confident Neymar would play again for Brazil after the Paris Saint-Germain forward raised the prospect of ending his international career.

"He is very upset with the result," Ronaldo said. "It's normal for him to feel that right now, but I'm sure he'll come back stronger and continue playing for Brazil. He is still young and can play in the next World Cup. I am proud of how he showed his commitment in the last six months with Brazil.

"He played a great first game, suffered the ankle injury and made a lot of sacrifices to play for the national team again. He is very important for us and I hope that

Swiatek bags 2022 WTA Player of the Year award

St. Petersburg (USA), Dec 13 (UNI) World No.1 tennis star from Poland Iga Swiatek's has been named the WTA Player of the Year for the first time as WTA award winners announced. Swiatek, who won Newcomer of the Year in 2020, had an outstanding season in 2022. She was crowned champion at eight tournaments, including winning six events in a row and a 37-match winning streak. The eight titles won by Swiatek are -- two Grand Slams, at Roland Garros and the US Open, WTA 1000 titles at the Qatar Open (Doha), BNP Paribas Open (Indian Wells), the Miami Open (Rome) and WTA 500 titles at the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix (Stuttgart) and the San Diego Open.

Overall, the Pole tennis star won 67 matches this season. Besides



Swiatek, the doubles team of Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova, were among the WTA award winners announced Monday.

Krejickova and doubles World No.1 Siniakova were awarded the Doubles Team of the Year for the second season in a row and third time overall. The Czech pairing won three titles in 2022, all coming at the majors -- the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the US

Open. They also reached the title match at the WTA Finals. Their title in New York secured them the career Grand Slam, a feat achieved by only six other doubles teams. Beatriz Haddad Maia bagged the Most Improved Player of the Year award, becoming the first Brazilian woman to win a WTA Player Awards since they were introduced in 1977.

She broke into the Top 20 for the first time following her run to the final at the WTA 1000 National Bank Open presented by Rogers (Toronto) in August and went on to post a new-career high ranking of No.15 as part of a memorable season.

Zheng Qinwen of China has been awarded Newcomer of the Year while Germany's Tatjana Maria has been named the Comeback Player of the Year.

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