

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS NEWS PAPER NEWS MAGAZINES PRINTING OTHER SERVICES FLYERS, POSTERS, BUSINESS CARDS, BROCHURES, FORMS LETTERHEADS, INVOICES, CALENDERS, BOOKLETS LAWAIPORA SRINAGAR & HUMHAMA BUDGAM 9999038812, 9419008414, 01942496287

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HEADLINES TODAY

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blast Like Sound Heard At Sidhra Bridge Checking Point In Jammu: SSP Jammu

Srinagar, December 07: Police on Wednesday said that a blast like sound was heard late evening of Tuesday near Sidhra Bridge Checking point in Jammu district. SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli said that, late evening a blast like sound was heard near Sidhra bridge checking point. A thorough search is being carried on the spot to verify the matter. Any further detail shall be shared accordingly. So far no injury or any damage was being reported in this incident.

2 JKAS Among 3 Officers Transferred

Srinagar, Dec 7: The Government on Wednesday ordered transfer of officers, two of them JKAS, in the interest of administration with immediate effect. According to a government order, a copy of which lies with GNS, Ms. Monica Thappa, Jr. Scale JKAS, Tehsilda, Jammu Development Authority, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Officer, Government Medical College, Jammu, vice Rajinder Kumar, who has been asked to await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department. Rohit Kumar, Jr. Scale JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Jammu, against an available vacancy. Tej Krishan Dhar, awaiting orders of adjustment in GAD has been posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Department of Floriculture, Parks and Garden. (GNS)

Minor girl drowns to death in Jhelum in Bandipora village

Hajin, Dec 07: A 4-year-old girl drowned to death in the River Jhelum in Banyari village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday. An official told the news agency— that the girl identified as Zehrish Tariq daughter of Tariq Ahmad Dar of Jadalpora Banyari drowned in the River Jhelum. He said after completing medico-legal formalities, the body was handed over to her family for last rites. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident—(KNO)

Man arrested for carrying 'charas' in North Kashmir

Bandipora, Dec 7, : Police in North Kashmir's Bandipora arrested a man during 'My Town, My Pride' program after charas was recovered from his possession, however, his wife managed to escape leaving her bag behind. Sources told news agency Kashmir News Trust that police apprehended a man near Bagh Crossing of Bandipora town and recovered 450-gram charas from his possession. The wife of the accused escaped from the spot leaving her bag that contained charas behind. The accused have been identified as Shafi Sheikh, a resident of Sheikh Mohalla Bandipora. Police have registered a case in this regard and are looking for the absconding woman.

Police arrest 3 'drug peddlers' in Central Kashmir's Budgam

Budgam, Dec 7, : Police in Central Kashmir's Budgam district arrested 3 drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from their possession. A police spokesperson said that on Tuesday late night Police station Budgam received specific information that a trio boarding a vehicle (JK01S-5579) were selling contrabands among the youths of Mirgund, Karipora and other adjacent areas of the district. A police party intercepted the vehicle at Karipora near DC Office Budgam and during the search, the police party recovered 4.75 Grams of Heroin-like substance, 3 Mobile Phones, and Rs 1010 in their possession. The arrested 'drug peddlers' have been identified as Jehangir Ahmad Maglo alias Jan Kandail and Arif Maglo, both residents of Putli Bagh and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Armed Forces Flag Day

The Flag Day is an opportunity for all of us to express gratitude and solidarity with brave armed forces personnel: LG

Extends greetings and best wishes to all members of the armed forces and their families

HT NEWS DESK

and best wishes to all members of the armed forces and their families on the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day. In a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, Director Sainik Welfare Department, Brig. Gurmeet Singh Shan (Rtd.) pinned the Armed Forces Flag on the jacket of the Lt Governor and Chief



JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today extended warm greetings Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Lt Governor inaugurates multi-level parking facility at Panjirthi, Jammu

JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated a Multi-Level Parking Facility at Panjirthi, Jammu. Dedicating the new parking facility to the people of Jammu, the Lt Governor said that the project under AMRUT-Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation is part of the smart parking initiative using modern solutions to considerably reduce parking on roads and generate revenue for the city. The Lt Governor said that it is high time for Urban Local Bodies to reinvent their economic base and fully utilize the assets to generate revenues and spur the local economy. Many under-utilised assets can generate employment, business opportunities with engagement of local community, he added. Terming Community in-

volvement key to revitalize and rejuvenate the cities, the Lt Governor said, with the help of people we can create healthy cities, create incentives for Swachh Abhiyan, protect natural assets and strengthen transportation, water and utility infrastructure. The Lt Governor shared the vision of the government for urban rejuvenation and the efforts being made to achieve three goals- Sustainability, Efficiency and creation of a Vibrant Society. To realize these goals, community must come together along with development in different sphere such as mobility, economy, environment and governance in an integrated manner, he added. The Lt Governor further observed that there is a need to focus on the concept

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Our heritage is not only our identity but also connects our past to future generation: Lt Governor



Chairs Governing Body meeting of Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the Governing Body meeting of Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society, at the Raj Bhavan today. The meeting discussed several important matters pertaining to the restoration of Mubarak Mandi complex and speedy execution of works and projects. The Lt Governor directed officials to take every possible measure to ensure ongoing conservation proj-

ects are completed within the set timeframe. Observing that our heritage is not only our identity but it also connects our past to future generation, the Lt Governor said, Mubarak Mandi is a symbol of our inherited traditions and priceless social values. Conservation efforts must reflect its true historical, artistic and aesthetic values. The Lt Governor advised the officers to work in the integrated manner with top conservation experts, engineering and Institutions for strengthening of hill along circular road below the Mubarak Mandi Area.

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180 militants, 31 civilians as many SF personnel killed in J&K this year: MHA in Rajya Sabha

'8 journalists working with Srinagar-based newspapers received threat via Kashmir Fight blog, 4 belonging to Rising Kashmir resigned'

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 07 Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Wednesday said 180 militants have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir during encounters with security forces this year so far. Nityanand Rai, while informing the Rajya Sabha as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that 62 security forces personnel including 31 civilian were also killed during the current year. He said added 123 militancy-related incidents took place in J&K during the current year with 31 security forces personnel and 31 civilian being killed. He also said 8 journalists working with Srinagar based local newspapers received threat through "Kashmir Fight" blog and 4 journalists belonging to the media house Rising Kashmir also resigned. "In this regard a case has been registered in Shergari Police Station,



Srinagar," he added. He further said the government has taken several steps to protect the lives of people including media persons from threats and attacks as under proactive security arrangements security grid which includes Police, Army, CAPF and intelligence agencies remain deployed across J&K to thwart any threat or attempt at the hands of militants or their handlers—

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Security situation in J&K has improved significantly: MHA in Rajya Sabha

Srinagar, Dec 07: Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Wednesday said the government has a policy of zero tolerance against militancy and that security situation has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir. Rai, while informing the Rajya Sabha as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer said there has been substantial decline in militant incidents from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021. "14 persons belonging to minorities including 3 Kashmiri Pandits have been killed in J&K since January, 2022 till 30th November, 2022," he said. He also said there were certain media reports of Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti highlighting their security concerns. "Various measures have been taken by the government to protect the lives of minorities which include group security in the form of static guards, day and night area domination, round the clock Nakas at strategic points, patrolling and speculative Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs), security arrangements through

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3K govt jobs created for Kashmiri migrants in J&K under PM Package: MHA

Srinagar, Dec 07: Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Wednesday said that under Prime Minister's Development Package, 3,000 government jobs have been created for Kashmiri Pandits with 2,639 migrants appointed in the last 5 years. "2,639 Kashmiri migrants appointed in last 5 years including 841 in 2020-21, 1,296 in 2021-22 and 502 in 2022-23. As for the remaining 361, selection for 198 posts at different stages of completion," Rai, as per the news agency—Kash-

mir News Observer, informed the Rajya Sabha. He said out of the remaining 361, the selection process for 198 posts is at various stages of completion, 40 posts relate to cases, which are sub-judice and 123 posts are re-advertised. He said the government has also approved construction of 6000 transit accommodations for Kashmiri migrant employees engaged or being engaged in different departments. "Out of 6000 transit accommodations, construction

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Police attaches property falling within ambit of proceedings against militancy in Awantipora

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 07: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday claimed to have attached the property at Danak Mohala Khrew area of Awantipora falling within the ambit of proceedings against militancy. A police spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that on 19-20 August 2021, Police in Awantipora received an information through reliable sources regarding presence of a group of militants in the house of Gh Ahmad Najjar son of Gh Mohd Najjar resident of Danak Mohala Khrew who are con-

spiring to carry out militant act in the area. Accordingly, a joint cordon and search operation was launched along with Army (50RR) and CRPF (185 Bn). When the cordon was being laid, the hiding militants fired indiscriminately upon the operational party with the intent to kill the Police/Security forces. The fire was effectively retaliated leading to an encounter, police said. "During the gun battle, the militants by taking advantage of darkness managed to shift into the house of Ghulam Nabi Najjar son of Gh Mohd Najjar resident

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Govt proposes to set up more nuclear power plants: Dr Jitendra Singh

HT NEWS DESK

New Delhi, Dec 7 (UNI) Union Minister of State for Atomic Energy Dr Jitendra Singh said the government proposes to set up more nuclear power plants for augmenting production of clean energy. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Dr Singh said, in addition to the eleven reactors (8700 MW) under construction, the government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for construction of ten indigenous 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be set up



in fleet mode. The government has also accorded in-principle approval for five new sites for setting up nuclear power plants in the future.

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Kashmir may witness snowfall on Dec 9 and 10: MeT

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 7, : Parts of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh are expected to witness a snowfall from Thursday to Sunday (December 8-11), the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted.

The IMD said moderate rain and snowfall may occur in parts of Kashmir, Jammu, and Ladakh. It said that fresh snowfall may be triggered by a fresh western disturbance.

Top Weather Office Officer Mukhtar Ahmed told the news agency

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Mission Youth, engaging, mobilizing young volunteers under Youth Clubs initiative

Progressing J&K

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 7: Mission Youth is focusing on encouraging, engaging and mobilizing young volunteers of J&K to support the government efforts of socio-economic transformation of Jammu & Kashmir. Youth Clubs provide an opportunity for the young generation of J&K to contribute to society and achieve self-growth under Mission Youth initiative, an official said. As energetic and vibrant partners of Panchayats and district administration, these clubs are ensuring that governance effectively reaches to the grassroots level. The official added that through Youth Clubs, Government is not only generating awareness about various employment and self-employment schemes but also uniting young men and women of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir to pursue their dreams.

Youth's commitment to social service, national integration provides the foundation of developed J&K, the official said. "These Clubs are unique not only



by virtue of their composition but also in providing leadership in different sectors and entrepreneurship commitment." "More than 74,000 members have become a beacon of hope for thousands of others. Youth are now active partners in the process of building a peaceful and prosperous J&K," he added. It is pertinent to mention here that more

than 74,771 youths from 20 districts have joined the Youth Clubs, which are playing a significant role in providing youth an opportunity to work through real challenges and make meaningful change. A total of 4,522 Youth Clubs have been constituted across 20 districts with a maximum 9,000 youths enrolled in Poonch district. Young people in these clubs, who volunteer, regularly develop a civic identity, as leaders and change-makers and therefore become more socially active. They also learn new social skills like collaboration and problem solving that are vital to succeed in academics, the workplace and their personal lives. Thus, Youth Clubs are playing a pivotal role in creating lifelong change among youth and result in their overall personality development, which happens to be the core agenda of Mission Youth, which runs the Youth Clubs," it was stated. Pertinently, the initiative of Youth Club

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Consumers Continue Reap Benefits Under 'Power Amnesty Scheme' In Kashmir Valley

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 7, : Local power consumers in Kashmir Valley are taking advantage of the 'Amnesty Scheme' declared by Jammu Kashmir Power Development Corporation. JKPDCL has been organizing various programs to make consumers aware of the benefits of the 'Power Amnesty Scheme'. An official from JKPDCL, Farhan Manzoor who looked after the event at Ilahi Bagh Srinagar told news agency Kashmir News Trust that more and more consumers are taking benefits under the scheme and are paying the principal amount. He said under the 'Power Amnesty Scheme' 100% interest/surcharge on outstanding electricity bills in favor of domestic consumers accumulated up to March 31, 2022, is being waived off and the outstanding principal amount arrears will have to be paid by the consumers in a maximum of 12 instalments.

"The Power Department could have taken a legal course to recover bills from the defaulters but it came up with this scheme in the interest of the domestic consumers. It is a good scheme and is helping the defaulters to clear their pending bills," he added. The official informed that power bills worth over Rs 1800 crore are pending with the defaulters.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Saurabh Bhagat visits SMVDU, Katra; Discusses augmentation of Science, Technology, Innovation EcoSystem in JK

KATRA, DECEMBER 7: Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, today visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Kakriyal, Katra, to explore possibilities of areas of mutual interest where Science and Technology Department & SMVDU can take joint initiatives for augmenting the Science, Technology and Innovation eco-system in Jammu and Kashmir. During a meeting held in this regard, Dr. R K Sinha, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, assured that the University would facilitate and cooperate in

all the endeavours of the Department in order to make the UT robust in terms of Science, Technology and Innovation. Later, Commissioner Secretary held detailed discussion with the Research Innovation Council members of the University headed by Dr. Vijay Bhat, Dean, Humanities and Professor of Mathematics. The discussion was held for development of Biotechnology with special focus on bio-fuels, aromatic and medicinal plants. The deliberation was held by Dr. Rakesh Kumar and Dr. Sharada Potukuchi, who

is a lead researcher in medicinal plants. Bhagat discussed about the mission programmes of the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council and apprised of various schemes of Government of India and PM's initiatives regarding the upliftment of science through technology development. Sanjay Kharoo, Joint Director, discussed the potential collaboration of University in the area of patents and start-ups and reiterated that very soon both S&T Department and SMVDU, Katra, will organise workshop regarding

the same where the experts would deliver about the intellectual property rights, procedure for patent filings its benefits to the researchers, innovators and students. Sunita Razdan, Joint Director, encouraged the faculty for applying in the Research and Development Project proposals sponsored by the J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council. Commissioner Secretary expressed gratitude to Vice Chancellor Professor K Sinha, Padma Shri, for sparing his time and wished the meeting will soon bear fruits.

Armed force Flag day celebrated at Pulwama

PULWAMA, DECEMBER 07: A function presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama, Dr Abdul Aziz Sheikh was today held at DC Office Complex here to commemorate 'Armed Forces Flag Day'. It is worth mentioning here that observing Flag Day has become tradition to honour the martyrs of defence forces, soldiers and this day reminds of

the environment in contributing for the welfare of their affected families by donation. Speaking on the occasion, ADDC said that 7th December is observed as the Armed Forces Flag Day to remind all of us to express gratitude towards our soldiers, sailors and airmen of India. He said the day gains more significance as it is the responsibility of the civilian population to take care

of the families and dependents of the armed forces personnel who fight for the country. Dr Aziz asserted that the need of the hour is to increase the contribution through various means for Ex-Servicemen. He also assured that Zila Sanik Officer should be provided all support from the District Administration. District Treasury officer who is also the Nodal of-

ficer for the commemoration of Flag day informed that all DDOs have been apprised to sensitise their employees about the voluntary contribution of 200 rupees for Gazetted and 100 rupees for non gazetted officials. Program Officer, ICDS, Assistant Commissioner Development, District Information Officer and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

Food Safety/DFCO Doda Organises Awareness Program In Collaboration With Education Department At Doda

Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhadarwah, Dec 7: Assistant Commissioner Food Safety DFCO District Doda along with his team of Enforcement Officers in collaboration with Chief Education Officer Doda Pralad Bhagat, Ayaz Mugal DEPO Doda and Imran Tantray Nodal Officer "Eat Right School" Doda assisted by Ramesh Kumar Zonal Education Officer Doda, convened a mega workshop with the Heads of the institutions of the Cluster including Govt. City MS Doda, Govt. MS Nagri, Govt. GGMS Doda and Govt. MS Mohalla Sah Doda. The Workshop was marked by the introductory elaborations of Mohd. Ayaz Mugal DEPO Doda. During the workshop, lectures were delivered regarding "Eat Right School" and "Eat Right Creativity" by the Speakers and organisers and healthy interactive sessions with Students and Staff members were held. Painting and Debate competition were also held with Ranking III and III Positions awarded with aspiration certificates.



SAI. Taraq Ahmad Assistant Commissioner Food Safety DFCO Kishtwar/ Doda informed that till date 2322 schools have been registered and 1147 Health and wellness Ambassador's certificates have been generated which is an encouraging milestone. He also said that now from today onwards Curriculum integration has been taken up at priority created by the experts that may be adopted and absorbed by the School curriculums for the students and teachers as well. "The beauty lies in training program including yellow books available in

different versions on DIKSHA and National Teacher Platforms cearted by the MHRD for teacher across the Country," he said and added, "Activity book does play a pivotal role with the campaign of combating Food Adulteration Book 100 plus tests for detection, Food Safety Magic Box, 100 plus tests etc, School clubs showcasing activities. During the workshop Mid Meal was checked including quality of Primary Food and cooked Food, Hygienic practices and sanitation was emphasized. Regarding monitoring and evaluation, the Offi-

cer Concerned expressed key notes of "Eat Right School" matrix conceptualized by FSSAI and discussed the same topic at broader spectrum including mind convergence of the children, IFA supplements, Deworming, Mid Day Meals, basic facilities including portable Water, toilet facilities, hand Washings etc. Today one cluster was brought under "Eat Right Schools" and Creativity which is ready for the next step.

"Over and above, Health and wellness of the Children is the basic goal," Assistant Commissioner added.

The Officer Concerned highlighted the objectives with an entitlement of Eat Right Creativity challenge 3 which is an innovative Movement and Flagship program by FSSAI which also aims to ensure good health and well being of the people through its holistic approach by conducting various categories of programs and competitions of paintings, Rangoli, Decorations etc.

Further, the team of the Food Safety/ DFCO Doda delivered lectures regarding Food Fortification, Mid Day Meals, Hygienic practices and sanitation as well as Nasha Mukta Bharat whereunder a pledge was also taken against the menace.

GDC Ramgarh organises series of activities under "My College My Pride & My Town My Pride"

SAMBA, DECEMBER 07: Government Degree College Ramgarh organized a series of activities under the aegis of 'My College My Pride' and 'My Town My Pride' today.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit 'Prabha', College Beautification Committee (CBC), Red Ribbon Club (RRC) and Eco Club (EC) of the College carried out the designated activities, viz., making of new flower beds in college premises, a slogan-writing competition on the theme 'My College My Pride', Plantation of marigold plants in the flower bed. The activities were organized under the leadership and supervision of the Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Kaur.



English and Amarjyot Kour of the Department of Computer Applications.

A total of eight students of the College participated in the competition. The first position was secured by Priyanka, the second position was secured by Sunaina Devi, and the third position was secured by Shivani Devi. The competition was judged by Prof. Seema Sharma of Department of Education, Dr. Sandeep Kumar of Department of Statistics, and Prof. Risha Kumari of Department of Punjabi.

The Eco-Club & RRC organized Plantation of marigold plants in the designated site and planted the marigold plant in the new flower bed. Such activities will enhance the beauty of the College and will make the College ambience good and cheerful.

days of this month, new plants, especially herbal plants, will be planted.

The event was organized by Dr. Aditi Khajuria of the Department of

G P Fund cell concludes 2nd phase of "Grievance Redressal-cum-Awareness mela"

JAMMU, DECEMBER 7: The second phase of "Grievance Redressal cum Awareness Mela" Organized by G P Fund Cell, Civil Secretariat, concluded here today. The initiative, launched by the J&K Funds organization, Finance Department, was aimed at to redress the grievances of G P Fund subscribers, former subscribers and SLI insurants besides sensitizing the subscribers about the e-services being provided by J&K Funds organization.

Director General, J&K Funds organization, Neeraj Gupta Bakshi, ensured that all grievances of the subscribers and insurants are resolved during the event. During the grievance

redressal-cum-awareness mela, the subscribers and former subscribers of Civil Secretariat and other moving offices registered their grievances by personally visiting the office of Accounts officer, G P Fund Civil Secretariat. The subscribers/SLI insurants also registered their grievances on the official e-mail Id provided for the purpose through their official Notice. A dedicated cell of the officials of G.P. Fund Civil Secretariat, J&K also attended to the phone calls on daily basis for registration of Grievances of the subscribers through dedicated Mobile Numbers provided for the purpose.

All the Grievances received during the event

were disposed of on the same day/next day. On spot redressal of the Grievances of the subscribers were also made regarding viz, documents required for Settlement of FR cases/ SLI Maturity Claims, providing Status of adjustment of Inward T.E.s, Issuance of Annual Account Statement and updating the designation of subscribers in the portal.

The Subscribers were also sensitized regarding the various e-services viz "SMS alert Service" and "Know Your G.P Fund Balance" provided by the J&K funds organization through Print and Electronic media and also by way of hanging of banners at prominent places both at Civil Secretariat

Jammu and Srinagar. Pamphlets depicting the e-services, Deposit linked insurance Scheme and various SLI Policies were also distributed to the DDOs/Subscribers of the Civil Secretariat Jammu.

Subscribers were also informed about the path breaking e-initiatives taken by the J&K Funds organization such as Shifting of manual posting of ledger accounts to real time posting of ledger Accounts and switching to e-TE /Auto T.E. mode from manual T.E.s with effect from 01/04/2021. Special Focus was laid on the deposit linked Insurance Scheme for legal heirs/ registered nominees of the deceased Subscribers.

Anti-Corruption Day observed at SKUAST-J

JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology Jammu today organised a program on the occasion of Anti-corruption day.

Mayor of Jammu, Rajinder Sharma was the chief guest on the occasion.

The program began with lighting of the ceremonial Lamp followed by Saraswati Vandana.

After the formal welcome of the chief guest by Vice Chancellor Prof. J.P. Sharma SKUAST and Prof Rakesh Nanda, Director Education SKUAST Jammu, the Mayor, in his address, highlighted the different problems faced by the public and



the steps being taken by him as Mayor Jammu to combat the same. He emphasised the importance of ease of doing business by bringing in transparency in service delivery for common citizens. "This will go a long way

in preventing corrupt practices in the service sector," he added. He also impressed upon the students to play their role in making a corruption free Jammu in particular and a corruption free India in general.

The Mayor urged the students to participate in large numbers in the march being organised by JMC on 9th of December, 2022 - the International Anti-Corruption Day.

The program concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Prof Rakesh Nanda, Director Education SKUAST Jammu and the singing of the National Anthem.

The event was coordinated by Professor Sushil Gupta Registrar SKUAST Jammu in association with Prof Manmohan Sharma, Prof Subash Kashap, Dr. Harsh Sharma. The event was attended by HODs, faculty members and students in large numbers.

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Ganderbal NOTICE INVITING TENDER CIVILWORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)
EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-Tender Fresh NIT No.228 of 2022-23 issued under endorsement No.15920-29 Dated:07.12.2022

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:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs.In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M/H of Account	Class Of Contactor
1.	Earth Filling, Levelling and Rolling Village Ground Barsoo.	Rs.12.39 Lacs	Rs.600/=	Rs.24780/=	15-Days	Youth Services & Sports	DEE/CCE/BEE

Position of AAs:-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:-

S.No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-12-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	07/12/2022 from 4:00 PM.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	07/12/2022 from 4.00 PM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	12/12/2022 upto 4.00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	12/12/2022 at 4:05 P.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

2.Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal. Note: The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1.The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal and 3% of the allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG by the successful bidder pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal .The Performance Security i.e. 3% shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance Security/ after award of the contract for the Work is issued.

2.1Note:-All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.
3.The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on WebSite www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division (tender receiving authority).

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

5.The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
a)Any bidder/tenderer 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 timelimit.

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 to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2To 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.

6.3The 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 photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically I by registered post /through courier before the dates specified in Para-1.

6.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including 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.

a)Abnormal /bad weather or Serious loss or damage by fire or Civil commotion, strike or lockout (other than among the labour engaged by the contractor) affecting any or the trades employed on the work, or Non availability of departmental stores.

b)Any other cause which in the absolute discretion of the accepting authority is beyond the contractor's desire.

c)On contractor's representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the Department.

d)Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

9.The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it doesnot fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

10.All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form25(Double agreement Form)

DIPK-14738/22
Dated-07-12-22
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbala

Zilla Sainik Welfare Board Srinagar celebrates Armed Forces Flag day

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 07:- In connection with the celebrations of Armed Forces Flag Day, a Programme was today held at Zilla Sainik Bhawan, Srinagar to honour the war martyrs and men in uniform who fought to safeguard the country's integrity and sovereignty.

Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Al-Jaz Asad, who is also President Zilla Sainik Board, Srinagar was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the role of Sainiks and called them guardians of the Nation who protect its citizens. He said Flag Day brings to the forefront our commitment of looking after our veer naris, disabled soldiers and families of martyrs. During the interaction with the veterans, the DC Srinagar assured all support from the civil administration towards wel-

fare of Ex-Servicemen and their families. Meanwhile, Ex-Servicemen community thanked Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar for the initiatives taken by District Administration Srinagar for the welfare of ex-servicemen community. Pertinent to mention that senior Officers of the District Administration Srinagar recently visited the homes of war veterans and Veer Naris and met their family members and enquired about their well being and issues confronting them. Meanwhile, Ex-Servicemen community thanked Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar for the initiatives taken by District Administration Srinagar for the welfare of ex-servicemen community. Pertinent to mention that senior Officers of the District Administration Srinagar recently visited the homes of war veterans and Veer Naris and met their family members.

DC Budgam chairs Block Diwas at remote Sitaharan village in Khag block

BUDGAM, DECEMBER 07: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid today chaired a mega Block Diwas at remote Panchayat Halqa Sitaharan in Block Khag.

Among others, SDM Beerwah, Taufeeq Gazi, Engineers from various engineering wings, DSHO, Tehsildar, BMO, BDO and other district officers and officials attended the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the area has huge tourism potential and special focus is being given on its development. He impressed for speedy completion of developmental works in the area.

He stressed on concerned that work on road projects be taken up for early execution and ensure better connectivity to the

local population.

SF Hamid instructed concerned department to carry out repair work on Khag-Sitharan road and interior links on priority besides survey of macadamization of Sitharan-Chill road be conducted also.

DC urged locals to register for Sehat cards to avail health insurance benefits up to Rs. 5 lakh. He also listened to the locals and redressed their grievances on spot.

On the occasion, PRIs and respected locals from different villages of the block and adjacent villages apprised the DC about their needs.

After giving patient hearing to the public, the DC said special focus is being given to this area given the fact it falls within picturesque Tosa-



maidaan belt.

He instructed concerned to ensure improvement works in the health, education, power sector and other areas to ensure holistic development of the area.

Meanwhile, locals ex-

pressed gratitude to District Administration for extending full support to address grievances of locals of far-flung areas amicably.

On the occasion, officers of District Administration informed locals

about various schemes, especially the one time PDD amnesty scheme and urged consumers to avail benefits under it.

Asserting on cleanliness and sanitation, the DC urged the PRIs and locals to ensure complete ban on single use plastic items and proper garbage disposal, besides construction of compost and sockage pits for solid waste and liquid waste management. DC urged locals to register for Sehat cards to avail health insurance benefits up to Rs. 5 lakh. He also listened to the locals and redressed their grievances on spot.

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hearing to the public, the DC said special focus is being given to this area given the fact it falls within picturesque Tosa-maidaan belt.

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Meanwhile, locals expressed gratitude to District Administration for extending full support to address grievances of locals of far-flung areas amicably.

On the occasion, officers of District Administration informed locals about various schemes, especially the one time PDD amnesty scheme and urged consumers to avail benefits under it.

DC Baramulla chairs District Level Adhar Monitoring Committee meeting

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 07: In order to finalize the action plan for saturation of Aadhar cards and mandatory biometric update in all age groups, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today chaired a District Level Adhar Monitoring Committee at her office chamber here.

The officers of Education Department, Health, Social Welfare besides representatives of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) were present in the meeting.

On the occasion, Dr Sehrish Asgar held a threadbare deliberation about a mechanism to be adopted for Aadhaar saturation in all age groups and mandatory biometric update of children in the district.

The concerned officers informed the chair that Adhar Enrollment process stands at 81% besides briefed her about the status of Adhar Seva Kendras operating in the district. The DC was also briefed on the initiatives being undertaken to cover the age



groups of 0-5 years, 5-18 years and above 18 years in the district.

Termining the Aadhaar enrollment a multi-agency process, the DC called upon all concerned departments to saturate the remaining Adhar Enrollment Process in the district besides launching mass awareness campaigns in their jurisdictions to cover all popula-

tion under Adhar enrolment.

Dr Sehrish on the occasion said that Aadhaar has a tremendous potential and scope in curbing cyber frauds. She urged the uncovered populace to get Aadhaar enrolled as it is mandatory to avail benefits of various government schemes.

Additional Deputy Commission-

er Baramulla Dr Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, Chief Medical officer Dr Bashir Ahmad Malik, Dy Chief Education officer Balbir Singh Raina, Dy SP Head Quarter Baramulla and other concerned officers were present in the meeting. On the occasion, Dr Sehrish Asgar held a threadbare deliberation about a mechanism to be adopted for Aadhaar saturation in all age groups and mandatory biometric update of children in the district.

The concerned officers informed the chair that Adhar Enrollment process stands at 81% besides briefed her about the status of Adhar Seva Kendras operating in the district. The DC was also briefed on the initiatives being undertaken to cover the age groups of 0-5 years, 5-18 years and above 18 years in the district.

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Dr Raghav Langer visits Salamabad Uri; reviews development projects

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 07: Secretary Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Dr Raghav Langer, who is on 3 day tour to Baramulla district, today visited Salamabad Uri to review development projects besides assessing public grievances.

Secretary was accompanied by SDM Uri, Jatin Kishore, Joint Director Planning, M Yousuf Rather, DSO, Ishtiyaq Ahmad Khan and other concerned officers. Secretary laid foundation stone for construction of Tehsil Office at Uri under Samridhi Seema Yojana.

He also held a Gram Sabha at Salamabad Panchayat wherein Sarpanchs, Panchs, officials of line departments besides a huge gathering of people enthusiastically participated. On the occasion, the functionaries of Panchayat Raj, PRIs, frontline workers and local youth discussed various issues of public importance including cleanliness, sanitation, augmentation of water supply, enhanced health facilities, better education and other development needs. Secretary asked the officers to prepare Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) as per the needs of people of the village. Dr Raghav Langer documented all the grievances projected during the Gram Sabha and assured them of an early redressal of their issues. Meanwhile, the people were also sensitized about scores



of welfare schemes and programmes being implemented in the district. Secretary laid foundation stone for construction of Tehsil Office at Uri under Samridhi Seema Yojana. He also held a Gram Sabha at Salamabad Panchayat wherein Sarpanchs, Panchs, officials of line departments besides a huge gathering of people enthusiastically participated. On the occasion, the functionaries of Panchayat Raj, PRIs, frontline workers and local youth discussed various issues of public importance including cleanliness, sanitation, augmentation of water supply, enhanced health facilities,

DC Ganderbal conducts Surprise Inspection of Various Govt. Offices

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 07: To ensure punctuality of the employees in Govt. offices, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today conducted a surprise inspection of various offices functioning from Mini Secretariat Complex Ganderbal. The offices that were inspected include Fund Office, Khadi Village & Industries, RDD Office, NIC, Labour Office, Education, Sheep husbandry besides other offices. During inspection, the DC checked the attendances of these offices and gave strict directions to the DDOs to ensure attendance of all officials is done through Biometric.

On the occasion, the DC also inspected the functioning of these offices and gave necessary instructions to the officials for maintaining cleanliness in their offices.

The DC said that the drive will be held on a routine basis so that the punctuality of government employees is ensured. He also said that district administration is committed to ensure punctuality and accountability of Govt functionaries in the district.

Initiate action against willful defaulters, disconnect illegal connections: DM Shopian directs Officers

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 07: The District Magistrate (DM) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today chaired a meeting of KPDCCL officers and Executive Magistrates at Mini Secretariat here to discuss the progress under the Amnesty scheme. During the deliberations of the meeting, modalities were discussed for universal coverage of defaulter customers of power dues under the recently launched Amnesty scheme of the government. DM on the occasion emphasised upon concerned to take immediate steps for coverage of maximum under the scheme. He further directed officers to initiate action against willful defaulters along with disconnecting the illegal connections within a week's time. SDM, Executive Magistrates were further instructed to take strong action against the persons involved in power theft. The meeting was attended by JDP, ACP, Ex. Engineer KPDCCL, Tehsildars and other engineers of the department.

SDM Noorabad takes stock of pace & progress on Filtration Plant at Boh

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, DECEMBER 07: The Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Noorabad, Bashir Ul Hassan today visited Boh area and took stock of pace and progress on construction work on Filtration Plant at Boh, Dragdan Kulgam. It was informed that the estimated cost of the project is Rs 3.95 crore having capacity of 3 lac gallons. SDM stressed on the concern to scale up the pace of work and complete the project along with laying the rest portion of pipes within the stipulated time so the filtration plant can be dedicated to the public soon. The SDM was accompanied by Tehsildar, AEE Jal Shakti.

Awareness Camp under PM-FME scheme held at Block Kund of Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, DECEMBER 07: The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Kulgam today organized an awareness camp on Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) scheme at Block Kund here in collaboration with the Planning and Marketing department.

Local progressive farmers, self help group members, unemployed youth and representatives from different villages of Block Kund attended the awareness camp.

Officers from Agriculture and allied departments including District Agriculture Officer, Area Marketing Officer, Lead Bank Manager Kulgam, Agriculture Extension Officer and Horticulture Development Officer participated in the programme.

Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Chief Agriculture Officer while addressing the participants deliberated upon the benefits of the

scheme and appealed to youth to come forward and establish food processing units to generate employment for themselves and for others in the food processing sector to sustain their livelihood.

He also informed the participants about the assistance and hand-holding support provided to the interested applicants and the various trainings provided to help and guide them at each level.

Dawood Ahmad Shad, District Agriculture Officer spoke about the importance of registering food processing enterprises, branding and marketing aspects to enhance the salability of the food products. He encouraged entrepreneurs to take benefit of the PM-FME scheme by availing facilities like 35% subsidy maximum up to 10 lakh and Easy Bank loan up to 90% of cost of Machinery and Technical Civil Works.

Officers from Agriculture and allied departments briefed about different components of



the scheme viz. financial assistance, ODOP, Capacity Building, marketing and branding of processed/value added food products as an important intervention for sustainable develop-

ment of the food industry. At the end of the programme, many youth of the area showed their interest to establish micro food processing units and were registered under the PM-

FME scheme on spot. He also informed the participants about the assistance and hand-holding support provided to the interested applicants and the various trainings provided to help and guide them at each level.

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Mini Secretariat in Mendhar incomplete despite lapse of 11 years

M S Nazki

MENDHAR : The work on the Rs 14 crore Mini Secretariat complex undertaken by Public Works Department (PWD) in 2011 in Mendhar is going on at snail's pace.

The locals blame the incompetence of the concerned department and negligent attitude of the successive governments for the delay in completion of the complex. They also complain of step-motherly treatment by authorities on this Mendhar Mini Sectriate Building work.

The government must expedite the work on the Mini Secretariat keeping in view the problems we face, the local people and civil society Mendhar of the area told HT

"Mendhar has been ignored on developmental front and is witnessing step-motherly treatment by the state government," they said.



Civil society Mendhar alongwith Sumo union president Mendhar Mr Kafeel Khan and Other's have appealed the authorities to get the work on the complex completed as early as possible.

IIM Jammu organises Blood Donation Drive in association with Red Cross Society

JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: Kartavya - Social Responsibility Club of IIM Jammu in association with the Red Cross Society, Jammu on the proud occasion of Armed Forces Day organized a Blood Donation Camp at its Jallochak Campus, IIM Jammu.

The Blood donation drive conducted under the able guidance of Prof B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu was inaugurated by Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, and Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs, IIM Jammu.

The drive saw close to 90 students, faculty, and staff members coming together in large nos. to donate blood for a noble cause. The drive was successfully conducted by Dr. Zulfikar, Deepa, Sunita, Badal, Meenakshi, Rakesh and Vinod from the Blood Transfusion Department and the Red Cross Team, Jammu. The samples were carefully sealed and transported to the Blood bank. This camp helped students in getting awareness about their social responsibilities and showed enthusiastic participation for the same.

always committed to the welfare of the society and nation at large.

"Someone lives when someone donates. Sympathy alone cannot save people in chronic conditions, but blood can. A drop of blood donated is a life saved, and this was the stronghold that guided our students into an impressive turnout for the cause" said Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs, IIM Jammu. The drive saw close to 90 students, faculty, and staff members coming together in large nos. to donate blood for a noble cause. The drive was successfully conducted by Dr. Zulfikar, Deepa, Sunita, Badal, Meenakshi, Rakesh and Vinod from the Blood Transfusion Department and the Red Cross Team, Jammu. The samples were carefully sealed and transported to the Blood bank. This camp helped students in getting awareness about their social responsibilities and showed enthusiastic participation for the same.

Dulloo reviews status of Farmers' Produce Organizations of Kashmir division

'CBBOs and FPOs have to play their role in doubling farmers' income'

JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to review the progress of Farmers Produce Organizations (FPOs) of Kashmir Division.

Secretary in APD, representatives of MD NCDC, MD Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium, MD Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India, New Delhi, Director General Planning (APD), Director Finance (APD), representatives of NABARD, Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, MD, JK Agro Industries Development Corporation, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Floriculture Kashmir, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Fisheries J&K, Chief Executives of FPOs and other concerned attended the meeting in person and through virtual



mode. During the meeting, the heads of several FPOs from the Kashmir division presented an overview of their respective organizations viz product, membership, shareholders, trainings, preparation of business plans etc. They also informed the meeting about the farmers

registered with their FPOs, turnover, funding, and implementation etc of the FPOs.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion of all the aspects of FPOs and their functioning while the ACS also received several inputs from the FPOs, schemes implementation and

future plans. While taking the review of Cluster-Based Business Organizations wise (CBBOs) and IAs (Implementing Agencies) to lend their support to FPOs while also motivating farmers to contribute the equity. He asked the officers to also focus on the wool sector and milk sector as there is a lot more need to be done in these fields and FPOs should be guided with these sectors having immense potential.

He further impressed upon the concerned to keep monitoring this programme and review the progress of FPOs and facilitate these FPOs in the best possible way to get desired results on ground. He added that CBBOs and FPOs have to play their role in doubling farmers' income for which there is a need for CBBOs to mobilize small and marginal farmers to join

the FPO movement. They also informed the meeting about the farmers registered with their FPOs, turnover, funding, and implementation etc of the FPOs. The meeting held a threadbare discussion of all the aspects of FPOs and their functioning while the ACS also received several inputs from the FPOs, schemes implementation and future plans.

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He asked the officers to also focus on the wool sector and milk sector as there is a lot more need to be done in these fields and FPOs should be guided with these sectors having immense potential.

DC Ganderbal tours Shallabugh wetlands

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 07: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today took an extensive tour of Shallabugh wetlands to have first-hand appraisal about the condition and water level of the wetland. On the occasion, the DC took a short visit inside the wetland in a shikara along with DDC Vice-Chairperson, ADDC, ADC and other officials to have first-hand appraisal about the water level inside the wetland and to assess the necessary works to be taken for restoring its pristine glory.

It was informed that the water level in the wetland has risen to the satisfactory level due to the partial diversion of the fish canal originating from Anchar Lake. He hoped that in this season, wetland shall remain in bloom by different migratory birds.

The DC was briefed about the works to be taken for its preservation including dredging and de-weeding.

On the occasion the DC gave necessary instructions to the concerned for preparing a holistic plan including dredging and de-weeding adding that concrete steps need to be taken to preserve the wetland properly which is a habitat for thousands of migratory birds and to maintain ecological balance.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Vice-Chairperson, DDC Ganderbal, Bilal Ahmad, Additional District Development Commissioner, Mush-taq Ahmad Simmani, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, Tehsildar Tullamulla, BDO and other officials.

Block Diwas held at Keller, Shopian

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 07: The District Administration Shopian today conducted weekly Block Diwas at Block Keller Shopian, where Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Manzoor Hussain listened to public issues.

The programme witnessed an overwhelming response from the public from all walks of life. They highlighted their issues ranging from provisions of basic amenities like drinking water, Health, Education, road connectivity, besides other issues of public importance.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC said that Block Diwas initiative was aimed at reaching out to the people and listening to their grievances and redressing them in an efficient and coordinated manner. He stressed upon the officers to prioritize the grievances and redress them in a time bound manner.

ADDC called for coordination and collaboration among the departments and PRIs to achieve desired development objectives.

ADDC impressed upon the officers to complete all the projects within given timelines so as to provide relief to the inhabitants of far off areas of Keller.

Among others, officers and officials of line departments were present during the programme.

Deputy Mayor Srinagar, Director Tourism attend 'My Town My Pride' programme at Baba Domb, Srinagar

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 06: The Deputy Mayor Srinagar, Parvaiz Ahmad Qadri along with Director Tourism Kashmir, Fazl Ul Haseeb today attended the 'My Town My Pride' programme at Baghwanpora Baba Domb, Srinagar.

The Deputy Mayor along with the Visiting Officer inspected the ongoing renovation works of Marriage Hall Sokulipora and Lavatory Block at Maharaj Gunj Srinagar.

He directed all the departments for early redressal of public grievances.

Mandeep Kaur reviews Local Climate Action Plan for Palli Panchayat, Samba

JAMMU, DECEMBER 7: Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur, today reviewed the Local Climate Action Plan for Palli Panchayat of Samba district.

The meeting was attended by S M Sahni from INTACH, CEO JAKEDA, ACD Samba, representatives from IIT Jammu, SKUAST Jammu, Forest Department and Agriculture Department.

It is pertinent to mention that on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day 2022, Palli was declared first carbon neutral panchayat by the Prime Minister. A 500Kw solar power plant had been installed in the panchayat by Rural Development Department in collaboration with Central Electronics Limited, Government of India.

Government of India supported the efforts to universalise the concept under Gram Urja scheme and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. IIT Jammu along with participating institutes conducted the base survey on the energy consumption and emissions of CO2 in Palli which became the foundation for formulation of a mitigation plan referred as Local Climate Action Plan, formulated in collaboration with SKUAST Jammu, Forest, Health, Agriculture, Finance, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Education, JAKEDA and other departments.

A committee under Deputy Commissioner Samba converted the plan on the basis of findings of the survey into an implementation framework to be funded out of the running schemes of different departments. On the occasion, Mandeep Kaur reviewed the status of implementation of the plan and ways to universalise it across JK.

She further stated that Palli Panchayat is the first panchayat which is on its way to become Carbon Neutral Panchayat and is serving as a precedent not only for Jammu and Kashmir but for other Panchayats across the country.

DC Baramulla reviews Power Sector in the district Discusses various strategies to ensure smooth supply of Power

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 07: The Deputy Com-

missioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today chaired a meeting of concerned officers at her office chamber here to review the Power Sector in the district.



missioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today chaired a meeting of concerned officers at her office chamber here to review the Power Sector in the district.

At the outset, the officers apprised DC about the power scenario in the district and gave detailed account of the physical and financial progress achieved under different schemes to augment power availability and distribution across the district.

After reviewing the progress, the DC directed the concerned officers to adopt various strategies

to ensure fair and smooth supply of power across

the set target within the shortest span of time. She called for disconnection of consumers with pending bills.

She further stressed for the constitution of teams of Revenue, KPDC, CAPD and Police on seizure of crude electric appliances from markets and action against theft of power. She underlined the involvement of the PRIs and community members in stopping misuse of electricity and discouraging use of crude gadgets like heaters besides in recovery of pending and overdue electricity bills.

The DC also appealed to the public to make judicious use of power and desist from illegal use of it. Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Raina, SE-PDD, Executive Engineers KPDC, besides other functionaries of concerned departments were present in the meeting, while as Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Parvaiz Sajad, SDM Uri, Pattan and Gulmarg attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Dr Sehrish directed for implementing the power Amnesty scheme strictly in the district to achieve

Mega Block Diwas: DC presides over grievance redressal camp at Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, DECEMBER 07: The District Administration Kulgam today organized a Mega Block Diwas in three blocks of the district viz. Devsar, Kulgam and D. H. Pora to take appraisal of the public issues, grievances and demands.

The programme witnessed overwhelming response from PRIs and general public who highlighted issues and grievances confronting their areas for early redressal.

To take first hand appraisal of public grievances and demands, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din-Bhat remained available at Kulgam where he listened to grievances and issues of people for redressal.

Officers from District Administration were also present during the block diwas. People from Pooniwah, Munadguffan, Aadigatnoo, Aadoora, Daderkoot, Banimulla, Katpora, Chawalgam, Aamnoo, Nihama and other vil-



lages participated in this grievances redressal camp and apprised the DC about their issues. Visiting delegations demanded installation of transformers at Adoora, electric poles for Reshpora Aadigatnoo, release of land compensation for Amnoo Kulgam road and development of playfield Adoora. The DC after giving patient hearing to the public addressed some of the immediate nature of grievances on the spot.

Earlier, ACD Kulgam Mohammad Imran Khan briefed about the action taken on the issue and grievances raised by people in previous block diwas. Later a felicitation function was held in which Veer Naris were felicitated. Meanwhile, grievances redressal camps were also held at Block D.K Marg and Block Devsar where ADDC and SDM listened to issues and grievances of people for redressal.

Fourth quarterly meeting of DDC Kulgam held

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, DECEMBER 07: The Fourth quarterly meeting of District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam was held today under the chairmanship of Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, M. Afzal Parrey at his office at Kulgam.

The meeting was attended by DDC Vice Chairperson, Shazia Jan; Chief Executive Officer with District Development Council Kulgam (Additional District Development Commissioner), DDC and BDC Members of the district, and others concerned.

At the outset, the DDC Chairperson sought the details of ongoing developmental works and reviewed the financial and physical progress achieved to date.

He said that the Council is committed to maintaining the sanctity of

the 3-tier system of Panchayat Raj and special thrust has been laid on viable District Employment plan, District Drinking Water plan, District Sports Activity plan, District Health plan, and District Road Development plans as per the needs of the people.

Parrey further asked the DDC and BDC members to personally supervise and monitor the pace and quality of ongoing works in their respective areas. Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC assured full cooperation from all officers with the council and urged all to work in a cohesive manner in order to accelerate the development works in the district. The Council members also raised a few issues for which ADDC assured full support from the district administration and said issues raised shall be taken into consideration.

NRLM (UMEED) Shopian organizes 3 days Orientation programme for FCRPs

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 07: The National Rural Livelihoods Mission (UMEED) Shopian today organised an orientation programme for Farm Community Resource Persons (FCRPs) at Shopian.

The Programme was inaugurated by DDC Member, Raja Waheed in presence of Resource Persons from Animal Husbandry Department Dr Farhat, Dr Shafiqat, District Managers of NRLM Shopian, Irfan and Uzma, Block Programme Managers of NRLM Shopian and Community Leaders besides cluster Coordinators from Self Help Groups of the district.

The 3 days programme shall focus on capacity building of already existing FCRPs to get acquainted and well trained as Community Animal Care Service Providers (CASP) in the form of A-Help which is governed by policy framework al-



ready set by the Mission Directorate and Animal Husbandry Department. The training will be a step towards last mile coverage of rural areas where clinical services for livestock are not available on time or expensive to afford for rural poor.

On the occasion, Raja Waheed DDC member Shopian lauded the prospective efforts of the Administration in which departments are carrying convergence to have better and effective pen-

etration of services at the doorsteps of rural populace particularly for women folk.

"A-HELP" training programme is a new feature added in the curriculum of NRLM intervention under the efforts and guidance of the Mission Director, NRLM.

In due course of time further value addition in terms of trainings and capacity building, both theoretical as well as field based will be held to strengthen the pro-

gramme at grassroots level, said DPM Livelihoods NRLM Uzma Mehraj.

District Programme Manager FI, Irfan Basher further shared that as per governments outreach programme in rural areas, these CRPs will be given basic training related to animal husbandry so that when complaints of minor diseases of Livestock are received in the area of their operation, they can deal with them at their own level.

The participants will also be provided training related to dairy and caretaking of the livestock that will further lead to an increase in quality as well as quantity of milk in rural areas.

It was intimated on the occasion that District Shopian has 31 farm CRPs across erstwhile Block Shopian, out of which 7 has been identified as A-Help professionals and they will be further trained by SKUAST-K.

Awareness programme on MWPC Act 2007 held at Sumbal

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 07: A one-day Legal Awareness programme on Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007 (MWPC Act 2007) for Judicial Functionaries to promote "Inter-Generational Bonding and Ageing with Dignity" was Wednesday held at Dak Bunglow Sumbal, Bandipora.

The programme was organized by National Institute of Social Defense, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India and Anugraha Regional Resource Training Center on Ageing, Delhi (RRTC Anugraha) in collaboration with J&K Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority

(DLSA) Bandipora.

The programme was conducted in presence of Chairperson, DLSA (Pr. District & Session Judge) Bandipora, Amit Sharma and supervision of Secretary, DLSA Bandipora, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The programme was inaugurated by Amit Sharma, Chairperson DLSA (Pr. District & Session Judge) Bandipora, along with Secretary, DLSA.

Chairman, TLSC (Munsiff) Sumbal, Bazila Bashir; SDM Sumbal, Bashir Ahmad Lone; SDPO Sumbal, Tehsildar Sumbal, SHO Sumbal, President Bar Association, Sumbal along with Bar Members and other Officers were also present on the oc-

casation. Chief Guest, Amit Sharma (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Bandipora delivered the inaugural address and said that the key objective of this program is to create awareness and sensitivity about various issues of senior citizens.

He said that senior citizens are increasingly facing a variety of hardships in day to day life with respect to their basic life requirements including food, shelter, clothes, health problems, financial problems etc., mostly due to negligence and ill treatment of their children.

He advised the Judicial Officers, Advocates and PLVs to address the basic issues of elderly population



including parents and senior citizens along with remedial measures within the mandate of this Act.

Earlier, Secretary DLSA delivered a welcome address and highlighted

the importance of the programme. She said that the programme is aimed to create awareness about various issues of senior citizens and to promote intergenerational bonding and ageing with dignity.

She also made the gathering aware about the rights and facilities that are available to the Parents & Senior Citizens under this Act. She said such programmes would definitely change our perception of how we all deal with this important section of our society.

The programme was divided into four sessions. In the first session Adv. Aabid Hussain Malla acted as resource person and delivered a lecture on Maintenance and Welfare of

Parents and Senior Citizens.

In the second session, Adv. Nazia Parveen acted as resource person and highlighted the General Rights of Parents and Senior Citizens.

In the third and fourth sessions, Adv. Irshad Ahmad laid emphasis on Inter-Generational Bonding and Ageing with Dignity and Adv. Tasleema Jan delivered a lecture on Awareness regarding Elder Abuse and how to stop it.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Chairperson, TLSC (Munsiff/JMIC), Sumbal.

The programme was attended by Panel Lawyers, Staff members of DLSA Bandipora and TLSC Sumbal, PLVs and other members.

Digital Revolution at a Heavy Price

Access to Smart Phones Ruining Childhood of our future generation.

The contemporary childhood has been Over shadowed by the digital revolution wherein Children have completely forgotten to talk, play, jump and read. Mobile phone, computer, laptop and other gadgets have made our Children scapegoat. Online classes during Corona period has added fuel to the fire. On the pretext of seeking online education children have now become addicted to Cellphone. Parents are caught between devil and the deep sea as they don't know how to snatch back the mobile phone from their Children. Gone are the days when children used to eagerly wait for the bell of their sports Classes to ring in. Schools, used wear a festive look by the dint of the painting, drama, music, competitions and all other kind of activities. Now they are not interested in these activities but only in the screen of any electronic device. On one hand the children have such state-of-the-art technological devices in their hands, and on the other hand, they have to be victims of various kinds of crimes continuously. These include sexual crimes, economic crimes and all kinds of cyber crimes. In nuclear families, most of the parents are busy in their day-to-day work, because there is compulsion that if they do not work and have a job, then how will the house run, how will the children be brought up. That is why most of the children of such families are dependent on day care centers or helpers. In absence of joint families concept grandparents in homes made the children even more lonely. What is it? After all, how can children talk to their parents who are busy day and night? Many times it happens that the child wants to say something, insists on something, then in order to listen to his problem, instead of solving it, he is coaxed with a chocolate or a toy, or scolded and silenced. Are being given. In most of the crimes against children, the same thing comes to the fore that they could not tell their parents about the crime in time. Many times children even commit suicide due to fear of criminals and parents They keep on regretting. The stress and quarrels of the parents also have a very bad effect on the children and they cannot get out of the bad memories of their childhood for the rest of their life. Experts say that parents should never fight in front of their children, but in families where parents separate, get divorced, children are more likely to be in trouble. They get caught in the middle of their parents' fights. While both the parents are needed for the proper development of the child. The problem is that each discourse appears to contradict the other. Those who work for children say that the family is necessary for their proper development. These days, the role of the family is repeatedly underlined in the condition of the elderly, but a stream of women's discourse completely rejects the family. This stream puts the blame of every problem of women on the head of the family. So how to solve the problems. After all, there are girl children among the children and then why only about the girl children, there should be talk of the children as well. Human rights of a boy are no less than that of girls. All children should have the right to prosper upbringing, proper food, care, education, entertainment, freedom of speech and expression. Knowing the mother tongues can lead to proper development of the children, but the ground reality is different. Resourceful parents prefer English over the mother tongue for their children. One of the major reasons for this is that English has been linked to the success and bright future of children. A woman working in a multinational company told that children studying through mother tongue These resumes are pushed aside at the time of job. The writers also said that they are not against any language. Not even English, but mother tongues should be given more priority. Many researches have proved that the child not only understands the language spoken by its family members in the womb itself, but also starts recognizing it by voice. The story of Abhimanyu is almost similar, but ever since the middle class has expanded in the country, since then the meaning of education has been accepted, made English as compared to mother tongues. It is visible everywhere. One writer even said that he was forced to read his speech in English. Will children get good opportunities for jobs and other occupations if they study in mother tongues as well? How will they be able to tell their mind to their family members? How can their problem be solved instead of being ignored or scolded? How can they escape the violence? How will children be free from the problem of loneliness? Some suggest that if orphanages and old age homes are combined, the loneliness of children and the elderly will be reduced.

J&K Sees Paradigm Shift After Abrogation of Article 370

SIKANDER LONE

The Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) was formerly one of the largest princely states of India and is bounded by the Indian Union Territory of Ladakh, to the south by Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, to the southwest by Pakistan and to the northwest by the Pakistan administration portion of Kashmir. The UT of J&K is bestowed by blissful climate and the flora and fauna of the region remains a symbol of pride for the nation. When the erstwhile state formed a part of India in 1947, it was widely felt that substantial ground would require to be covered before the state was truly integrated with the country being to the unusual conditions prevailing at that time. Hence, Art 370 was intro to accord special status to the state of J&K in Oct 1949. However, the relevance of art 370 in the current scenario thus became a relevant question for the government.

The attempt of tribal invasion to get J&K accede to Pakistan further led to instrument accession according to which on 26 October 1947 the entire state of J&K became an integral part of India namely, the northern areas of Gilgit - Baltistan, PoK, Jammu, Ladakh & Kashmir. To neutralize the political scenario of the state and to give certain prudential rights to the citizens or the residents of the state provision of art 370 was introduced in the state of J&K. Art 370 granted special status to the erstwhile state of J&K. Aim of the statute that time was firstly, to preserve the distinct identity of the people of J&K and secondly, to moderate the feeling of uncertainty prevalent among the people of Kashmir. Except Foreign Affairs, Defense Finance and Communication, the Indian parliament needed the concurrence of the state government for applying all other laws. In addition, the state was allowed to have its own flag and constitution. Also, no one from outside the state could purchase property in the state. Although the jurisdiction of supreme court was extended over J&K as a functional requirement. In 1952 Delhi Agreement came, according to which



state Constituent Assembly was required to be set up so that constitutional relationship was required to be build up between state & India. And that was the purpose of making the provision (Art 370) temporary.

While the abrogation of Art 370 has created an era of hope and progress in the newly formed UT, there is a desperate appeal from the local political class and for restoring it. There is a complete denial of development & reduction in violence & bloodshed affected in the region post abrogation. Also, seeking frequent Chinese support in the matter by the political leaders of the UT displays desperate & un-nationalist intent. There is an improvement in overall socio-economic and ground security in the state which have attained progres-

sive statistics since 05 August 2019. As per the official data of Ministry of Home Affairs, there has been a reduction of appx 60 % in violence incidents in comparison to the data of 2018. These figures depict a huge improvement in ground situation bringing peace to the lives of common people. The firm approach adopted by the government has put the extremist in complete disorder. Approx. 70 % reductions in protest & stone pelting incidents in the valley has been recorded which has paved way for constructive commitment of youth. Post abrogation the government of the UT has received Rs 13,600 crore for investment & has acquired 6000 acres of land for setting of industries as part of development initiative.

While strong political will supported by military support may

have contributed to the initial success, long term success shall only prevail by fulfilling the promises made during the time abrogation. For long, the Article 370 remained as a matter of pride for the people of J&K abrogation of the same was seen as a loss of pride by the people of the region. This sentiment has to be dealt at the earliest and the solution to it is by ensuring positive change in the livelihood of the people. Risk of youth getting exploited by unfriendly elements is a direct result of generation going uncared, uneducated and thus unemployed. Due to the ongoing pandemic all development activities is lagging behind. As it is said peace rests in prosperity, hence some initiative needs to be implemented towards progress in development activities before people of

J&K loss patience.

Security agencies & NGOs operation in the area have to continue their excellent effort in countering the radicalization of the unprivileged and uneducated youth by the inimical agents. Information Warfare is an instrument which enables success without actually fighting a war. Effective IW will ensure total domination over our adversaries. The abrogation of the Article 370 has led the foundation for everlasting peace & prosperity in the UT of J&K. However, the gains of the initial phase have to be transformed into a decisive long-term victory not only for the government but also for the people of J&K. Besides all, our national interest and solidarity moves towards restoring peace and maintenance normalcy in the country.

Threats and Warnings to Kashmiri Pandit Package Employees

OMKAR DATTATRAY

It is very unfortunate and sad that once again threats and warnings have been issued to the Kashmiri Pandits. The Kashmiri Pandits have faced worst kind of persecution in their chequered history and they were forced to migrate from their place of birth eleven times in the distant past and in the 21st century these hapless and microscopic community had faced migration in their own independent secular democracy, to be precise in 1990's and thereafter during the militancy. These days' warnings and threats are issued through social media and it is a cause of concern and worry to the Kashmiri Pandits particularly to those working in Kashmir valley under PM package. This time warnings and threats are issued to the Pandit Package employees posted across Kashmir. A hit list of 56 Pandit package employees has been issued through the medium of social media and this has created scare, fear and insecurity among the Kashmiri Pandits working under PM package and they have been asked to leave the valley or otherwise be ready to face death and this has scared these Pandit employees.

The targeted killings of the Kashmiri Pandits, its package employees, other Hindu minorities from Jammu and the non locals are taking place. But the BJP government of the centre and its representative the LG Manoj Sinha are advancing the false theory and narrative of normalcy. However the targeted Killings and the threats and warnings to the package employees expose the normalcy theory of the BJP and the normalcy narrative of the BJP lead NDA has been exploded and exposed as the situation is far from normalcy. The open threat to the package employees is a cause of worry to these hapless employees working across the valley. It is unprecedented that a whole list has been leaked by someone in the education department and it is a fit case for probe otherwise how is it possible for the militants of TRF to issue the threat



and warning letter with the place of postings.

The various Kashmiri Pandit organizations are rightly demanding a probe in this case as how were the names of the package employees leaked to the militants of TRF. Thus, it is crystal clear that the militants are after the lives of package employees and they now and then carry dastardly militant acts on the Pandit package employees. One one hand the fighters of TRF are issuing threat letters to the package employees and on the other hand the government of the day is coercing the package employees to resume their duties in the valley. Thus, the package employees are sandwiched between the guns of terrorists and the insensitive LG and BJP government of centre.

The government is hell bent to make the PM package employees as sacrificial goats at their false normalcy in Kashmir. The government should climb down from its false theory of normalcy and order the temporary attachment of the package employees in Jammu to save their precious lives. It is a matter of serious concern that the Kashmiri pundits get another chilling warnings in their demand of a through probe and investigation in to the matter of leaking the list of the package employees posted in Srinagar since the barbaric killing of Rahul Bhat in his office. But the government is not paying any attention to the genuine demand of these

This time the package employees belonging to education department Srinagar district have been issued threats and as many as 56 package employees are in the hit list of the TRF which is affiliated to The Lashker-e-Toiba terrorist organization. The new threats and warnings to Pandit package employees have been issued and the pandit package employees are not totally safe in Kashmir as the threat letter is a reflection and mirror on the grim security situation in Kashmir. Thus, there is cent percent apprehension that the package employees working across Kashmir valley will again be targeted and killed by the militants of TRF. So there is hardly any safety and security for the package employees as they are forced to migrate to Jammu due to the prevailing atmosphere of fear psychosis in the valley.

The government has miserably failed to provide fool proof security to the package employees and therefore it is the only way to ensure the security of the package employees that they be shifted to Jammu for the time being so that their lives are not subjected to risks and threats. The package employees in particular and the Kashmiri Pandits in general feel insecurity in Kashmir and the hapless PM package employees are on protest in Jammu and Srinagar since the barbaric killing of Rahul Bhat in his office. But the government is not paying any attention to the genuine demand of these

employees which is their relocation and shifting to Jammu so that their precious lives are saved from the bullets of militants. The new threat and warning has further created fear and scare in the valley and the residual pandit package employees demand their shifting to Jammu.

Since there is continuous fear and insecurity among Package employees across Kashmir valley as threats and actual targeted killings of the pandits, including Package employees continue unabated and therefore the only viable and feasible solution is their relocation to Jammu so that their precious lives are saved. The Kashmiri Pandit organizations are rightly raising their concern about the threatening letters to the Kashmiri pandit package employees and they demand their relocation to Jammu. Thus without any delay the package employees should be relocated to Jammu at the earliest so that their life, limb and honor is saved. The pandits including the package employees have no security across Kashmir and therefore it is only solution if the package employees are shifted to Jammu.

The KP organizations are right in their demand of a through probe and investigation in to the matter of leaking the list of the package employees posted in Srinagar district to militants and thus the TRF has been in a position to issue the recent threat to the Package employees. Therefore what is

needed is that the LG administration should act fast and ensure the security and safety of the Package employees and shift them to Jammu otherwise many Package employees will be murdered in cold blood.

Thus, the only viable solution is that the package employees should be shifted to Jammu till the normalcy is restored across Kashmir. It is very shocking that in 1990's killing lists were circulated through mosques and in 2022 these lists are circulated on internet and social media, just the modus operandi has changed but the mentality is the same. The PM Package is ill conceived and followed and this fact should be appreciated that this package is not a state package but a package of the centre government and so it is all right that the package employees should be absorbed in various centre departments across India and there is no sense to post the package employees in Kashmir.

The employment package is not a rehabilitation package because it separates husband from wife and children from their parents and it is sham to call it as a rehabilitation package. The Kashmiri Pandits cannot be rehabilitated by posting the few thousand employees in Kashmir, it needs a comprehensive strategy to rehabilitate the Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir and for this the community leaders of the KP's should be heard and used in the mission of rehabilitation. The rehabilitation is not the matter of few thousands but it is about seven lakh pandits. The LG administration should see to it, how the terrorist outfits issue the warnings and threats to pandit package employees and before these outfits issue threats to package employees and bring the terrorists and their OGW to task for issuing these threats and warnings. In short this write up can be concluded by mentioning that the Package employees are being on the one hand being killed and intimidated by the militants and on the other hand the administration is hell bent to force them to resume their duties across valley and they use pen terrorism to intimidate and harass the package employees.

RNI REGISTRATION NO JKENG/2011/39231 TITLE CODE JKENG00842

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PUBLISHED FROM

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS BUILDING RADIO COLONY

GUND HASSIBHAT LAWAIPORA SRINAGAR-190017.

PRINTED AT

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS, (OFFSET PRINTING PRESS),

RADIO COLONY GUND HASSIBHAT LAWAIPORA

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INDIA LEADS WORLD GOLD JEWELLERY DEMAND RECOVERY AFTER COVID BLUES

K RAVEENDRAN

India is leading a global recovery in gold jewellery. This is despite the fact that gold prices have hit a five-month high. The demand engine is driven by urban consumers, encouraged by a return to pre-covid levels of economic activity. Rural consumers were more cautious as their inflation outpaced that of their urban counterparts.

According to World Gold Council estimates, world jewellery consumption continued to rebound in the third quarter of this year and is now back to pre-pandemic levels, reaching 523 tonnes, which is 10 percent higher compared to the same period in 2021. Much of this growth was spearheaded by India's urban consumers who drove up demand 17 percent year on year to 146 tonnes.

Similarly impressive growth was also seen in much of the Middle East, with Saudi Arabian jewellery consumption up 20 percent since the third quarter of 2021, and United Arab Emirates up 30 percent for the same period. Chi-

nese jewellery demand also saw a modest 5 percent increase, driven by improved consumer confidence and a dip in the local gold price, prompting the release of some pent-up demand.

China, which is the biggest consumer of gold in the world, is expected to see a further pick-up in jewellery demand, boosting the overall numbers further, although a spike in infection more recently than that country has marred the outlook.

Retail investors bought gold as a store of value amid surging global inflation, while ETF investors reduced their holdings in the face of rising global interest rates. Gold's safe-haven appeal has also been boosted by a depreciating rupee and falling local equity prices.

Just as consumer gold demand firmed, central bank buying picked up significantly with estimated record purchases of nearly 400 tonnes in the third quarter. A council survey of central banks indicated the intention by a quarter of central banks to increase their gold reserves in the



next 12 months.

Even as the country led the global gold jewellery recovery, the Reserve Bank of India added 17.46 tonnes of gold reserves in the third quarter. With the latest purchases, India's total gold reserves have gone up to 785.35 tonnes, comprising 7.8 percent of the total reserves.

Gold imports by the trade recorded a decline after the Centre

hiked the tariff on gold from 7.5 percent to 12.5 percent in July this year. But this has led to a significant increase in the smuggling of gold into the country. Smugglers are using innovative methods to dodge customs authorities to bring in their illegal gold, such as conversion of the metal into paste, powder forms, which are more difficult to detect.

The World Gold Council had, in fact, forecast that the increase in tariff could increase gold smuggling by a third to touch 160 tonnes in calendar year 2022 as compared to the pre-covid period when the duty was 5 percent lower.

The trade is now seeking a reduction in the taxes and duties on gold to encourage more imports through official channels. The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council is urging the government to reverse the tariff increase as well as a reduction in the GST tax to 1.25 per cent from the current 3 per cent.

The trade points out that the higher import duty is creating problems for the domestic industry as it encourages smuggling.

According to the industry, a reduction of duty to 4-6 percent would act as a disincentive for illegal trade. This will not only lead to less smuggling, but also add to government's tax revenue from the legitimate channels, they argue.

According to gold smuggling and seizure data provided by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, as much as 73 per cent of the gold caught had been brought through Myanmar and Bangladesh. The smuggled gold is apparently brought into Myanmar from China through the border towns on the Chinese and Myanmar borders. Smuggling using airline passengers as carriers is also rampant on the Gulf-Kerala sector, where seizures happen as a matter of routine, but much larger quantities escape scrutiny.

A proposal to this effect is reportedly under the consideration of the commerce ministry, which has apparently approached the finance ministry on the possibility. There is widespread expectation that some such decision would be announced in the next budget.

IPA SERVICE

NEERAJ CHOPRA, INDIA'S FIRST GOLD MEDALIST ATHLETE IS AN ICON IN HIS STATE

PROFILE

HARIHAR SWARUP

After he won independent India's first athletics gold at the Olympics, Neeraj Chopra went home and put on 12kg. His coach, was miffed, but he knew his pupil would shed the kilos. Neeraj Chopra is not the one to rest on his laurels, of which there have been many. Only 24, Neeraj is one of the best javelin throwers in the world and arguably one of India's greatest athletes. And though it might sound hyperbolic, his parabolic pursuit has indeed made him an inspiration to an entire generation of Indians athletes.

Neeraj was not born into a sporting family. The Chopra clan of Khandra village in Panipat consists of the patriarch grandfather, and his four sons and their families, who live together. Neeraj is the eldest grandchild, and inspired his cousins to also take up sport. The villagers, too, come to him for advice on where to send their children to train.

This year has been hectic for Neeraj. Not only did he complete in several international events, he added to his list of achievements by winning the silver medal at world Athletes Championship and also became first Indian to win a diamond League final.

And, unlike after the Olympics, the downtime this year was not as relaxing. Yes, there was mom's food but, he made sure he stayed within his ideal weight range by training at home. Also, it helps that his father and uncles do not let him just chill—he has to do farm work and other chores.

When out of Panipat, he was busy with advertisement shoots for several brands he endorses. Managed by JSW sports on and off the field, Neeraj has more than 10 brands in his kitty, ranging from sportswear to edutech companies. He also recently did a promotion video for Marvel film Black Panther: Wakanda for ever.

(IPA SERVICE)

AAP'S BIG WIN IN DELHI MUNICIPAL POLL GIVES A BOOST TO ITS NATIONAL AMBITIONS

DR. GYAN PATHAK

Delhi Municipal Corporation poll results have further brightened the stature of rising political star - Arvind Kejriwal, which has unnerved not only the BJP, but also shadows its national prospects and may lead to some churning before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Unsettling of BJP right under the nose of perceived to be invincible PM Narendra Modi is significant, especially when the party had brought 7 chief ministers and put 17 union ministers in the electoral field to defend BJP in power since 2007 in Municipal Corporations in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The saffron camp failed miserably.

This humiliating defeat of BJP in the MCD is also noteworthy in the backdrop that the party had won all the seven Lok Sabha seats in 2019 Lok Sabha election, but could win only 3 of the 70 Vidhan Sabha seats in 2020 elections. AAP had won 67 seats in the Vidhan Sabha and ruling the UT with Arvind Kejriwal as chief minister in great political comfort.

Modi government did everything to clip Kejriwal's wing. Even the definition of a state was changed through a legislation – that says that government in Delhi means 'Lieutenant Governor'. It necessitated the Chief Minister and his government to depend upon the decisions of LG on every issue of importance who works on behalf of the Union Government. Delhi CM's administrative power has



been crippled by legislation.

Not only that the Union Government has unleashed central investigating agencies like Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation, Income Tax Department etc to hound AAP leaders, several of who are now in jail. One can know about truthfulness of allegations only after court judgments, but politically all these have adverse effect on political activities of AAP and their leaders.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had recently alleged that the Union Government had filed 167 cases in the last seven years against AAP leaders, and about 800 probe agency officers were deployed to find out wrongdoings of their leaders. BJP keeps on accusing us of corruption, said Kejriwal, filed cases but not one of them has been proved in court.

Even in this backdrop Kejriwal

led AAP has emerged as irresistible force in the National Capital Territory right under the nose of Modi-Shah duo. It all proves that neither Narendra Modi is invincible, nor said to be BJP's Chanakya Amit Shah. It has unnerved both, and the entire BJP leadership with their rank and file, who now cannot take their win granted in the Lok Sabha Election 2024 which is only about one and half years away. They need to recalibrate their strategy, including the Hindutva communal card that has been rendered ineffective in the MCD polls.

The results show that anti-incumbency against the BJP is now a threat for the party, and Modi's charisma is on the wane. Under their 15 years of rule, the BJP could not keep Delhi clean, rather they made mountains of garbage. They were exposed as very bad performers as against the Delhi govern-

ment under Kejriwal. Education, health, electricity, and water were the areas affecting the common man and APP has performed well than the BJP. By now BJP must have known that mere "jumbalaji" cannot guarantee their win, they would need to improve their performance if they want to return to power after 2024.

MCD polls have acquired national significance due to several other reasons including the aspirations of the AAP and Kejriwal to play a greater role in national politics. AAP has been enlarging its political base in several other states. They are now ruling another state Punjab. The party is most likely to succeed in penetrating even into the Narendra Modi's secured home political turf Gujarat. AAP may not gain many seats in the state but even its penetration into the state shows that the BJP cannot defend itself everywhere.

Presently, AAP is a state party, and with inroads in Punjab, Gujarat, and several other states, they are likely to become a national party well before the Lok Sabha Election 2024. It should be noted that several states are going to poll in 2023, that is a pre-general election year, and is considered as semi-final to the Lok Sabha General Election.

This good prospect of AAP, will set the new tune for 2024 general election. Arvind Kejriwal has all along been revealing his attitude against the Congress and Rahul Gandhi, and he will likely to resist any opposition alliance under the leadership of Congress, which is

at present the largest opposition political party in the Lok Sabha. On this strength of the Congress, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar has been trying to forge a grand alliance of opposition with Congress in the lead for some time now. Rahul Gandhi is on his Bharat Jodo Yatra which finds overwhelming response. However, the MCD results in Delhi puts a question mark on any grand alliance under Congress leadership.

For the non-BJP non-Congress political parties ruling or dominating the states will now have a second thought on opposition alliance. If Rahul Gandhi has ambition, Arvind Kejriwal has greater ambition to emerge as mail political challenger of Narendra Modi in General Election 2024.

All political parties in opposition will have to rethink over the question of alliance with AAP also. Entire political landscape in the country is set to change, and the state elections in 2023 results will decide its future course. Modi is most likely to face Arvind Kejriwal as his chief political challenger in Delhi and several other states, especially in those where no state political party has political dominance.

MCD results have greatly increased the hopes of regional political parties ruling the states, because it has provided a proof that BJP and Modi-Shah duo can be thrown out of power more so with a humiliating defeat, as in Delhi. Congress has also a lesson to learn that they not only need to protect their support base in states but also to perform well to ward off their existential threat. IPA SERVICE

QATAR'S S WORLD CUP SUCCESS PUNCTURES FIFA'S POLITICAL FANTASY

JAMES M DORSEY

If the Qatar World Cup proved anything, it's that sports and politics are inseparable Siamese twins joined at the hip.

Politics popped up at every twist of the World Cup's road, whether related to the right of freedom of expression of players, sports commentators and fans; anti-government protests in Iran; anti-Israeli sentiment among Qataris and Arabs; a backlash against Western, particularly German, critics of Qatar; or ultra-conservative religious rejection of soccer as a sport.

Qatari efforts to stage manage the intrusion of regional politics ranged from picking and choosing which protests fit its foreign policy agenda to seeking to ensure, where possible, that events elsewhere in the region would not overshadow or inflame passions during the World Cup.

Amid escalating violence between Israelis and Palestinians, Mohammad al-Emadi, the Qatari official handling Hamas, the Islamist group that controls the Gaza Strip, travelled to the

region to ensure that it and Islamic Jihad, another Gaza-based organization, would not respond with rockets to Israeli use of lethal force against Palestinian militants on the West Bank.

Qatar feared that a response to last week's killing of an Islamic Jihad commander on the West Bank and near-nightly Israeli raids could spark a renewed Israeli intervention in Gaza, already crippled by a 15-year-long Israeli-Egyptian blockade.

The Qatari pressure puts in a different perspective the Gulf state's endorsement of expressions of support for the Palestinians during the World Cup in the form of pro-Palestinian flags and T-shirts and a refusal by Qatari and Arab fans to engage with Israeli reporters covering the tournament.

Despite refusing to follow in the footsteps of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan in recognizing Israel without a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Qatar has a long-standing working relationship with the Jewish state that serves the interests of both countries.

The Gulf state, often at Israel's request, has pumped millions of dollars into paying government salaries in Gaza, providing aid to thousands of families affected by past wars, and funding fuel for the Strip's power plant as well as infrastructure projects.

Moreover, Qatar became the first Gulf state to put money into Israel when it funded in 2006 a six-million-dollar stadium in the predominantly Israeli Palestinian town of Sakhnin, an investment long before the UAE-led Arab recognition of the Jewish state 14 years later.

Sakhnin and the Doha Stadium are home to Bnei Sakhnin, Israel's most successful Israeli-Palestinian club.

As a result, allowing expressions of pro-Palestinian sentiment during the World Cup served multiple Qatari purposes.

It gave a release valve to Qataris, a minority in their own country, who were concerned about the impact on their society of the government's live-and-let-live approach towards soccer fans with very different cultural values visiting their

country during the World Cup.

Preventing fans from taking pro-LGBT paraphernalia such as One Love and rainbow-coloured armbands and shirts into stadiums served a similar purpose.

It also allowed Qataris to vent their frustration at perceived double standards in European and American criticism of Qatar's rejection of LGBT rights, particularly after the German team's hands-over-mouth gesture in protest against FIFA's denial of their right to wear pro-LGBT armbands.

In one instance, Qataris wore pro-Palestinian armbands of their own to a match as a protest against the donning of a pro-LGBT One Love band by German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser, who attended the game.

Expressions of pro-Palestinian, anti-Israeli sentiment also suggested that Qatar's refusal to recognise Israel was more in line with Arab public opinion than efforts to project the UAE-led recognition of the Jewish state as genuinely popular and indicative of a drop in support for the Palestinian cause.

If anything, recent polls

show that public support for establishing diplomatic relations with Israel had fallen across the Arab and Muslim world, including in countries that normalized their ties to the Jewish state.

In Bahrain, 20 per cent of the population supports the accords, compared with 45 per cent in 2020, according to a Washington Institute for Near East Policy poll in July. Support in Saudi Arabia fell from 41 to 19 per cent. Even in the UAE, where normalisation had the greatest impact, support dropped to 25 per cent this year from 47 per cent in 2020.

For Qatari World Cup managers, Palestine was low-hanging fruit. Protest against the government in Tehran was a far trickier challenge.

A regional behemoth, Iran is a partner as well as a potential threat with which Qatar shares the world's largest offshore gas field.

Maintaining relations with Iran has allowed Qatar, at times, to be a background mediator with the United States on issues like the moribund talks to revive the 2015 Iranian nuclear agreement. Qatar feared that allowing

stadiums to become venues of confrontation between opponents and supporters of the Iranian government could have persuaded Iran to rank the Gulf state, alongside Saudi Arabia, Israel, and the United States, as an instigator of sustained anti-government protests in which security forces have killed hundreds.

As a result, Qatar sought to prevent anti-government banners, T-shirts, and pre-revolution flags from entering stadia. The problem resolved itself when Iran was knocked out of the World Cup in the group stage.

Yet, the larger issue remains. The Qatar World Cup demonstrates that FIFA's insistence that sports and politics can be separated amounts to a political fantasy.

More concerning than that, it enables FIFA and autocratic World Cup hosts like Qatar to decide what are convenient and inconvenient expressions of politics. That hardly makes for a level playing field, the starting point for any sport. (IPA Service)

By arrangement with the Arabian Post

Apart from me, you are happy

SHAHID SHAMSHAD KUMAR

Apart from me, you are happy
Like me you too are fraud
On the wall I saw crescent
I thought there, you are present
The budding flowers are targeting high
Exactly as you are the laughing sky
The dusk tells me at every shore
What type of clothes you wore
Matter of heart, I read from expressions
At the sea coast, you count the waves
With the world, you alone are fighting
How childish you are talking!
Poet : BASHIR BADR

Chinar

RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

Platinus Orientalis, thy Botanical name
State tree, having cool shade and royal touch
Leaves- alternatively borne
Maple-like, 5-7 lobed on the stem.
Greish bark, long stalk,
monoecious unisexual flowers.
Historically significant of Kashmir's landscape
Adored by Mughal Emperors
Akbar, Jahangir and Aurangzeb.
Char-Chinar in the midst of Dal lake
Jahangir erected on the lovely island.
The magnificent tree, sacred to Hindus too
'Bhawani' means a goddess
Found in famous mosques and shrines too.
It's changing colours, from deep green
In Spring-Summer to blazing red in Autumn
Honoured by Autumn more than others.
The rustling sound of golden leaves
Adds to the beauty of surroundings.
Greish bark equipped with medicinal properties
Used for dysentery and diarrhoea treatment
Fresh leaves too for conjunctivitis.
The fallen-off and dry leaves
For charcoal making
Used for warmth in winters.
Poets, litterateurs and writers
Composed odes and essays for it.
It's enchanting beauty and morphology
During Autumn in valley, attracts
People from all corners of globe.
It's diminishing number, if left
Unchecked, may cause it's extinction.
Writer is from Qazigund Kashmir.

Bibi Fatima, The Leader Of Women

BILAL AHMAD SOFI

Tears start trickling down like a flowing ocean on the earth.
As the day of last breath is impending at the Door of Knowledge,
The Daughter of the Prophet and the wife of Hazrat Ali is leaving the oppressive world.
It is only she who was entitled to be mother of her father,
And considered to be an epitome of piety, patience and pioussness for ever.
Unfortunately, She was perennially beleaguered with unbearable tragedies of her time.
Alas! Even Her mausoleum was pathetically demolished by so-called Muslims of the world,
Who are falsely deemed to be the care takers of House of God.
Her troubles and extreme pain of oppression is still reverberating in the ears of gnostic ones
Angles used to descend to the beloved family of Prophet Muhammad
To have constant circumambulation around the Holy Door of Knowledge.
However, the sacrosanct door was set on fire by then so called Muslims of the world
In which her life was rendered the book of miseries.
Now, shall I write tragedies or blessings of the life of Fatima?
I stopped here and put my pen down to soothe my nerves.
The poet is from Khushipora, HMT, Srinagar

BRIEFLY NEWS

Prime Video to air 'Daisy Jones & The Six' on March 3

Prime Video on Wednesday debuted first-look images for the highly anticipated musical-drama series 'Daisy Jones & The Six', and announced that the series will premiere on March 3.

Based on the best-selling novel by Taylor Jenkins Reid, 'Daisy Jones & The Six' is a limited musical-drama series detailing the rise and precipitous fall of a renowned rock band.

In 1977, Daisy Jones & The Six were on top of the world. Fronted by two charismatic lead singers—Daisy Jones (Riley Keough) and Billy Dunne (Sam Claflin)—the band had risen from obscurity to fame. And then, after a sold-out show at Chicago's Soldier Field, they called it quits.

Now, decades later, the band members finally agree to reveal the truth. This is the story of how an iconic band imploded at the height of its powers.

The series stars Riley Keough as Daisy Jones, Sam Claflin as Billy Dunne, Camila Morrone as Camila Dunne, Will Harrison as Graham Dunne, Suki Waterhouse as Karen Sirko, Josh Whitehouse as Eddie Roundtree, Sebastian Chacon as Warren Rhodes, Nabiyah Be as Simone Jackson, and Tom Wright as Teddy Price, with a special guest appearance by Timothy Olyphant as Rod Reyes.

From Amazon Studios and Hello Sunshine, 'Daisy Jones & The Six' is executive produced by Reese Witherspoon and Lauren Neustadter for Hello Sunshine and Brad Mendelsohn for Circle of Confusion.

Tulsi Kumar teams up with KiDi for 'Shut Up'

Singer Tulsi Kumar makes her first international collaboration with the popular Ghanaian singer KiDi, who took the internet by storm with his track 'Touch It'.

As Bhushan Kumar brings two powerhouses together, this new variation of the popular song is called 'Shut Up'. Giving a sleek Indian touch, its teaser just dropped on T-Series YouTube page and its sure to be a earworm.

Set in the scenic locations of Kerala, the video is directed and choreographed by Adil Shaikh. As the song looks a complete visual treat, the audio is sure to make everyone groove along as the music composition is done by KiDi and Tanishk Bagchi, lyrics penned by KiDi and Bhriгу Parashar with vocals by KiDi and Tulsi Kumar. This lively and upbeat teaser of 'Shut Up' was launched at a full of life event in Mumbai, this evening.

Thrilled and excited about the collaboration, Tulsi said, "I am extremely happy as this is my first collaboration with an International artist, KiDi! They say music is a language one shares, I literally felt that with KiDi while working on this song and what a beautiful fusion 'Shut up' has turned out to be! As we showcase the glimpse of the song with the teaser, we just cannot wait for the audience to witness the full song."

The International singer KiDi expressed his excitement and shared, "I got to experience so much about India while working on this track! I am really excited as 'Touch It' already received so much adulation from the audience, now with 'Shut Up' it'll reach a wider audience. Tulsi is indeed a true blue versatile artist I've ever worked with. It was amazing shooting the video in Kerala and bring about a fresh new Indian touch to the song."

The teaser itself is receiving such massive popularity we cannot wait to see what the song will bring to us. It is sure to take over our new year's party playlist and we're all here for it!

T-Series presents 'Shut Up', vocals by KiDi and Tulsi Kumar, composed by Tanishk Bagchi and penned by Bhriгу Parashar. Featuring the singers themselves, the video is directed by Adil Shaikh, 'Shut Up' teaser out now on T-Series YouTube page.

Prime Video to premiere 'Harlem' S2 on Feb 3

Prime Video on Wednesday unveiled the first-look images from season two of the hit comedy series 'Harlem'.

From writer Tracy Oliver, in season two, after blowing up her career and disrupting her love life, Camille (Meagan Good) has to figure out how to put the pieces back together; Tye (Jerrie Johnson) considers her future; Quinn (Grace Byers) goes on a journey of self-discovery; and Angie's (Shoniqua Shandai) career takes a promising turn.

'Harlem' season two is produced by Amazon Studios and Universal Television, a division of Universal Studio Group, in association with Paper Kite Productions.

In addition to creator, writer, and executive producer Tracy Oliver, Paper Kite's Amy Poehler (Russian Doll) and Kim Lessing (Moxie) serve as executive producers, alongside 3 Arts' Dave Becky (True Story), Britt Matt (First Wives Club), Linda Mendoza (Survival of the Thickest), and 13-time Grammy Award winner Pharrell Williams (Hidden Figures) and Mimi Valdés (Roxanne Roxanne) from i am OTHER.

The highly anticipated new season will return February 3 on Prime Video.

Prithviraj Sukumaran to play antagonist in 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'

Pooja Entertainment's upcoming 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' is indeed one of the most anticipated films of the year.

Starring actors Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff, the film has been in talks from the day of its announcement. As the audience is eager to know more about the film, the makers have finally revealed the antagonist of the film to be played by Prithviraj Sukumaran.

Ever since the first video of 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' featuring Akshay and Tiger has been released, it has ignited the audience's excitement to hear more about the film. While the film features Akshay and Tiger, now there is an addition to the exciting squad with Prithviraj Sukumaran joining the entertainer.

While speaking on the announcement Jacky Bhagnani said in a statement, "It's amazing to have Prithviraj Sukumaran as a cast of 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'. Having him as an antagonist adds an extra thrill to the film"

Babil Khan receives rave reviews for his performance in 'Qala'

Bollywood's newest wunderkind Babil Khan is receiving rave reviews for his maiden performance in the psychological drama 'Qala', now streaming on Netflix.

The son of late actor Irrfan Khan, Babil has captivated the critics with his raw, resonant performance as Jagan, a talented singer in the 1930s. Critics have praised the emotive power of Babil's acting, describing him as the biggest discovery of the year. The newcomer has won hearts with his subtle, assured and human rendering of Jagan's tragic journey.

While many have found shades of his great father in Babil, he has also been singled out for his freshness and originality. He's being hailed as one of the most promising talents to enter the film industry this year!

A humbled Babil said, "I am so overwhelmed by the



response to Qala and my performance! I had never imagined my first wobbly baby step into the world of acting would be received like this. I hope to keep on surprising the audience and I can't wait for new and exciting work to come my way."

Directed by Anvita Dutt, 'Qala' also stars Tripti Dimri, Swastika Mukherjee, Amit Sial and Samir Kochhar.

Sara-Aditya to star in Anurag Basu's 'Metro Inn Dino'

The announcement of 'Metro.. Inn Dino' featuring Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapoor in the lead, has broken the internet and increased anticipation amongst fans to witness a fresh pairing on screen.

Filmmaker Anurag Basu and producer Bhushan Kumar have joined hands yet again for their latest project 'Metro.. In Dino'. The anthology features actors Aditya, Sara, Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen Sharma, Ali Fazal, and Fatima Sana Shaikh.

Sara and Aditya have never worked together on screen, so it would be very exciting to see this new fresh pairing on screen.

Today, interestingly marks four years of Sara's debut in the industry with



'Kedarnath', for which she won massive love and praises for her performance as 'Mukku'. It will be now exciting to see Sara in the Anurag Basu directorial.

On the work front, Sara has 'Gaslight', and 'Ae Watan Mere Watan'.

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Netflix to stream 'Kantara' in English & Hindi

Hombale films 'Kantara' has been creating a rage ever since its release in the theatres.

Not just in India, the film went on to create an example of its success in the international market as well. With its phenomenal success, the film has left a strong imprint of regional content that went on to book success all across the world. And now, the film is about to expand its hand globally with its release in English on the global OTT platform, Netflix.

After ruling the pan India market, with its release on Netflix 'Kantara' is ready to rule the global platform as it is all set to release in English. With this, 'Kantara' will present itself in the league of the most loved OTT releases like 'The Squid Games' and 'Money Heist', which came from South Korea and Spain respectively, and went on to become global successes.

Now, 'Kantara' is all set to



release its Hindi version on Netflix on December 9. With this announcement comes the announcement of its English version to be released in January.

While announcing the same on social media, Netflix wrote - "Now screaming because Kantara is coming to Netflix in Hindi on December 9th and English in January #KantaraOnNetflix".

Kantara was released in the Kannada version and Hindi version on September 30, and October 14 respectively. The film is written and directed by Rishab Shetty.

Produced by Vijay Kirangandur and Chaluve Gowda, under Hombale Films, the film features Rishab Shetty, Sapthami Gowda, and Kishore Kumar G in pivotal roles.

Bigg Boss 16: Ankit's 'satta' at risk; Abdu loses his cool

With each passing day, the involvement of 'Bigg Boss' in the house is increasing making it tougher for the housemates to survive.

Tonight, the house witnesses a 'satta badal' task where the new raja Ankit Gupta might or might not lose his 'satta'. In this task, the garden area has been turned in to a 'BB jail' wherein Ankit must choose six house members whom he believes won't take away his captainship.

The selected six housemates will be the 'Kaidis' in the task and five of the housemates will become a 'jailer'. For each round, the jailer has to make sure the 'kaidis' do not escape the jail. Ankit's 'satta' depends on the 'kaidis'. Do you think Ankit will continue



to rule the house of 'Bigg Boss 16'? Lately, beloved Abdu Rozik feels alone in the house. After his confession to MC Stan about Shiv Thakare on how he feels Shiv has changed, Abdu loses his calm at Shiv, tonight. It starts when MC Stan starts distributing chocolates and when Abdu asks for it Shiv mockingly says, 'Isko mat de'.

Abdu angrily leaves the

room, but Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia brings him back. Shiv says that he was fooling around and it's a small issue. Abdu disagrees with Shiv and says the issue is not small. Will Abdu and Shiv sort things out between their friendship? 'Bigg Boss 16' airs every Monday to Friday at 10 PM and every Saturday - Sunday at 9 PM on COLORS and Voot.

Akshara Singh's 'Piya Ke Jhulfiya' out

The song 'Piya Ke Jhulfiya' by Akshara Singh presented by T-Series has now been released.

This upbeat dance song is produced by Priyanshu Singh, and written by Vikki Raushan. The extremely upbeat and lively music video is directed by Danny Fernandes & Babu Khanna.

The music video shows us a very adorable college romance and has very youthful, vivacious feel to it. Akshara has not failed to impress us with her voice yet again with Piya Ke Jhulfiya. We are loving the way she portrays a girl next door in the music video, making the song refreshing which is sure to be a hit on all your dance playlists.

Akshara has been impressing us with her amazing vocals time and again. We're eagerly keeping our eyes out for the artist's upcoming projects.

The music video 'Piya Ke Jhulfiya' is out now on T-Series' YouTube Channel!

Colors to air 'Durga Aur Charu' from Dec 12

The legacy of the late Bondita and Anirudh Roy Chowdhary from one of the most loved television shows 'Barrister Babu' lives on through their daughters in COLORS' 'Durga Aur Charu'.

While Charu is her mother's soul, Durga is her shadow. The show outlines the journey of the two sisters, who are bound by blood but are starkly different owing to their diametrically opposite upbringing after being separated as children. The channel has roped in popular actors Aurra Bhatnagar and Vaishnavi Prajapati to play the lead roles as two sisters - Durga and Charu, respectively. What does kismet have in store for the daughters of Bondita and Anirudh? Is a union on the cards for them?

Manisha Sharma, Chief Content Officer, Hindi Mass Entertainment, Viacom18, said, "Delivering stories that strike a chord with our viewers has always been our focus at COLORS. Such was the story of Barrister Babu, a show that enjoyed incredible success and love from the audience. Continuing its legacy, our new fiction show Durga Aur Charu traces the heartfelt journey of Bondita and Anirudh's daughters who are raised in two differ-



ent environments resulting in having contrasting personalities. As we present a fresh chapter and the continuation of the popular show, we hope to receive the same love and appreciation with Durga and Charu."

Set in the pre- and post-Independence era, 'Durga Aur Charu' chronicles the story of Durga (Aurra Bhatnagar), a meek and pessimis-

tic girl and her street-smart elder sister Charu (Vaishnavi Prajapati). The two sisters are living apart oblivious to each other's existence. They are different as chalk and cheese owing to their distinct upbringing.

While Durga is reticent, suppressed, and great at academics, her sister Charu is fierce, outspoken and earning her livelihood by

performing acrobatics. The former is adopted by wealthy parents and the latter is brought up by the con artists. How long will the two remain unaware of each other?

Producer Shashi Mittal shared, "Durga aur Charu is a period drama set during the British colonial era which traces the journey of two siblings who not only lose their parents but also get separat-

ed at a young age. But eventually destiny brings them together and their relationship is tested through several emotional adversaries. With our shows, we always aim to deal with various themes which impact our societal thinking in some way or the other. Our association with COLORS has been a fruitful one, we have had the opportunity to work with the best

team with creative freedom, and we hope that with 'Durga Aur Charu', we deliver yet another compelling story to the viewers."

Excited to be essaying the role of Durga, Aurra says, "As young Bondita, I have received immense love and support from the viewers and now I am super excited to step into the new role of Durga. She is the exact replica of her mother who excels in academics but is socially awkward due to her upbringing. After making my debut with Barrister Babu and COLORS, I'm thrilled to be associated with the channel again to start a new chapter."

Set to be seen in the role of Charu, Vaishnavi says, "Essaying the titular role of Charu is a big opportunity for me, and I am thankful to the entire Durga and Charu team and COLORS for giving me this chance. What I love about Charu is that she is feisty and fearless like her mother Bondita. I'm positive that Charu will win the hearts of the viewers as a confident girl, who knows how to take control of her life."

Produced by Shashi Sumeet Productions, the show will premiere on December 12, and will air on Monday to Friday at 8:30pm.

Block Diwas: DC Rajouri presides over public outreach camp at Moughla

RAJOURI, DECEMBER 07: People are reaping the benefits of Block Diwas also called 'Youme-Block' initiative which is organized by the UT of Jammu and Kashmir in every district once in a week.

Block Diwas is a part of the ambitious 'Jan Abhiyan' program during which Deputy Commissioners and other officers assess the progress of developmental works being executed and listen to public issues, grievances and demands. It also provides the Administration an opportunity to interact directly with people, obtain feedback from them and do on-the-spot Grievance Redressal.

"We are reaping the benefits of Block Diwas being organized in the district", said one of the Panchayat Raj Institute Members during the public outreach program held at Moughla block. He also highlighted that the issue of lack of doctors at PHC Moughla has been redressed, and the same was raised by the public during Block Diwas at Treru block.

Shri Kasturi Lal also appreciated the efforts of the District Administration in removing the bottlenecks for Development which have been raised in the previous block diwas at Treru.

Continuing the mega public outreach initiative of the Government of UT of Jammu and Kash-

mir, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today chaired a Public Outreach Camp here at Moughla and listened to the issues and development aspi-



rations of public representatives as well as the locals.

Among the issues projected on the occasion were GDC for Moughla, blacktopping of RDD roads, adequate manpower for the education sector, shortage of technical assistants and VLWs, Kendriya Vidyalaya for Moughla etc.

Other issues were provision of 108 Ambulance service for PHC Moughla, buildings for schools and Health institutions, provision of electricity poles, revenue entries of playfields, one commu-

nity toilet and one hand pump for Dakbungalow at Moughla etc.

Officers of different departments also replied to the queries raised by the public and their

ciaries through online portals. The DSWO also imparted awareness among the masses about Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and urged the public to work in coordination with the District Administration to eradicate drug menace from the society.

The DDC gave a patient hearing to all the issues projected by the public during the event and assured them that the demands raised shall be fulfilled in a time bound manner.

Addressing the event, the DC said that the Block Diwas ensures doorstep public service delivery and redressal of the genuine grievances of the common man.

He also listed public initiatives of the District Administration and said "We are working on a multi pronged strategy for the holistic development of all the areas of the district and every sector is being pushed to achieve the desired results on the ground."

He called for coordination among the departments and PRIs to achieve desired development objectives besides timely intervention and action to mitigate the sufferings of the people. He also urged the public and their representatives to work shoulder to shoulder with administration to take the district to new heights of development.

Full Court Reference held on superannuation of Chief Justice, Ali Mohammad Magrey



JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: A Full Court Reference was held today in the Jammu wing of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, to bid farewell to Chief Justice, Ali Mohammad Magrey, upon his superannuation.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohan Lal, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal and Justice Rajesh Sekhri were present on the occasion.

Advocate General, D C Raina and President J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu, M K Bhardwaj delivered the farewell address which was subsequently responded by the Chief Justice. Advocate General in his farewell address described Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey a gentleman par excellence and lauded the role of Justice Magrey for his dedication and commitment to his professional responsibilities. He said that Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey has endeared one and all in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh by his conduct and behaviour. Advocate General emphasized that with the superannuation of Justice Magrey, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh

would lose a brilliant and illustrious judge. President J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu, in his address, described Justice Magrey a kind hearted person having great qualities of head and heart. He expressed his gratitude to Justice Magrey for a full hearted support to the various initiatives taken by the High Court for the institutional upliftment.

Bhardwaj further said that Justice Magrey was very popular amongst the lawyers of entire two UTs of J&K and Ladakh for his amiable and intellectual aura. Justice Magrey thanked everyone including Judges of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, officers of Registry and Judicial Officers.

Mandir Gala Road Mishap DC Rajouri meets injured at GMC&AH; Assures every possible support to victims



RAJOURI, DECEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, visited Government Medical College in late hours to inquire about the condition of the persons injured in a bus accident at Mandir Gala of tehsil Kotranka. Dr. Mehmood Bajar, Medical Superintendent District Hospital and other officers also accompanied the DC during the visit.

The Station House Officer Kandi informed that an Eco vehicle bearing number JK 11D 4443 turned turtle near Mandir Gala resulting in injuries to passengers.

"Total 9 passengers were travelling in the ill fated vehicle," he added.

Medical Superintendent GMC Rajouri said that out of total nine patients referred to GMC Rajouri, one was declared dead on arrival, one has been referred to GMC Jammu, and seven are undergoing treatment and are out of danger.

Interacting with the injured, the Deputy Commissioner asked about their well being and instructed the medical team to provide best possible treatment for their early recovery.

Furthermore, he promised that the district administration would provide all necessary assistance to the injured and the families of the deceased during these difficult times.

Alok Kumar unveils Manzilein 2.0 Career Guidance Portal for 9th to 12th classes

JAMMU, DECEMBER 7: Principal Secretary, Education Department, Alok Kumar, today launched prestigious Jammu and Kashmir career guidance portal Manzilein 2.0 at a ceremony held at Jammu.

The career portal, titled 'Manzilein' has been developed in collaboration with UNICEF India to provide career guidance to the students of classes 9 to 12 in government schools.

The www.jkcareerportal.org is accessible to all the students of government schools from class 9th to 12th through unique Aadhaarshila IDs in Jammu division and LMS IDs in Kashmir division. This portal will help

students in exploring over more than 555 careers, 21000 colleges, 262,000 programs in 16 countries and also 1150 entrance exams, vocational courses and 1120 scholarships.

Alok Kumar, while speaking on the occasion, expressed gratitude towards UNICEF India for developing this portal for the benefit of students. He added that this portal will help students to access different career courses and can choose their career path matching with their aspirations, interest, inclination and aptitude.

Principal Secretary called upon the teacher counsellors to help students navigate through the



portal to derive its benefits.

Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma, Director School Education Jammu, during his opening remarks, said that NEP 2020 also stresses

on timely career guidance of students. He added that this portal will complement the efforts of the Directorate of School education Jammu to provide career guidance to students to fulfill their aspirations by setting up realistic goals. With this portal, students can discover their prospective career from the comfort of their home, he added.

Danish Aziz, UNICEF Education Specialist, gave orientation on Manzilein Career Portal 2.0 to counselling task force members present on the occasion. He enlightened the students about the navigation of this portal. Dr. Romesh Kumar IC Counseling Cell DSEJ presented a brief

note on counselling initiatives undertaken by Directorate of school education Jammu during recent past and interacted with counselling task force regarding implementing career guidance programmes in schools.

Students and teachers shared their valuable feedback regarding counselling initiatives in the schools.

On this occasion, District Counselling Coordinators, District Counsellors, Zonal Counselling Coordinators, Tele counsellors, Faculty Counsellor, team members of Counselling Cell DSEJ were felicitated for their valuable contribution in counseling initiatives.

Doda admin launches pan district initiative -Ap Ke Gaon Mein Aap Ka Tehsildar'

DODA, DECEMBER 07: Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir has accorded top priority to provide different services to the citizens at their door steps.

The recently concluded Back to Village - 4 (B2V4), and second phase of My Town My Pride (MTMP) were chiefly organized to reach out to the public by saturating various schemes being implemented by the Government.

Further, as per the directions of higher authorities, almost all the revenue services are being provided in online

mode. Besides, to ensure timely disposal, all the revenue services have been included under the Public Services Guarantee Act with the prescribed timeline within which the issuing authority is bound to act. The public has to be made aware of various initiatives of the Government like Apki Zameen Apki Nigrani, Land passbooks distribution, Jhan-Bhagidari, SVAMITVA and other programmes.

Moving a step further, District Administration Doda has launched a special initiative/programme "Ap Ke Gaon Mein Aap Ka Tehsildar".

The initiative envisages that on every Saturday of the week is notified as the Visiting day for Tehsildar to a Village of the Tehsil. The public of the said village shall be intimated at least five days prior to the visit, so that the service seekers may apply in advance. The Tehsildars shall ensure presence of concerned VLEs/CSCs prior to the Visiting Day (Saturday) for providing help to the citizens in applying for various revenue e-services.

The Tehsildars shall issue a monthly calendar of villages to be visited on every Saturday, which shall be publi-

cized through electronic/ print and social media to attract maximum number of citizens to avail the benefit of efficient and timely service delivery.

Special camps for attestation of mutations, pending demarcations, petty revenue court cases and any other miscellaneous revenue matters shall be resolved/dealt on the spot.

All the Sub Divisional heads shall supervise and monitor the said programme and submit the report of each Tehsildars to the Deputy Commissioner's office not later by every Monday.

Weekly Block Diwas held at 4 places in Doda district DC, SSP assess services delivery at Tehsil office Bhella, PP Kararaout across all ULBs

Interact with students, PRIs & Public

DODA, DECEMBER 07: Public Outreach Programme was held today at four places across District Doda to listen to the issues and grievances of the people under the weekly Block Diwas.

The grievances redressal camps were held at Panchayat Chilli Bala, Sub Division Gandoh; Panchayat Ghar Ganotha, Sub Division Assar; Near Park Panchayat Trown, Block Bhella, Sub District Bhadrawah; and Higher Secondary School Bhella, Sub Division Thathri.

Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan along with SSP, Abdul Gayoom, BDC Chairperson Chiralla, ACD, Dy Director Employment, CMO, CEO and other District and sectoral officers listened to the public grievances at Government Higher Secondary School Bhella.

Earlier, the DC and SSP inspected Tehsil Office Bhella and Police Post Karara. They interacted with the staff and assessed the online and offline services delivery mechanism in the Tehsil Office and Police Post.

They also visited Government Higher Secondary School Bhella



and interacted with students and staff of the school.

Several public delegations, individuals besides PRI members projected the local demands and problems being faced by the public.

The locals demanded early construction of Bhella to Panchai road; Widening and upgradation of Karara -Bhella road; Release of compensation in favour of land owners of Thalela- Jago-

ta Road; Receiving Station for the area; Meeting out the shortage of Doctors and staff at PHC Bhella; Establishment of ATM and Bank branch in the area; Augmentation and repair of water supply schemes; Additional infrastructure for Government High School Chagsoo and other schools; Augmentation of Transformer; Checking unscheduled power cuts and other related issues. The concerned officers

were directed to address the genuine public grievances raised in the Block Diwas program today at an earliest.

The DC said that Block Diwas was aimed at getting first hand appraisal of the problems and developmental aspirations of the people. He informed that the District Administration has started a unique initiative 'Apka Tehsildar Apke Gaon Mai' in which Tehsildars would visit one village on every Saturday to provide necessary services and awareness to the public at their doorsteps.

He called upon the field functionaries of different departments to work in close coordination to ensure prompt delivery of essential services especially during winter months.

The DC encouraged the People to learn to avail Online Services for efficient, transparent and corruption free governance.

The DC assured people that their demands will be redressed on priority by mobilizing all available resources. He also made public aware of special initiatives of District Administration like Swachh Gaon Sunder Gaon, Innovation Challenge, Know your Real Heroes, Talent haunt, School Prabhari scheme, Aap Ka Tehsildar Apke Gaon Mai etc.

At panchayat Trown, the camp was presided over by ADC Bhadrawah Chowdhary Dil Mir.

Awareness programme on MWPSA ACT held for police functionaries at Rajouri

RAJOURI, DECEMBER 07: A one-day awareness programme on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act (MWPSA Act) for police functionaries was organised today by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in Rajouri, in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Justice and the Anugraha Regional Resource and Training Centre on Ageing. Sub-Judge and Secretary DLSA Rajouri, Wajahat Hussain Kazmi, was the chief guest at the program. The programme was divided into four sessions. In the first session, Advocate Shoket Ali acted as a resource person and delivered a lecture on the features and significance of the MWPSA Act. In the second session of the program, a social activist, Pariksha Sharma, acted as a resource person and laid emphasis on different contours of the act. In the third session of the program, Advocate Tarun Vasson delivered a lecture and highlighted the importance of the MWPSA Act. Similarly, in the 4th and final session, Advocate Shivangi Kant acted as a resource person and delivered a lecture on the salient features of the Act. While addressing the event, the Sub Judge Secretary, DLSA Rajouri, gave an overview of the MWPSA Act and advised the police officers to help the senior citizens in their respective areas within the mandate of the said Act. High-



lighting the salient features of the act, he said that the MWPSA Act was enacted to ensure that parents and senior citizens are given basic amenities so that they don't face any inconveniences. He further said that the act makes more effective provisions for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens. The Sub Judge (Secretary DLSA) said that with increasing age, older persons become dependent. In addition to the health issues, they are also subjected to different forms of abuse, like emotional, physiological, financial, and verbal. He also maintained that the Act makes it mandatory for children or legal heirs to provide the basic amenities to their parents or grandparents (or senior citizens), and maintenance tribunals have been established.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

ARMED

Paying tributes to the Bravehearts of Armed Forces and saluting the bravery and selfless service of the Defence Forces and their families, the Lt Governor said the Flag Day is an opportunity for all of us to express gratitude and solidarity with brave armed forces personnel. I salute the courage and dedication of our soldiers and acknowledge with gratitude their valour and service to our country, said the Lt Governor. On the occasion, the Lt Governor appealed to all citizens to contribute generously to Armed Forces Flag Day fund and serve the noble cause of welfare of soldiers, the ex-servicemen and their families. Later, Director Sainik Welfare Department briefed the Lt Governor on the endeavours made and initiatives taken up by the Department for the welfare of Veterans, Veer Naris, their dependents and serving Armed Forces personnel. Col JS Randhawa(Rtd.); Col BS Sambyal(Rtd.); Col JS Jamwal(Rtd.); Col MS Bhau(Rtd.); Col SS Assla(Rtd.); Sh Tarsem Chand; Smt Rajni; Smt Jyoti Magotra; Smt Nisha; Ms Alpi Mahajan were present on the occasion.

MULTI LEVEL

of augmented city for the development of urban areas. We have to add value to the potential of Jammu city, its tradition, heritage, culture, uniqueness and how it can grow economically, he added. Improving the quality of life of every citizen is the prime objective of the administration. We have to increase capacity of Jammu City to serve the citizens, preserve environment, make public services efficient, boost local economy, create opportunities for public-private partnership and add value to City's growth potential, its tradition, heritage, culture and uniqueness, said the Lt Governor.

Underscoring the significance of public participation in development process, the Lt Governor said, the power of Jan Bhagidari will shape the future of our socio-economic growth. At the same time there should be a balance of rights and duties of citizens to spur overall development with basic facilities, employment opportunities and maintenance of resources, he added.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the unprecedented work being done in Jammu and Kashmir in the last three years through people's participation and proactive citizen-centric governance. Last year, record 3506 projects were completed in district capex only in Jammu. This financial year's budget of Jammu district capex has been increased to Rs 1442 crore as compared to Rs 700 crore in the last financial year, it was informed.

The Lt Governor also reiterated the government's commitment to fulfil the resolution of making Jammu and Kashmir fear-free, corruption-free society.

The elevation of the main building has been kept depicting "Dogra Heritage & Culture" in blend with the architecture of the surrounding Heritage buildings. The facility will provide parking space for nearly 400 vehicles, significantly decongesting traffic in the adjoining area of Jammu city by reducing street parking.

Sh Rajinder Sharma, Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation, on the occasion appreciated the completion of Multi Level Parking and observed that the facility shall ease the traffic situation in the area. He further said that JMC is now focussing on solid waste management in addition to sanitation and enforcement activities.

Sh Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament, said that the new projects are driving the transformation of Jammu city. He complimented the UT administration for the unprecedented developmental activities.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary congratulated the people and officials for the newly inaugurated facility. He further urged Mayor JMC, elected councillors and officials to move towards creating Ward Shabhas to facilitate large scale involvement of people in decision making.

Sh Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Sh Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sh Vikramjit Singh, IGP Traffic, J&K; Ms Avny Lavasa, DC Jammu; Sh Rahul Yadav, Commissioner JMC, besides corporators of JMC, general public and officers of UT administration were present on the occasion.

MUBARAK MANDI

The meeting also decided for establishing a Project Management Unit within two months. The chair was also apprised about various activities organised by the Heritage Society in the Mubarak Mandi Complex. Directions were issued to officials to fully utilise the four buildings restored in the heritage complex, besides ensuring that nobody is allowed near the delicate structure that are undergoing restoration.

The Lt Governor also sought the status of works being undertaken by Archaeological Survey of India. Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department; Sh. Sarmad Hafeez, Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Dr Piyush Singla, Secretary, GAD; Ms Avny Lavasa, DC Jammu; Ms Deepika K Sharma, Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society, besides other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

SECURITY

appropriate deployment," he said. He added a robust security and intelligence grid is in place in J&K to thwart any attempt at the hands of the militants—(KNO)

MIGRANTS

of 1025 units have been completed or substantially completed," he said. He added the Government has reimbursed monthly cash relief to the Kashmiri migrants at Rs 3250 per person subject to a ceiling of Rs 13000 per family. "No fresh migrant has been registered in the last five years, the enhancement of cash relief to Kashmiri migrants is considered from time to time on the recommendation of the government of Union Territory," he added—(KNO)

KHREW,

of Danak Mohalla Khrew, which is located adjacent to the initial target house. Subsequently the militants were zeroed down and again the fire fight erupted between the Police/SFs and hiding militants, which led successful elimination of 02 militants." From the site of encounter, 02 dead bodies of slain militants were recovered, who were later identified as MUSAIB MUSHTAQ BHAT son of Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat and Muzamil Ahmad Rather son of Nazir Ahmad Rather resident of Chakoor Pulwama. Consequently upon this, a case under FIR number 57/2021 under section 307-IPC 7/27 A. Act 16,18,20 & 38 UA(P) Act was registered in Police Station Khrew

and investigation was taken up, police said. During the course of investigation, involvement of Nizam-ud-Din Najar son of Gh Ahmad Najar resident of Danik Mohalla Khrew (son of House owner) came to fore for providing of intentional harbouring and logistic support to the neutralized militants and was accordingly arrested in the instant case on 21/08/2021, for the commission of offences punishable under sections 19 and 39 UA(P) Act which were invoked in the instant case.

Accordingly process under section 25 UA(P) Act for attachment of the house used by the involved accused for intentional harbouring of accused was initiated and submitted to DGP J&K for accord of prior approval and was accorded by the competent authority. In pursuance to the said order and the powers conferred upon investigating officer u/s 25 UA(P) Act of 1967 property (residential house belonging to Gh Ahmad Najar son of Gh Mohd Najar resident of Danak Mohalla Khrew was attached, police said. Meanwhile, police urged people not to harbour or provide shelter or extend logistics to militants / militant associates in their houses, failing which strict legal action will be taken against anyone doing so—(KNO)

DR JATINDRA

Dr Singh said the tariffs of electricity generated by nuclear power are comparable to those of contemporary conventional base load generators like thermal power. The present installed nuclear power capacity comprises of 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MW. In addition, one reactor, KAPP-3 (700 MW) has also been connected to the grid.

WEATHER

Kashmir News Trust that weather will be cloudy on December 8 and it may snow in the upper reaches of the Valley but from December 9 and 10 snowfall is expected across Kashmir Valley. [KNT]

YOUTH CLUB

was approved by the governing body of Mission Youth, headed by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha in its first meeting held on June 17, 2021.

POWER

"This scheme will not only ease the burden of the consumers but will also help the government to generate revenue," Farhan Manzoor said adding that consumers will not have to pay interest and surcharge on pending bills. [KNT]

POLICE

Zahoor Ahmad Dar alias Tota of Nasrullapora.

Police said that the vehicle used for the commission of the crime has also been seized and a case has been registered under relevant sections of law. [KNT]

Training session held for counting staff appointed for counting of votes of DDC constituency Drugmulla

Dr Abdul Qayoom



KUPWARA, DECEMBER 7: District Administration Kupwara today held training session for the counting staff appointed for counting of votes of DDC Constituency Drugmulla here at D. C Office Kupwara.

The training session was presided over by Dy. District Election Officer Kupwara, Mehraj-u-din. Returning Officer, Nodal Officer and Election Staff were present during the training.

On the occasion, the the concerned staff was sensitized about the way and importance of counting by the Master Trainer.

Will lead people to peace, prosperity, not to jails, graveyards: Bukhari

Srinagar, Dec 7 (UNI) Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday said that his party will lead people of Jammu and Kashmir to peace, prosperity and not to jails and graveyards. Addressing a rally at Tangmarg in north Kashmir, Bukhari reiterated his vision to ensure peace, prosperity, development, political and economic empowerment to J&K and its people.

He said unlike the traditional political parties, Apni Party does not believe in the politics of deception; the divisive politics of the traditional political parties has been a curse for the J&K people over the past 75 years. He said, "People have been suffering here for the past several decades due to the turmoil and bloodshed. Apni Party wants to get people out of miseries caused by the protracted turmoil here."

"I assure you that a peaceful and prosperous environment will pave the way for everything that is important for J&K and its people. Political and economic empowerment to the people is possible only when we have a conducive environment here", Bukhari said. He ensures the jailed youth are released. He said, "We have already begun the process to get our youngsters out of the jails. I promise you that we will not leave any stone unturned to ensure the detainees are released to restart their peaceful life with their families."

He said, Apni Party wants to put an end to the exploitative politics of these traditional parties. Emphasizing on sustained peace, he said, "J&K people, who have been suffering for quite a long time, deserve a sustained peace now. Only a durable peace will pave the way for the prosperity and development of this land. Our youth deserves a peaceful and prosperous life. I assure you that the Apni Party will keep striving for a better and promising future for the young generation." Emphasizing on sustained peace, he said, "J&K people, who have been suffering for quite a long time, deserve a sustained peace now. Only a durable peace will pave the way for the prosperity and development of this land.

INDIAN ARMY DISTRIBUTED STATIONARY AND SCHOOL KITS AT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL DHARMARI, REASI

M S Nazki



Reasi With an aim to improve quality of education and motivate school children for attendance in the school, Indian Army distributed Stationary and School Kits at Higher Secondary School, Dharmari in Reasi district under Sadbhavana project. The project was initiated on the request of the village heads, teaching staff of the school and local population. The initiative would help children during their study, thereby boosting their interest in education and improving attendance at the school. During the event point regarding importance of education for progress and prosperity was driven home, as it opens the door to employment and can assist in coming out of under privileged conditions. Total of 95 Children were distributed with the stationary and school kits, who expressed their happiness to receive them. The items were presented to the school in presence of school staff, students and village Sarpanch. The gesture would not only contribute towards improvement in education system but also strengthen the connect between Indian Army and young generation from the remote area.

Armed Forces Flag Day celebrated at Town Hall Kupwara



KUPWARA, DECEMBER 07: Armed Forces Flag Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour and zeal here at Kupwara.

District Administration Kupwara organised an impressive function at Town Hall Kupwara today. Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Datatray presided over the function. Brigadier, TK Panth, CO 41 RR, Naval Gatti; Town Commamder Lt. Col. Amit Manie; besides, Sanik Welfare Officer, Ex servicemen, Widows of veterans and other concerned were present on the occasion.

Addressing the function, the Deputy Commissioner said that Armed Forces Flag Day is celebrated to extend our gratitude towards the supreme sacrifice of brave soldiers and pledge support for the welfare of our Bravehearts and their families. He assured all possible support from the district administration for the welfare of the ex-servicemen and their wards.

Brigadier, CO and other speakers also spoke and highlighted the importance of Armed Forces Flag Day.

The Brigadier also highlighted various welfare schemes including health care and other initiatives of the Army for the welfare of the ex-servicemen, widows of veterans and their children.

Armed Forces Flag Day was also observed at various other locations of the district to commemorate the Sacrifices of our brave soldiers.

Awareness Program on PMFME ODOP conducted at Chasana- Reasi

REASI, DECEMBER 07: An awareness programme on 'Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PM FME Scheme) for promotion of One District One Product' was conducted here at Panchayat Ghar Chasana.

More than 50 farmers including unemployed youth participated in the Awareness programme.

Chief Agriculture Officer and District Nodal Officer PMFME, Harbans Singh inaugurated the awareness programme in presence of District Agriculture Officer Extension Rajesh Verma, Agriculture Extension officers Dara Singh, Sanjay Sharma and JAEO Karan Dev Singh & other officials of Agriculture Department & Sarpanches Shergarhi and Chasote.

The District nodal officer gave a detailed presentation on the scheme and enjoined upon the youth to set up micro food processing units of Mustard Chutney, Chilly 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 scheme.

District Resource Person, Layaqat Hadri explained the process of online application. Bank Manager JK Bank Chasana also addressed the farmers and elaborated the role of the Bank in implementation of the scheme by encouraging the youth of this inaccessible and far flung area of the District.

Officials from allied departments also participated in the programme. Vote of thanks was presented by Sarpanch Shergarhi Mohd Hanief.

Jal Shakti Department invites people to avail online services

JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu has started a host of services on the Single Window System Portal for all the Urban and Rural areas of the Jammu Province.

The public can avail service of Obtaining Water Connection (Domestic); Obtaining Water Connection (Commercial) and NOC for extraction of Ground Water. All the applications for these services will only be received in the online mode on the website <https://singlewindow.jk.gov.in/>.

The User manual/guide for applying on the Single Window System can be accessed through the link https://singlewindow.jk.gov.in/information_wizard.

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RBI policy announcement in line with expectations: Abheek Barua

Srinagar, Dec 7, KNT: Chief Economist HDFC Bank Abheek Barua while commenting on monetary policy said RBI policy announcement today was in line with expectations in terms of raising the policy rate by 35bps and keeping the policy stance unchanged. However, the policy tone was distinctly more hawkish than expected. When a central bank combines its sanguine view on inflation – particularly the persistence in core inflation – it suggests that it is prepared to continue its fight against inflation and has the space and willingness to raise rates further. The central bank emphasized that it is not ready to let up its inflation battle and aims to bring down inflation below 6% in the near term and then closer to 4% over the medium term.

He said there were other signs in the governor's statement that suggested that tightness in financial conditions could intensify going forward.

"Today's policy announcement does provide a soft support for the rupee ahead of the Fed meeting next week and can be viewed perhaps as an attempt by the RBI to continue aligning itself with the still hawkish G7 central banks. Furthermore, the RBI's continued emphasis on the factors that lend support to the rupee, signals its preference for a stable rupee going forward implying intervention on both sides of the market to keep it range bound into 2023." In terms of forecasts, GDP growth was revised down marginally by 20bps to 6.8% for FY23, although the central bank showed comfort around the current growth momentum. On inflation, the full year figures were kept unchanged at 6.7%.

Bottom line is the poicy announcement today signalled that more rate hikes are in the offing. We expect the terminal rate to be close 6.5-6.75%. [KNT]

Students forced to study under open sky in cold at Govt Primary School (Manjakeer) Pathanateer

M S Nazki



Mendhar Government Primary School (PS) Manjakeer at village Pathanateer in Zone Mendhar of Poonch district is working in open without school building for the last Many years.

Despite repeated pleas to the district administration and the School Education Department authorities, no measures were taken for construction of the school building with the result that the students are forced to have classes in open sky, whether it is sweltering summer or chilling winters. Locals Villagers Up in arms against the callous attitude of the concerned authorities, local villagers Said They lamented that the authorities never made an inspection of Government schools situated in far flung areas of Mendhar Zone and hence they were unable to know the conditions under which the students were undergoing studies.

The villagers demanded that the building of Govt Primary School Sumeanu be constructed at the earliest without any further delay so that their children may not suffer any more.

District Administration conducts block diwas events at Nagri Wari, Ringpath



KUPWARA, DECEMBER 7: District Administration Kupwara today organized weekly block diwas events at Nagri Wari in Kupwara block and Ringpath in Qaziabad block.

The main function was held at Nagri in block Kupwara which was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Altaf Ahmad Khan.

DDC Member Natuusa, Zahoor Ahmad, BDC Chairperson, CEO Kupwara, AD Fisheries, AD Planning, LDM Kupwara, Executive Engineer PDD, AD Food, Tehsildar, BDO, Representatives from line departments, besides, PRIs and people in large number attended the block diwas function.

Addressing the function, the ADDC said that the District Administration is committed to address all developmental issues of the people relating to power, water, health, education and road connectivity.

He said that the doors of district administration are always open for the people to hear their developmental issues.

Regarding employment generation, the ADDC urged upon the unemployed educated youth to take benefit under PMEGP and other schemes for establishing their self income generating units.

Earlier, DDC Member and PRIs spoke and raised the issues of the area.

The ADDC heard their issues and directed the officers to ensure that all genuine issues of the people are resolved in a time bound manner.

Meanwhile, officers and representatives from line departments gave thorough awareness to the people regarding schemes of their respective departments.

Block diwas was also held at Ringpath in block Qaziabad which was chaired by BDC Chairperson Qaziabad, Bashir Ahmad Mir. Tehsildar, BDO, officers/representatives from line departments, besides, PRIs and people attended the block diwas event.

Regarding employment generation, the ADDC urged upon the unemployed educated youth to take benefit under PMEGP and other schemes for establishing their self income generating units.

Earlier, DDC Member and PRIs spoke and raised the issues of the area.

Chinese flags flutter in Saudi capital ahead of Xi visit



The Saudi capital was bedecked with Chinese flags ahead of President Xi Jinping's visit on Wednesday that is likely to focus on energy ties but also follows months of tensions with the United States.

The red-and-gold Chinese emblem alternated with the green flag of Saudi Arabia along major roads in Riyadh, while Xi was pictured on the front pages of newspapers that highlighted the trip's potential economic benefits. China, the world's second-biggest economy, is the top customer for oil from Saudi Arabia, the leading exporter of crude, and both sides appear keen to expand their relationship at a time of economic turmoil and geopolitical realignment.

The three-day trip — only Xi's third overseas journey since the coronavirus pandemic began, and his first to Saudi Arabia since 2016 — comes after US President Joe Biden's visit in July, when he pleaded in vain for higher oil production.

It will feature bilateral meetings with Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto ruler, as well as a summit with the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council and a wider China-Arab summit. The programme represents the "largest-scale diplomatic activity between China and the Arab world since the founding of the PRC", or People's Republic of China, foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Wednesday.

Japan announces grant of \$38.9m for Pakistan flood victims

Japan has announced its plan to provide a "grant assistance" of \$38.9 million to Pakistan as part of the country's supplementary budget to deliver life-saving aid to the flood victims, its embassy in Islamabad said on Wednesday.

In August of this year, the world watched in horror as Pakistan was struck by unprecedented floods that rendered over one million people displaced and around 1,700 dead.

According to the Japanese Embassy statement, the projects will commence in January 2023 and Tokyo "will support the affected population in various social and economic dimensions in partnership with WHO, UNFPA, FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNWOMEN, UNHCR, and IPPF in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Punjab provinces, as well as the Islamabad Capital Territory."

The statement added that the proposed areas for support included "emergency medical assistance, food distribution, agriculture and livestock restoration, livelihood recreation, and gender-based violence risk mitigation and response."

It pointed out that "the unprecedented levels of flooding have triggered a multi-dimensional humanitarian crisis, leaving the affected population with increased health risks and food insecurity, insecure livelihoods, and heightened vulnerabilities to gender-based violence."

China announces nationwide loosening of Covid-19 restrictions



China announced on Wednesday a nationwide loosening of Covid-19 restrictions following protests against the headline strategy that grew into calls for greater political freedoms.

Under the new guidelines, some asymptomatic and mild cases of Covid-19 can now quarantine at home, ending a requirement that all positive cases be isolated in centralised government facilities.

Under the new guidelines announced by the National Health Commission, the frequency and scope of PCR testing — long a tedious mainstay of life in zero-Covid China — will be reduced.

Lockdowns will also be scaled down and people with non-severe Covid cases can isolate at home instead of centralised government facilities.

And people will no longer be required to show a green health code on their phone to enter public buildings and spaces, except for "nursing homes, medical institutions, kindergartens, middle and high schools".

The new rules scrap the forced quarantines for people with no symptoms or with mild cases.

"Asymptomatic infected persons and mild cases who are eligible for home isolation are generally isolated at home, or they can voluntarily choose centralised isolation for treatment," the new rules read.

"Mass PCR testing only carried out in schools, hospitals, nursing homes and high-risk work units; scope and frequency of PCR testing to be further reduced," they added. "People travelling across provinces do not need to provide a 48-hour test result and do not need to test upon arrival."

China will also accelerate the vaccination of the elderly, the NHC said, long seen as a major obstacle to the relaxation of Beijing's no-tolerance approach to Covid.

Rare demonstrations against the ruling Communist Party's zero-Covid strategy broke out across China late last month. They expanded into calls for more political freedoms, with some even calling for President Xi Jinping to resign.

Authorities cracked down on subsequent efforts to protest while easing a number of restrictions, with some Chinese cities tentatively rolling back mass testing and curbs on movement.

The capital Beijing, where many businesses have fully reopened, said this week that commuters were no longer required to show a negative virus test taken within 48 hours to use public transport.

AAP's Big Win, Defeats BJP In Key Delhi Polls:

New Delhi: In an election that turned out to be closer than expected, the AAP managed a prestige win; and the BJP did not lose as badly as was predicted. The Congress barely managed to hold on to some relevance.

Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP has won the prestige battle for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), unseating an entrenched BJP. It has won 134 seats, eight above the majority in a House of 250. The BJP, which ran the campaign with PM Narendra Modi's face, has won 104 — a not-so-bad performance after 15 years of continuous rule.

The Congress was reduced to nine, which means its base in Delhi continues to erode. In the 2017 MCD polls — when the BJP won 181 of the total 272 wards, while AAP could manage only 48 — the Congress had managed 30 seats.

The AAP office saw massive celebrations with supporters dancing to dhol beats, and kids dressed as Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The office had kept balloons and celebratory posters ready since morning. AAP leaders had gone into a huddle as the counting threw up a con-



test much tighter than the AAP sweep predicted by exit polls.

This AAP win is the first time it has unseated the BJP in any election. Its wins in Delhi have either been against the Congress or a vote of confidence while in power already. In Punjab early this year, it again won against the Congress. Party leader Sanjay Singh pointed to this, "The BJP would always say AAP has only defeated Congress. Today, Arvind Kejriwal has given them an answer."

Though the BJP has not formed the Delhi state government in the past 24 years, its control over MCD remained strong through Congress and AAP governments. Even when the AAP won a record 67 of 70 seats in the

2015 assembly polls, the BJP, two years later, retained the MCD.

The AAP and BJP, both currently controlling parts of Delhi's administration through state and central governments, saw this as a prestige battle. These were the first civic elections after the MCD — divided into three, area-wise, around 10 years ago — was reunified and the wards redrawn after the latest term of the BJP ended early this year. Over 1,300 candidates were in the contest.

In the campaign, the BJP had gone all-out — as it usually does — getting PM Narendra Modi to hand over keys of some slum rehab flats. It deployed union ministers and chief ministers too. Local leaders were a dis-

tant second fiddle for both main parties.

The AAP prepared since early last year. It kept its pitch directly mounted on the garbage issue: "We've improved things under the state, now let us take care of sanitation too." The slogan "Kejriwal's government, Kejriwal's corporator" rivalled the BJP's similar pitch of "Modi's double engine" — both building on their top leaders' faces.

The BJP made promises of housing, and pressed on corruption charges on several AAP ministers. The Congress used these to take digs at the AAP. But Mr Kejriwal said his "shaandaar" (glorious) work as chief minister won't be defeated by "bogus charges" and "misuse of central agencies".

The Congress was hoping to get some pockets of influence at least, but has lost further ground. It's still rebuilding in Delhi after a decline began in 2014, and then came the death of Sheila Dikshit in 2019. The party's focus on macro-politics of ideology — evident in Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' that's in Rajasthan now — meant the civic body elections weren't high on its priority list.

Rajya Sabha Welcomes New Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha on Wednesday welcomed its new Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar with the treasury benches saying he would hold democratic values, while opposition MPs stressed on scrutiny of government bills by parliamentary standing committees and more time for smaller parties during debates.

On the opening day of the winter session of Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led in felicitating recently appointed Vice President of India Mr Dhankhar, who is ex-officio chairman of the House. PM Modi said the 'Amrit Kaal' of India's independence will not only be a period of national development and glory but also an occasion when the country will play an important role in giving a direction to the world.

He expressed confidence that Mr Dhankhar will uphold democratic values as the chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Leader of Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge as-



sembled support of his party in smooth functioning of the House.

In the previous sessions, the House witnessed several disruptions and adjournments due to protest by opposition parties on various issues.

"As the custodian of this House, your presence here is bigger than your other roles," Mr Kharge said, adding all public issues could not be raised in the House due to shorter duration of sittings.

He said earlier the House used to as-

semble for 100 days in year, but not it has come down to 60-70 days.

Mr Kharge further said though the number of opposition MPs may be less than the treasury benches, they have experience. Welcoming Mr Dhankhar, Trinamool Congress MP Sukhendu Sekhar Ray said there should be scrutiny of bills by parliamentary standing committees and select panels for better legislations. He also said there should be at least one short duration discussion or calling attention per week in the House.

"From now we will expect that, with your elevation to this position will help strengthen the conducive atmosphere of this august house. Both the treasury and opposition benches will get adequate opportunity in the deliberation to be made on various issues bills etc," he said.

The TMC MP also voiced his concern that less time was being allocated for discussion on important legislations in Rajya Sabha compared to Lok Sabha.

Bill To Amend Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act Introduced In Lok Sabha

New Delhi: The Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which seeks to bring transparency and accountability in the sector, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday amidst demands from Opposition MPs that it be referred to a standing committee for review. The Bill, introduced by Minister of State (MoS) for Cooperation BL Verma, also seeks to strengthen governance, reform the electoral process, improve the monitoring mechanism, and ensure ease of doing business in multi-state co-operative societies.

Opposition MPs alleged the Bill's provisions encroach on the rights of state governments. "Cooperative society is a state subject. There is a clear indication that the central government has been encroaching upon the territory of state governments (and) that is why protests are cropping up across the nation," said Leader of Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

This government has always called for cooperative federalism and it should have been followed before the preparation of this Bill, he said.

"This (Bill) may lead to the concentration of power of the central government, which may impact the autonomy and functioning of the multi-state cooperative society and create potential for misuse.

"Given the intricacies, given the ramifications and encroachment of the state territory, this Bill should be referred to a standing committee," he said. Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) leader NK Premchandran said there are technical issues in the Bill and it is against the spirit of the definition of cooperative societies as enshrined in the Constitution.

The Bill seeks to "take away" the rights of state governments and is against the federal structure of the country, he charged.

Congress leader Manish Tewari called for the withdrawal of the Bill and said

certain provisions of the proposed legislation "strike at the heart of the autonomy of cooperative societies".

He also pointed out five clauses of the Bill which he claimed are beyond the legislative competence of the House — clause 6 in sub-section 10 into sub-section 17, clause 13, clause 17, clause 24 and clause 45.

Certain provisions in the Bill put an "additional burden on the cooperatives and infringe on the cardinal principle of autonomous functioning as provided in Article 43B of the Constitution", he added.

Article 43B says the State shall endeavour to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of cooperative societies.

"This Bill should be withdrawn. It should be reconsidered (as) it violates and attacks the federal spirit of the Constitution with a sledgehammer," Mr Tewari said.

Unicef seeks \$10bn to help 110m children in 155 states

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) has launched a \$10.3 billion emergency funding appeal to reach more than 173 million people, including 110 million children, affected by Covid-19 pandemic worldwide and the growing threat of climate-impacted severe weather events.

Funds will support essential programmes for over 110 million children across 155 countries and territories through 2023, according to a Unicef press statement released on Tuesday.

Around the world, a resurgence of disease outbreaks, including cholera and measles, bring an additional danger to children in emergencies, said the statement.

With humanitarian needs at an unprecedented high, Unicef is calling on partners to increase support to life-saving humanitarian response for children, maximising the flexibility of this funding, prioritise climate-adaptive anticipatory action and preparedness efforts, urgently adopt no-regrets approaches to preparedness and response, and ensure equitable and principled humanitarian assistance.

This year began with an estimated 274 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. Throughout the year, these needs grew considerably, largely due to conflict, including the war in Ukraine; to rising food insecurity; to threats of famine brought about by climate-related and other factors; and to the devastating floods in Pakistan.

"Today, there are more children in need of humanitarian assistance than at any other time in recent history," said Unicef Executive Director Catherine Russell. "Across the globe, they are facing a deadly mix of crises, from conflict and displacement to disease outbreaks and soaring rates of malnutrition.

Meanwhile, climate change is making these crises worse and unleashing new ones. It is critical that we have the right support in place to reach children with decisive and timely humanitarian action."

Turkish MP in intensive care after fight in parliament

ANKARA: A lawmaker from a Turkish nationalist opposition party was rushed to intensive care on Tuesday after getting punched in the head in parliament during a heated budget debate.

Images released by the DHA news agency showed Iyi (Good) Party lawmaker Huseyin Ors, 58, being struck by ruling AKP parliamentarian Zafer Isik. Several other lawmakers fell to the ground during the brawl.

Fellow Iyi Party lawmaker Aylin Cesur, a doctor by training who administered first aid on the chamber's floor, said Ors's condition remained critical. "He is still being treated in intensive care," DHA quoted Cesur as saying.

"I am very sad," she said. "His general condition was not good after the blow to the head."

Turkiye's lively parliament has witnessed numerous fights during particularly sensitive debates. In 2020, a fistfight erupted during tense discussions over Turkey's military involvement in Syria.

This year's budget debates come with lawmakers of all stripes trying to defend their interests six months before the next scheduled parliamentary and presidential polls.

Google launches anti-misinformation campaign in India

STOCKHOLM: Google's Jigsaw subsidiary is launching a new anti-misinformation project in India, aimed at preventing misleading information that has been blamed for inciting violence, a top executive said.

The initiative will use "prebunking" videos designed to counter false claims before they become widespread circulated on the company's YouTube platform and other social media sites.

Google's efforts to challenge the spread of misinformation mark a contrast with rival Twitter which is cutting its trust and safety teams, despite new owner Elon Musk saying it will not become a "free-for-all hellscape". Google recently conducted an experiment in Europe where it sought to counter anti-refugee narratives online in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The experiment in India will be bigger in scope as it will deal with multiple local languages — Bengali, Hindi and Marathi — and cover diverse sections of a country populated by over a billion people.

"This presented an opportunity to research prebunking in a non-western, global south market," said Beth Goldberg, Jigsaw's head of research and development. Like other countries, misinformation spreads rapidly across India, mostly through social media, creating political and religious tensions.

Indian government officials have called on tech companies such as Google, Meta, and Twitter to take stronger action against the spread of fake news.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has repeatedly invoked "extraordinary powers" to block YouTube channels, and some Twitter and Facebook accounts, allegedly used to spread harmful misinformation. Inflammatory messages have also spread via Meta's messaging service WhatsApp, which has more than 200 million users in India. In 2018, the company curbed the number of times a message could be forwarded, after false claims about child abductors led to mass beatings of more than a dozen people, some of whom died. Working in collaboration with the Alfred Landecker Foundation, a pro-democracy organisation based in Germany, the philanthropic investment firm Omidya Network India, and a number of smaller regional partners, Jigsaw will produce five videos in three different languages.

PM addresses Rajya Sabha at the start of Winter Session of Parliament

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi addressed the Rajya Sabha at the start of the Winter Session of the Parliament and welcomed the Vice President to the Upper House today.

The Prime Minister began his address by congratulating Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India & Chairman of Rajya Sabha on behalf of all members of the parliament as well as all the citizens of the country. Throwing light on the prestigious position of the Vice President of the country, the Prime Minister remarked that the seat in itself is a source of inspiration for millions.

Addressing the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister expressed delight that today coincides with Armed Forces Flag Day and saluted the armed forces

on behalf of all members of the house. Referring to Jhunjhunu which is the birthplace of the Vice President, the Prime Minister acknowledged the contributions of numerous families of Jhunjhunu that have played an advanced role towards the service of the nation. He highlighted the close association of the Vice President with Jawans and Kisans and said, "Our Vice President is a Kisan Putra and he studied at a Sainik school. Thus, he is closely associated with Jawans and Kisans."

The Prime Minister highlighted that the esteemed upper house of the Parliament is welcoming the Vice President at a time when India has witnessed two monumental events. Modi pointed out that India has entered into the



Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal and also got the prestigious opportunity to host and preside over the G-20 Summit. He further added that India will play a key role in determining the direction of the

world in the days to come other than marking a new era of development for New India. "Our democracy, our Parliament and our parliamentary system will have a critical role in this jour-

ney", he added. Underlining that today marks the formal beginning of the Vice President's term as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister remarked that the responsibility enshrined upon the shoulders of the Upper House is associated with the concerns of the common man. "India understands its responsibilities during this period, and adheres to it", he added.

The Prime Minister also pointed out that the prestigious tribal society of India in the form of the President, Smt Draupadi Murmu is guiding the nation at this important juncture. He also threw light upon ex-President, Ram Nath Kovind who reached the pinnacle position of the country after hailing from a marginalised community.

Rohit Sharma's Effort In Vain As Bangladesh Clinch 2nd Successive ODI Series vs India At Home

Dhaka, India's shoddy batting display and the inability to land the killer blow contributed to their second successive series loss in Bangladesh after the diminutive Mehidy Hasan Miraz led the hosts to a five-run win in the second ODI with a memorable hundred here on Wednesday. Miraz tormented the Indian bowlers on way to his maiden century as Bangladesh staged a remarkable recovery to reach 271 for seven. India's challenge looked all over at 207 for seven but skipper Rohit Sharma's (51 not out off 28 balls) valiant effort went in-vain as he nearly took his team home while batting with a split left webbing.

India needed a six off the final ball of the game but Mustafizur did well to perfect the yorker under pressure after bowling a slew of slow leg-breaks in the 48th over forcing Mohammed Siraj to play out a maiden. Bangladesh had also won their last ODI series against at home back in 2015 when Mashrafe Mortaza's men got the better of M S Dhoni and Co. The series loss also forces India to go back to the drawing board with the World Cup less than 12 months away. At 65 for four, India were in dire straits in the run chase before



a spirited 101-ball 107-run between Shreyas Iyer (82 off 102) and Axar Patel (56 off 56) brought them back into the contest.

Captain Rohit did not come out to open after hurting his elbow while fielding in Bangladesh's innings. It was only after the fall of seventh wicket, he decided to walk into the middle but clearly looked in dis-

comfort. It was a courageous call to come out with a heavily taped left thumb and Rohit did provide a ray of hope by collecting couple of sixes and four from Ebadot Hussain in the 46th over. Then two sixes off Mahmudullah in the 49th over brought the equation down to 20 from the final six balls. The wily Mustafizur was able to defend that after con-

ceding two fours and a six. India's top-order struggled again with Shikhar Dhawan and Virat Kohli, who came out to open in Rohit's absence, falling cheaply. While Kohli played an attempted pull on to his stumps with the ball not bouncing as per his expectations, Dhawan fell to a snorter from Mustafizur Rahman.

Both Washington Sundar (11 off 19) and K L Rahul (14 of 28) fell to poor shot selection. Earlier, India had Bangladesh on the mat at 69 for six before last match's hero Miraz (100 off 83 balls) stitched an epic 148-run partnership off 165 balls with Mahmudullah (77 off 96) to help the home team put up a fighting total.

It was the highest ever seventh-wicket stand against India. Miraz saved his best for the 50th over when he smashed Shardul Thakur for couple of sixes, including a sweetly timed pick up shot, before reaching three figure-mark in the final ball of the innings. The visitors had struggled to take the decisive last wicket in the series-opener and ran out of ideas on Wednesday as well after more than half of the Bangladesh line-up was sent back to the dressing room.

BCCI issues after India captain Rohit Sharma suffers injury

Dhaka, Dec 7 (UNI) India faced a big injury scare during the second ODI against Bangladesh in Dhaka as skipper Rohit Sharma hurt his thumb while fielding. The injury occurred during the fourth delivery of the second over, sent down by Mohammed Siraj, as Rohit, who was fielding in the slip cordon, tried to catch a ball and hurt his thumb. The Indian skipper was immediately taken off the field and replaced by Rajat Patidar. The BCCI has now released a statement on Twitter confirming the injury, with the update that he has been sent for scans. "India Captain Rohit Sharma suffered a blow to his thumb while fielding in the 2nd ODI. The BCCI Medical Team assessed him. He has now gone for scans." India are currently trailing 1-0 in the three-match series after Bangladesh sealed a sensational one-wicket win in the first ODI at the same venue after heroics from Mehidy Hasan and Mustafizur Rahman.

Aim is to become World No.1 : Praggnanandhaa

Chennai, Dec 7 (UNI) Teenage Chess sensation and Grand Master R. Praggnanandhaa today said his aim is to become World Number one and he will work hard to achieve it. He was speaking at a felicitation function organised by Velammal Matric Higher Secondary school - where the 17-year-old Chess star was now studying 12th standard - for receiving the prestigious Arjuna award at a very young age. During the function, the school management presented him a cheque for Rs ten lakhs for receiving the Arjuna award. The cheque was presented to him by Tamil Nadu Sports and Youth Welfare Minister V. Meeyanathan and HR and CE Minister P.K. Sekar Babu in the presence of School Principal MVM Velmohan at a grand function held at the school grounds in the city.

Replying to felicitations, Praggnanandhaa, who had been creating waves and had defeated World Number One Magnus Carlsen thrice, said he wanted to become World Number One. "I am studying in this school for the last 13 years, right from LKG. Now I am into 12th Standard. I thank the school management, teachers and friends for their support that helped me to become Grand Master". "My aim is to become World Number One. I will work hard to attain that goal. After attaining my goal, I will come back and meet you all", he told the gathering, which included teachers, school students and their parents".

Cummins to miss second Test as Australia name replacement

Adelaide, Dec 7 (UNI) Australia have decided to not risk Pat Cummins during this week's second Test against the West Indies and have left their captain out of their final XI for the Adelaide day-night contest. Cummins failed to bowl during the final two days of Australia's emphatic 164-run triumph over the West Indies in the first Test in Perth due to a quad injury and his spot in the XI for Adelaide will instead be taken by fellow quick Scott Boland, an ICC report said.

Boland hasn't played a Test since he collected 18 wickets from three Ashes Tests against England last summer, but earns a recall after missing out on selection in Perth. The absence of Cummins also means veteran batter Steve Smith will captain Australia once again, after he stood in for the Australia skipper in the Adelaide Test against England last year when Cummins was deemed a close COVID-19 contact. It is expected that Cummins will be fit in time to lead Australia in the first Test against South Africa in Brisbane next week. "Team medical staff commenced Cummins' recovery in Adelaide but selectors deemed there was not sufficient time for the fast bowler to be fully fit for the match, which starts tomorrow," a statement from Cricket Australia read. "Cummins is expected to return for the opening Test match against South Africa in Brisbane." Smith said he was looking forward to filling in for Cummins and promised he would bring his own attributes to the role. "I have to do it my own way. I can't be someone else," Smith said on Wednesday. "I am pretty chilled - I took over for the game here last year and thought it went pretty smoothly. So same again."

Croatia gear up for 'scary' Brazil test



The morning after his side ended Japan's dream of reaching the quarter-finals, Croatia head coach Zlatko Dalic held a news conference at the Al Ersal Complex training ground in the heart of Doha. His players had a day off after their excruciating penalty shootout win over a spirited Japanese side less than 12 hours ago. In Qatar, Dalic is looking to go one better than in Russia four years ago when the Croats reached the final. But just to get into the semi-finals here, Dalic will be going up against a side which in his own words he would've liked to meet in the title clash. "It doesn't get better than playing Brazil but it would've been good if we were playing the final instead of the quarter-final," Dalic told reporters on Tuesday. When Croatia overcame Japan thanks to the goalkeeping, penalty-stopping brilliance of Dominik Livakovic, they hadn't known who their last-eight opponents would be. It was back at their hotel on the West Bay, on the edge of the Arabian Gulf did they discover it will be Brazil, who made a statement of

their intent later on Monday night when they thrashed South Korea 4-1 with all their goals coming in the first half.

"They have so many great players," said Dalic. "It's scary so it will be a big test for us. But we will not surrender before the game. We want to counter Brazil's quality with our own."

A lot of members of the Croatian squad from four years ago have now long gone. But the talismanic Luka Modric still remains the beating heart of this side at the ripe age of 37. Modric was unable to last the full duration of the game against Japan. Croatia did however continue their remarkable run of winning all their knockout matches since the World Cup in Russia when they went beyond 90 minutes. "It seems that we can't do it without the drama," said Modric, for whom every next game is a bonus. "We are more than happy to reach the quarter-finals." Croatia's battling spirit, forged by the Balkan War, is ingrained in each of their players and Modric was once a war refugee.

Angry David Warner abandons bid to overturn Australia leadership ban

David Warner withdrew a bid to overturn his lifetime Australian leadership ban on Wednesday, claiming an independent review panel wanted to "conduct a public lynching" and it would be traumatic for his family.

The dynamic opener and former Test vice-captain was banned from any leadership role over his part in the Cape Town ball tampering affair in 2018.

He was also slapped with a one-year playing suspension, but bounced back to reclaim his place in the national side across all three formats of the game.

Last month, Cricket Australia amended its player code of conduct policy which paved the way for him to request a review of the captaincy ban before a panel of three code of conduct commissioners.

But he has seemingly now shut the door with a scathing, and lengthy, statement on social media claiming the panel had made "offensive and unhelpful" comments about him.

He alleged they wanted "a public trial of me and what occurred during the Third Test at Newlands" in 2018.

"They want to conduct a public spectacle to, in the panel's words, have a



"cleansing". I am not prepared for my family to be the washing machine for cricket's dirty laundry," he wrote on the eve of the second Test against the West Indies in Adelaide.

He added that it appeared the panel "has given no more than passing consideration to issues of player welfare and the interests of Australian cricket and is instead determined to conduct a public lynching".

"Regrettably, I have no practical alternative at this point in time but to withdraw my application."

The panel was set to determine whether Warner's behaviour had improved and his remorse was genuine, in essence revisiting the events of 2018 when he was cast as the key villain in the "Sandpaper-gate" scandal. Back then,

he conspired with Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft to alter the ball during the third Test in Cape Town.

Under CA's new rules, a player needs to demonstrate that "exceptional circumstances exist to justify modifying a sanction".

The new rule "acknowledges that players and player support personnel are capable of genuine reform or rehabilitation".

Under the previous code of conduct, players had no right to review a sanction once it had been accepted. The panel was set to determine whether Warner's behaviour had improved and his remorse was genuine, in essence revisiting the events of 2018 when he was cast as the key villain in the "Sandpaper-gate" scandal. Back then,

جمعه خطاب
مہمان مکرم
Er. Umar Farooq - Gazi-Sir
بتاریخ 09 December 2022 جمعہ
شروع بیان 12:30 Pm
Venue: Jamia Masjid Shareef Watayin near police station Chogal.

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