HT NEWS DESK

en by the Haj Committee of India (HCoI),

for the Haj 2023, two lakh pilgrims will be

allowed to perform the sacred pilgrimage

from India with special focus on women.

With the increase in Haj quota, the num-

ber of pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir

will also be more compared to previous

Official announcement in this regard

will be made shortly. This is for the first

time that two lakh Indian Muslims will

perform Haj 2023. Talking to news agen-

cy-Kashmir News Observer, exclusive-

ly, member HCoI, Er Aijaz Hussain said

that HCoI after thorough consultations

with the Saudi Arabia Government's Haj

ministry, has decided to allow two lakh

pilgrims from India for the Haj 2023. "The

Haj quota has been increased and for the

year 2023, two lakh pilgrims will perform

the holy pilgrimage," he said. "In Haj 2023,

special focus will be on women pilgrims."

Asked whether the J&K will also have an

enhanced Haj quota, Er Aijaz said that the

number of pilgrims from UT will obvious-

ly be more than the previous years given

NEWS MAGAZINES PRINTING FLYERS, POSTERS, BUSINESS CARDS, BROCHURES, FORMS LETTERHEADS, INVOICES,

SRINAGAR FRIDAY 09 DECEMBER 2022 ●14 JUMADA AL-AWWAL ● 12TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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'Discipline, determination defining attributes of youth': LG Manoj Sinha

Interacts with Officers, Volunteers of J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 08: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with Officers and Volunteers of J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides, today at the Raj Bhavan. The delegation was led by J&K Chapter Commissioner, Wg Cdr M.M Joshi comprising Administrator, Nasreen Khan; HQ Commissioner Capt. Sharma; Training Commissioner Guide Wing, Man-jeet Kaur; Guides Captain, Jyoti Verma; Guide, Pooja Gupta & Scout, Sumkit Jain.

The Lt Governor observed that Scouts & Guides symbolize selfless service, unity in diversity. Volunteers are actively working for the cause of social equity and strengthening values like self-discipline, comradeship in the society, he noted.

It is a matter of great pride for us



that the Scouts & Guides are discharging their duties with efficiency and effectiveness. The spirit of the Scouts & Guides needs to be replicated in other spheres of community to bring about constructive

transformation, said the Lt Gover-

nor. Observing that discipline and determination are the defining attributes of youth, the Lt Governor said, through Mission Youth, we are encouraging the young generation to selflessly

CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10

LG addresses Message of Humanity Conference organised by Dogra Sadar Sabha, J&K

Social development, aspirations of people can be fulfilled only in conditions of peace'

Jammu, Dec 08: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday addressed the Message of Humanity Conference organised by Dogra Sadar Sabha, J&K.

The Conference was presided over by Governor of Kerala, Arif Mohammed Khan.

Arif Mohammed Khan in his presidential address spoke elaborately on the message of different religions. He said Secularism has been a core characteristic of India CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10

Srinagar, Dec 08 In a major decision tak-

In a first, two lakh Indian Muslim

pilgrims to perform Haj 2023

Official announcement soon; More pilgrims from J&K compared to previous years

increase in Haj quota. He said it was after hectic efforts by the HCoI that the Haj quota for India was increased to two lakh. "We are also working to make Haj 2023 cheaper and smooth compared to previous pilgrimages," Er Aijaz said.

He said that HCoI has already decided to ensure more embankment points to facilitate pilgrims in a friendly manner. "Pilgrims will have a choice to choose the embankment points of their choice," he said. He said that in Haj 2023, special focus will also be on women pilgrims. "Earlier, many women aspiring to go for Haj without 'mehram' faced a lot of issues. We will address their issues and allow them to perform the Haj smoothly," Er Aijaz said. Reliable sources in the HCoI said that it was after a series of meetings in Mumbai and New Delhi followed by the brainstorming sessions where feedback taken by the pilgrims from various parts of the country was discussed and strategies formed to plug the loopholes. They said that in the upcoming Haj, pilgrims will be facilitated in a more efficient manner. Pertinently, after the resumption of

CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10

Shopian Encounter: Militants escape after brief exchange of fire

HT NEWS DESK

Shopian, Dec 08: After a brief exchange of fire, militants have managed to give slip to security forces in Wathoo area of South Kashmir's Shopian district where an encounter broke out last night, officials said here on Thursday. An official told the news agency-Kashmir News Observer that encounter broke out last evening after a joint team of Police, Army and CRPF launched search operation in the area. He said as the joint team of forces

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 10

CS reviews progress on Aadhaar penetration across J&K

Directs officers to launch ALBR by 15th December, CRS by end of this month

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 08: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today emphasized upon all the stakeholders to complete the 100 percent Aadhaar penetration across J&K, underlining that the Union Territory has completely moved to digital means by offering all the citizen centric services through online mode and Aadhaar is a prerequisite to avail those services.

The Chief Secretary made these remarks while chairing a meet to review the Aadhaar saturation across Jammu and Kashmir at

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PDD, H er Secretary, Information Tech-



Rajesh Prasad; Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sanjeev Verma; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P.K Pole; Commission-

nology, Prerna Puri; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, CGM, BSNL, all Deputy

Commissioners and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing. Addressing the officers, Dr. Mehta highlighted that Aadhaar is a unique identity of every citizen by which they are able to avail any government service in hassle free manner. He directed all the Deputy Commissioners to take up the Aadhaar saturation in mission mode so that effective and efficient public services are provided to the people.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the DCs to formulate re-deployment plan for optimum utilisation of Aadhaar stations in order to achieve the 100% penetration. "Mobilise people to

CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10

Hold Assembly elections within six months: Azad to ECI

Says youth frustrated, indulging in drugs; valley going through uncertainty

chief of Democratic Azad Party (DAP) on Thursday urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) assembly elections in J&K should be held within next six months. DAP chief, Ghulam Nabi Azad while speaking in Lolab, Kupwara as per the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, that since the assembly was dissolved, the Jammu and Kashmir has gone through the several uncertain and unexpected things which includes the abrogation of Article 370, which no one

Kupwara, Dec 08: Ghulam Nabi Azad,

could have ever thought. Azad, while urging the government to hold the elections in next six months said, that they can't wait till the year 2024 for the assembly elections. "We have already suffered a lot and the election is need of an hour", said Azad, as per KNO.



He said that the decision of dissolving the assembly was totally unjustified as the situation in the valley was peaceful and there was no militancy at that time. "Our vouth who are well educated are frustrated and are involved

CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10

DDC repoll results declared in Drugmulla, Hajin-A, Independents win both seats State election Commissioner appreciates efforts for smooth conduct of elections

DR ABDUL QAYOOM

SRINAGAR, **DECEMBER** 08: The State Election Commissioner, KK Sharma today appreciated the efforts of various departments involved in ensuring smooth conduct and counting of votes of re-poll of two District Development Council seats in Kashmir.

The SEC further said that despite the cold conditions prevalent in the Valley, the officials associated with the counting and the related things have extraordinarily carried out their duties for declaration of results to the utmost satisfaction of every political party and people alike. He also complimented all the District Administration for



the arrangements that were put in place for the counting process besides ensuring smooth conduct of election

In DDC constituency, Drugmulla in Kupwara Independent Candidate, Amina Majeed (election symbol Truck)

won the DDC Seat Drugmulla by 39 votes. According to the results de-

clared by Returning Officer, DDC constituency, Drugmulla, the Independent Candidate. Amina Majeed(election symbol truck) got 3259 votes, followed by PDP candidate Shabnam Rehman (election symbol Pen and Inkpot) 3220

Pertinently, 32.73 % was recorded in Drugmulla Constituency Kupwara District which went to the polls today.42 polling stations were set up for DDC Drugmulla which recorded a percentage of 32.73 . 10724 votes were polled against total electorate

of 32768. 5624 Males CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10

Only one resident militant from Srinagar active at present: Police

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 08: In a major success against militancy and law & order front in Srinagar district, a top police official informed that only one active resident militant is left from Sri nagar district, plus law & order situations and bandhs/strikes have almost faded away.

A top police official told the news agency Kashmir News Observer that just one resident militant is left from Srinagar distt namely Mo min Gulzar, a resident of Eidgah area. It was also conveyed that not letting the youth join militant ranks is among the top priority of J&K police. Further, the militancy incidents in Srinagar distt have been reduced considerably and the district is fast becoming one of the most peaceful districts of the Valley. The officials said that in this year from 1st January 2022 till date, only 2 minor law & order incidents took place-one in Shankerpora, Nowgam and another at Maisuma area of Srinagar. Both the incidents were minor in nature and were contained within minutes. This is in contrast when in 2018 more than 200 were reported and around 400 in 2016. "This indicates that peace is fast returning to Srinagar and efforts are on to make the peaceful atmosphere a permanent feature," the officials said. Earlier J&K Police chief, DGP J&K, Dilbagh Singh had informed that the number of militants both foreigners and locals have been brought to two digits after

KU likely to announce winter vacations from first week of January

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 08: The University of Kashmir (KU) is likely to announce winter vacations from the first week of January 2023.

Top officials of the varsity informed the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the management will announce the winter vacations from the first week of January 2023.

"As of now, we have not conducted the meet ing with the deans of the university, but in the weeks time we will hold with them and will accordingly decide about the winter vacations,' the official said. He also said that examinations of several departments have also been slated

CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10

CBK files challan against 5 accused in cheating, forgery case

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 08: The Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir produced challan against five accused persons in a case related to cheating and forgery, thereby causing loss to state exchequer. According to a statement. issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), challan was filed in Case FIR No. 28/2017 U/S, 409, 420, 468, 471,201,120-B RPC before the court of CJM Srinagar against 05 accused persons for hatching a criminal conspiracy in league with each other and resorting to cheating, forgery and destruction of records, thereby causing wrong full gain to the deceased accused against the corresponding wrongful loss to the state ex-

The statement reads case had been registered upon receipt of a written Communication of Chief Education Officer, Bandipora, wherein it was alleged that deceased Ex-Principal Government Higher Secondary School, Bandipora has produced a court order for release of pension gratuity with interest, issued by

CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10

Principal Secretary PDD reviews power scenario in Kashmir with KPDCL officers

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, DE-CEMBER 8: Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), H Rajesh Prasad, today convened a review meeting with officers of Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), regarding power scenario in Kashmir.

Secretary was Principal briefed by the Managing Director KPDCL, Yasin M Choudhary, regarding the present curtailment schedule of KPDCL which is being implemented by the Sub-Transmission Divisions of KPDCL. Principal Secretary directed the KPDCL Engineers to strictly adhere to the curtailment schedule so that public won't have to face hardships



on this account. He also asked to ensure wide publicity of the curtailment schedule so that it reaches to every consumer of KPDCL.

Principal Secretary was also briefed regarding the distress curtailments due to restrictions from the supply end.

Principal Secretary gave a patient hearing to the problems arising out of distress curtailments and assured that the matter will be taken up with the senior officials for redressal.Later, MD KPDCL visited the Bemina Grid Station during peak hours to get

apprised of the load shedding and distress curtailments. He issued directions that the curtailment schedule must be adhered to strictly and distress cuts be limited to minimum. The meeting was attended by Shiv Anant Tayal, Managing Director JPDCL, Chief Engineers of KPDCL, JPDCL, JK-PCL and JKPTCL, Superintending Engineers of KPDCL and all Executive Engineers (Sub-Transmission Divisions) of KPDCL. The meeting was attended by Shiv Anant Tayal, Managing Director JPDCL, Chief Engineers of KPDCL. JPDCL, JKPCL and JKPTCL, Superintending Engineers of KPDCL and all Executive Engineers (Sub-Transmission Divisions) of KPDCL.

CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10

High Court cancels exams for posts of JE Jal Shakti, JKPSI by JKSSB

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 08: The Jammu Kashmir High Court on Thursday set aside and cancelled the examination conducted by the JKSSB for the posts of Junior Engineer (Civil) Jal Shakti Department and sub-inspector of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the high court also directed the government to constitute a high-level committee headed not less than by a retired high court judge to enquire into the conduct of JKSSB.

The court directed the government to conduct enquire into the brazen irregularities conduct by JKSSB and appropriate action be initiated against those found guilty. The Government is hereby directed to constitute a high level Committee headed by not less than a retired High Court Judge to enquire into the conduct of Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board for the their brazen irregularities and illegalities in changing the terms and conditions of the tender, also as to what weighed with them to award a contract to conduct an examination by an organization which has previously facilitated mal

CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10

DC Anantnag conducts late night surprise check at District Hospital

nag, Dr Basharat Qayoom today conducted a late night surprise check of District Hospital Anant-

The DC inspected various sections of the hospital including casualty wards, IPD, Emergency, biochemistry lab, office area and medical ICU. He interacted with

the on duty staff as well as with several patients and enquired regarding the medical facilities being

He also inspected the functioning of the heating facility and emphasized on maintaining hygienic conditions in the hospital as well on en-



care is provided to the patients.

The DC directed Principal, GMC Anantnag Dr Tariq Qureshi and MS to take immediate steps for augmenting the capacity of the casualty ward. He emphasized that patients come to the hospital with much hope and it is important to show empathy and concern while extending medical care.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Anantnag. Principal and MS DH Anantnag, professors from GMC Anantnag, doctors and paramedical staff were also present during the

MD KPDCL chairs meeting of Officers, members of FCIK

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 08: A meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Managing Director (MD) KPDCL, Yaseen. M. Choudhary, wherein senior officials of KPDCL, President (FCIK) and other senior members of Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FKIC) were present.

The meeting discussed Tariff Revision by JERC in detail and queries raised regarding latest amendments in tariff were also discussed. The FCIK members were apprised of the fact that the tariff revision has come after a period of more than 6 years and it was revised by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC). The members of the FCIK were made aware of the fact that no changes can be made in

revised tariff order, wherein the LT industries are mandated to install meters that can read KVAH readings too

The MD, KPDCL along with Chief Engineer (Distribution) and other senior officials of the KPDCL gave a patient hearing to the concerns of FCIK. MD KPDCL assured them that their genuine demands will be

During the course of discussion. FCIK requested the top officials of KPDCL to look into their problems, wherein MD, KPDCL assured them that necessary action on replacing the damaged meters, that have developed technical snag due to the fault on 11KV Line of Bagh Ali Mardan Khan Industrial Estate shall be done out of their own.

He said KPDCL will take up maintenance of the transformers and relieve SICOP/SIDCO/I&C from this burden besides, KPDCL will also ensure uninterrupted power supply to organized industrial sector and

The MD said that KPDCL will take stock of the progress of project being executed and assured FCIK, that Power supply to new units in Khunmoh/Wuyan will be made available within one month.

The meeting was attended by the Officers and officials of KPDCL including Chief Engineer (Distribution), KPDCL; Superintending Engineers, Circle Ist and 2nd, KPD-CL: Executive Engineers of Div 1st/ 2nd/3rd/4th, KPDCL; All AEEs of concerned divisions.

International anti-Corruption Day observed at **Government College for Women Parade**

08: NSS units of Government College for Women, commemorated Anti-Corruption Day.The esteemed chief guest on the occasion was Rajinder Shar-Mayor, Jammu, who addressed the issue with utmost attention

تضمون : درخواست منجانب : سائل/ سائله مسمات خاطی بیوه غنی میر ساکنه موضع پونز و مخصیل آ ري مل بمرادا جرائي فو تگي شِفِهَاييتْ متو في مسمى غنى مير ولدرمضان ميرسا كنه يونز وتخصيل آ ري مل ب اشتهار بمراد آگاهی هر خاص و عام معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے بارے میں بیان سائل/سائل/سائیلان وبیان چند کس دھ معززین وبیان مبردار دھ چوکیدارعلاقہ سے واضح ہے کہ سائل/ سائلہ کا والد/شو ہرمورخہ **03-08-2009** کو**فوت** ہوا ہے۔البتہ متوفی کے دارثان نے تا حال بوجہ لاعلمی چوکیدار علاقہ کے فوتکی رجٹر میں اندراج نہیں کرواما ہے۔ راقم کے دفتر میں معاملہ زیر بحث کی نسبت مثل زیر کارروائی ہے۔اس طورا گر کسی مخض یا اشخاص کو

متوفی کی فوتگی کا اندراج کرنے کے احکامات اجراء کرنے کے بارے میں کوئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپنا

عتراض اندرسات یوم راقم کے دفتر میں دفتری اوقات میں بذات خودتحریری طور پیش کریں۔معیاد

زدفترا كيزيكيومجسر يث درجهاول لوره كام بااجلاس عبدالرشيد دارنائب بخصيلدارلوره كام

گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگاتے ریالصدر ایگزیکٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجه اول لوره گام

and wisdom. The event started with lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries and a formal welcome address by the Principal of the college, Dr S.P. Sarswat. He thanked the chief guest for sparing his precious time from his busy schedule to grace the occasion. In his address, Rajinder Sharma shared his views regarding the topic and apprised the students about the demerits of corruption and how it could have a drastic influence on students and society at large. The Mayor gave a detailed account of the various initiatives taken by the Govt for eradication of corruption. He also informed the students that JMC has adopted a resolution to resolve that all the candidates for election of corporator should have graduation as basic eligible criteria. "JMC is the only Municipal Corporation in India who has taken up this initiative. Further, he also asked students to keep a vigil over any sort of corruption happening around them. The Mayor further highlighted the 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.

UnionTerritoryJammu&Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITINGTENDER

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage ratebasisfromapprovedandeligiblecontractors registeredwithJ&KStateGovt.CPWD,RailwaysandotherState/CentralGovernmentsforthefollowing works:

S.No	NameofWork	Adv. Cost (Rs. InLacs)	CostofT/ DOC (InRupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time &Date of Openingof Bid	ClassofCo ntractor	M.HofAccount
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
01	construction of Two rooms along with bath room for PHC Duroo by way of P/F Vitrified tiles and raising of fencing.	2.07	200/-	5340/-	15 days	16.12. 2022	DEE	PRI Grants

Positionoffunds: A V A I L A B L E Position of ts/Accorded

DIPK-14790/22

consistingofqualifyinginformation, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, billof quantities (B.O.Q), Set conditions other detail's contract and terms and

 $seen/downloaded from the departmental website {\color{blue}www.jktenders.gov.in} as perschedule of dates given below:$ Date of issue of tender Notice 08.12.2022 Period of downloading of bidding 08.12.2022 15.12.2022(u documents pto 4.PM) Bid Submission start date 08.12.2022 Bid submission End date 15.12.2022 (4.00 PM) Date and time of opening of bides 16.12.2022(12.30 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division. Sopore

2 Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan/ CDR (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3,At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid secu $rity of 2\% \ will be \ released \ to \ the \ successful \ bidder \ only \ after \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ Security \ of \ 3\% \ of \ the \ submission \ of \ a \ Performance \ submission \ of \ submission \ of \ subm$ total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b) Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

 $4 The date and time of opening of Bidsshall be notified on web Site www.jket enders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders \\ authors a conveyed to the bidders \\ authors \\ authors$ tomatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shallbeopenedonli $neon same website in the office of the \ Tender receiving authority).$

5, The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

6, Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.6.1, Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as a constant of the constant of the

well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov. in acquain this dsubmission process. The property of the pro6.2, To participate in bidding process, bidders have toget 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology and the process of the procogyAct-2000.Bidderscangetdigitalcertificatefromanyapprovedvendor.

6.3, The bidders have to submit their bids on line in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted as the bid of tedinphysicalform..

6.4, Bids will be opened on lineas per times chedulementioned in Para-I

6.5, Bidders must ensure to uploads canned copy of all necessary documents with bid.shallremainsameasperNITNo:1of2022-23issuedunderNo;-369-89dated:20.04.2021

Allotherterms, conditions PWDform25(Doubleagreement

 $20. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, \ his contractor of the contra$ tender shallberejectedoutrightlyForandonbehalfoftheLt.GovernorofJ&KUT,

> **Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore**

DC Srinagar assesses performance of Blocks under Jal Jeevan Survekshan

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir Office of t Ph. No. 01933-241215 Fa Subject: Readvertise Subsequ Notification No. 6 Dat Shadimarg vide letter N hereby invited from inte Achagooza for establish Important Dates: Date How to apply: The app

icer Pulwama

% subsidy basis.

selected vide this office is communicated by VAS n on prescribed format are om residents of CD Block

s: 09/12/2022 n working days during

A) Office of the undersigned (mobile unit Pulwama)

B) Office of the veterinary assistant surgeon Sheep Development Block Shadimarg.

Annexure "A"

S.No.	<u>Scheme</u>	Details	Tentative No. of units
1.	Integrated Sheep	Procurement of shearing units (comprising of one	
	development	shearing machine, one Genset and shearing accessories)	1 such unit
	scheme.	50% of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with a	l
		ceiling of Rs 0.75 lacs per unit whichever is less	Į.
			1
- 1			

General terms & conditions for scheme:

- 1. Households who have availed any benefit under the said schemes are not eligible.
- More than one application shall not be entertained from the same household.

No application shall be entertained after cutoff date i.e, 15/12/2022. ed efforts to achieve the tions and certification the rural water supply to this effect has been aldesired results and meet system for operation &

ready completed. With regard to Water quality tests, the DC asked the concerned to achieve 100 percent target the timelines targeted for completion of tasks at all levels. The DC further asked

the concerned Officer

maintenance. Superintending

neer PHE Hydraulic, Superintending Engineer, Mechanical PHE, Assisusing FTKs or Labs by December 12.

The DC also asked them to complete Skill training/programmes of the resources by December

DC Srinagar withholds salary of 162 employees for late office reporting/Unauthorised absence

Major Inspection of Government offices held across the district

SRINAGAR DECEMBER 08:- In order to ensure punctuality in Govern inspection of different Zainakote tenders are invited in two coverns from the formal covernment of the feet that some control of the feet that some formal covernment of the feet that such in officers the sent and experience control of the feet that such in officers of District Ad across the District includates from the feet that such in the feet of the feet that such in officers of District Ad across the District includates from the feet of the fee uty Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Thursday conducted surprise inspection of various Government Offices in Srinagar and

Srinagarien SubwDivisional Magistrate, East and Sub

Divisional Magistrate BH School Barthana, West undertook surprise PHC, Zainakote, GGMS the classestions note that Dept experience to the classes of the classes of the classes of the classes of the control of the control of the classes of the c Panchayat Office, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Agriculture Officer, R&B, I&FC, FCS&CA, RTO, Revenue Training Institute, R&B,

> gineer Water Works Division, UPHC, Qamarwari,

absent from their duties

Commission oner Revenue be seck of his basted Executive a Finental Messite mplowers or spurither

or reporting late in the Office causing inconvenience to public. Taking serious note of

their unauthorized ab-

explanation was also sought from the all said Meanwhile, the Deputy

authorized Analogous and late officechnepicinting Newill not be tolerated at all. He also passed strict

instructions to the concerned District heads checked the attendance of Health Institutions in sence and late office reemployees and other details can be seen discovered by the second of Health Institutions in sence and late office re-of qualities (\$60) Sector terms and continuous of the here to the office timing of to avoid inconvenience to the general public.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Bandipora Forest Division Chitternar.

e- NIT NO: -23 OF 2022-23 DATED: 06-12-2022

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of Jammu &

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In lacs)	Bid Security (EMD)INR	CLASS OF CONTRAC- TOR	Cost of Tender Document. Rs)	TIME OF COM- PLETION
01	and Preparation of potting mixture by sieving soil, humus and sand and removing pebbles and other undesirable material and mixing net quantity in the ratio of 3:2:1 &followed by filling up of bags, preparation of beds and placement of such filled bags in suitable beds of nursery for raising of nursery stocks In Chitternar Nursery (Low cost and RDF CAPEX) No. of Poly pots=58350 No.'s Note: Polybags shall be supplied departmentally.	3.395	6792.00	D Class PWD Contractor / Forest Contractor, JKFDC Contractor	Rs. 200/=	25 calendar Days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: -www.jktenders.gov.in. **Position of AA: Accorded**

Position of T/S: Accorded

Position of Funds: Budgeted.

Publishing Date: -	06-12-2022				
Download Start Date:	06-12-2022 from 04:00 PM				
Bid submission Start Date:	06-12-2022 from 04:00 PM				
Pre- Bid Consultation and Venue	08-12-2022 Working hours office of the Divisional Forest officer Bandipora.				
Bid submission End Date:	15-12-2022Up to 04.00 PM				
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	16-122022 at 11.30 AM in the Office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle at Shiekh Bagh Srinagar.				
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	To be opened (Online) after Technical Evaluation is Completed. Date will be notified separately.				

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - https://jktenders.gov.in 02.

The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.

03. Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Deposit in the shape of EMD for requisite amount and pledged to <u>Divisional Forest Officer Bandipora Forest Division Chitternar.</u>

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of <u>90 days</u> from the date of opening of bids.

The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

DIPK-14658/22

Sd/-DFO BANDIPORA FOREST DIV CHITTERNAR

DC Baramulla inaugurates Sanitary

Napkin Production Unit

BARAMULLA, DECEM-BER 08: The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) in collaboration with Vatsalya Foundation, a Non Government Organisation Baramulla today established a Sanitary Napkin manufacturing unit at Fathepora Baramulla.

The unit was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar.

During the inauguration, CEO Vatsalva Foundation and team of JKRLM, SHG members were also present.On the occasion, the Self Help Groups (SHGs) members were trained for successful running of the unit.Pertinently, the good thing in the sanitary Napkin manufacturing unit is that the material used is eco friendly (Biodegradable) and its cost is also low as compared to the others.In order to support the manufacturing unit, 50 schools were identi fied by education department Baramulla where Vatsalya Foundation will provide incinerators and vending machines and the unit will supply the sanitary Napkins to these

Similarly, to provide first hand training 100 teachers (Female only) were provided training at Boys Higher Secondary School Baramulla. After inauguration of

the unit, the DC said that this project will simultaneously help in spreading awareness on the benefits of adopting hygienic practices and overcoming problems of availability and affordability of sanitary napkins to women in the area. She further said that this is a much needed initiative that will help serve a kev area of women's health, and therefore will be of immense benefit

DC Baramulla chairs Officers meet to discuss Revenue matters

Ensure Completion of Digitization of Masavis/ Maps by December 31: Dr Sehrish directs Officers

BARAMULLA, DECEM-BER 08: In order to review the progress achieved on the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP), the Deputy Commission er (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today chaired a meeting of concerned Officers of Revenue Department at meeting hall of DC Office,

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of the computerization of Land Records including digitization of Jamabandies, authentication of Jamabandies, quality check of scanned data, implementation of On-line Services, DPR for upgrading Tehsil Offices/

Patwar Khanas and other related matters.

While discussing the Digitization of Land Records, the DC directed the concerned authorities to complete the process of Digitization of Masavis (Maps) in the district by the end of this month besides rectification of digitized land Records. She also exhorted upon the departments to all-together implement the online services for the ease of the general public.

It was also given out that the process of generating Land Passbooks should be completed for its timely distribution among the beneficiaries.

Regarding online services, the DC asked the



officers to ensure effective, efficient and prompt implementation of Public Services Guarantee

Act. She directed them to work with added zeal and missionary approach to ensure hassle free public

services delivery system and time bound redressal of online grievances of the people.Additional Deputy

also

Commissioner Parvaiz Sajad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; Tehsildars besides officials of the concerned departments were present in the meeting. It was also given out that the process of generating Land Passbooks should be completed for its timely distribution among the beneficiaries.Regarding online services, the DC asked the officers to ensure effective, efficient and prompt implementation of Public Services Guarantee Act. She directed them to work with added zeal and missionary approach to ensure hassle free public services delivery system.

Awareness programme on MWPSC Act 2007 organised at Baramulla

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL DEFENCE

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 08: A one-day Legal Awareness programme on Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007 (MWPSC Act 2007) for Police functionaries to promote "Inter-Generational Bonding and Ageing with Dignity" was today held at District Bar Association Baramulla.

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 in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Baramulla. The programme was conducted under the chairmanship of Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Chairman DLSA Baramulla and under the supervision of Muzamil Ahmad Wani, Secretary DLSA Baramulla.

On the occasion, Speakers said that the key objective of this program is to create awareness and sensitivity about various issues of senior citizens.

They said that senior citizens

are increasingly facing a variety partment Bushra Bedar, Central

of hardships in day to day life with respect to their basic life requirements including food, shelter, clothes, health problems, financial problems etc.

The programme was divided into four sessions. In the first session Adv. Ashfaq Hussain Wani acted as resource person and delivered a lecture on Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens.

In the second session, a representative from Social Welfare DeAdministrator, One Stop Centre Baramulla, acted as a resource person and laid emphasis on different schemes of the Social Welfare Department regarding

welfare of senior citizens. She also narrated a sad experience regarding abandonment of senior citizens by their children and thus advised the audience to stand firmly against such men-

In the third session, Advocate Syed Sibtain Geelani, acted as a resource person and delivered a lecture about salient features of the said Act. He also enlightened the audience about the current deteriorating situations of the senior citizens in the society. Besides, he advised the police officials to help the senior citizens in their respective areas within the mandate of the said Act.

In the fourth session, Advocate Zahoor Ahmad Mir acted as a resource person and delivered a lecture on the overall importance of the Act and advised the audience especially Police Officials to look keenly into their respective areas where parents and senior citizens are left destitute and abandoned by their children/relatives.

He also laid emphasis on the key objective of the program to create awareness and sensitivity about various issues of senior citizens. The programme was attended by several Police officials nominated by Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla, some of the PLVs of Baramulla and Staff members of DLSA Baramulla.

DC reviews functioning of Social Welfare, Forest, SFC, ICPS & other sectors

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, DECEMBER 08 The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers and reviewed the functioning and implementation of various schemes of these departments. The DC reviewed Forest, Social Welfare, Geology and Mining, SFC, ICPS, MSK, OSC and other departments and sectors. During the meeting, the Officers from the Social Welfare department presented an overview of various welfare schemes and added that there is cent percent saturation in pension schemes. The officers informed the chair that senior citizen clubs have been formed and old age centres have also been made function-

informed the chair that the depart-



were covered, he added. far during this season. Moreover, under Green added that JK drive 36000 plants were the Forest Division Kuldistributed among local populace to cover blank gam has started an initiative to process the timber sanctions to the During the meeting the forest dwellers through DC also reviewed the functioning of OSC, ICPS, an online mode and they can also obtain wood MSK and other sectors. sanctions by visiting The meeting was attendthe rehbarkulgam.com. ed by Additional District It was also given out Development Commissioner, Joint Director that there are five depots of SFC in Kulgam. Planning, Divisional For-Besides, the Social Forest Officer S.F, Divisional est has raised fencing Mineral Officer, Tehsil over 07 sites and un-Social Welfare Officer der CAMPA 2 hectares

Animal Husbandry Bandipora conducts weekly KCC Camp at Gabipathri, Bandipora

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 08: The Department of Animal Husbandry, Bandipora in collaboration with Lead ly KCC camp at Govt Middle School Dardpora, Gabipa thri under the Nationwide KCC campaign.

The camp was attended by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Bandipora, Dr. G.A Lone; Block Veterinary Officer Bandipora, Dr Mohammad Ramzan Chopan and Lead District Manager Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad. Nodal officers, concerned Bank Managers and concerned Veterinary Assistant Surgeon also participated in the camp. 11 KCC Cases were sponsored on the spot through different banks. The officers deliberated upon various aspects of the KCC scheme and benefits available for the farmer community.

Farmers appreciated the efforts of the departments in conducting such camps at their door steps.

Workshop on Elimination of Violence against women held at Achabal, Anantnag

ACHABAL, DECEMBER 08: Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) Anantnag today or ganised a workshop on 'Elimination of Violence against Women' in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Authority (TLSA) Shangus, National Commission for Women (NCW) and Womens Police Station Anantnag at Block Training Centre Achabal, Anantnag.

Several speakers spoke on the topic and gave their views. They said that in modern times, females are capable of and have proven to be equally efficient in per forming any task as their male counterparts.

They said that eradication of such social evils is possible when the society as a whole will condemn such acts. They said that institutional and legal support is available to the victims and they must come forward. Issues related to food, nutrition and hygiene were also discussed during the event. The speakers said that concepts like gender inequality have become archaic concepts and females have the same right to aspire. They said that given the right opportunities, females have proven to be active collaborators in Nation building and have been valuable contributors in development.

Workshop on PM-FME held at Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 08: A workshop on promotion of Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Enterprises (PM-FME) was conducted today at Kirmaniya Farmers Producer Organization (KFPO) at Batwina which was attended by all line departments. Dr. Umar Bin Farooq, SMS, FPO Ganderbal opened the session with deliberation on the working and sup-

Dr. Salman Rauoof Chalkoo, District Nodal Officer, PM-FME deliberated the importance of PM-FME and the financial benefits under the scheme for the farmer producer organizations. Nazir Ahmed deliberated upon the banking formalities for coverage under PM

Awareness/promotional workshop on PM-FME scheme held at Pahalgam

ANANTNAG, DECEMBER 08: The Department of Fisheries Anantnag today held a daylong awareness programme on centrally sponsored scheme PM-Formalization of Micro food Processing Entrepreneur (PM-FME) scheme at Pahalgam.

The programme was organised under the chairmanship of District Nodal Officer Anantnag PM-FME (ODOP) scheme and was attended by SDM Pahalgam, President MC Pahalgam and Officers/Officials of other line Departments and a huge gathering of shopkeepers and locals of Pahalgam area.

At the outset, the District Nodal Officer PMFME (ODOP) scheme presented the overall scenario and prospects of the Micro Food Processing sector in the UT. He urged the youth to set up their individual Micro Enterprises, and avail the benefit of credit linked subsidy available under the scheme.

He requested the participants to get registered in the application submission process or visit



the PM-FME Home Page The District Nodal Officer said that interested youth who desire to avail the benefit under the scheme should contact the

District Resource Person PM-

FME scheme for getting assistance in the application submission process, support in DPR preparation, getting a bank loan etc.SDM Pahalgam, Syed Naseer laid emphasis on Fish

Processing, Bakery products, Canning of any food product, pickle making, vegetable and fruit processing etc.

The Area Marketing Officer and Horticulture Development Officer also deliberated upon the various schemes for which they can get support under the PM-FME Scheme.

The representatives of various banks of Block Pahalgam assured the participants of any sort of assistance and cooperation under the guidelines of the

The workshop was also addressed by the local officials who besides encouraging the youth also appreciated the efforts of District Nodal Officer PM-FME (ODOP) Scheme and requested for organizing more such camps in Block Pahalgam to create general awareness about the scheme in the minds of youth so that they can start their own Employment gener-

ating Units under the scheme.

The District Nodal Officer PM-FME (ODOP) Scheme expressed his special thanks and gratitude to the officers/officials of line Departments and all the participants for their coordination and cooperation in making the

Farmers' Awareness program on **PMFME-ODOP** held at Mahore

awareness programme was today conducted in the conference hall of Dak bungalow Mahore to educate and motivate the participants about the Prime Minister Formulation of Micro Enterprises and One District One Product. As many as 50 farmers including unemployed youth participated in the event inaugurated by Chief Agriculture Officer and DNO PMFME, Harbans Singh in presence of District Agriculture Officer Extension Rajesh Verma, Agriculture Extension officers Naresh Gupta, Dara Singh, concerned AEAs and other officials of allied Departments.

Sarpanch Mohammad Akram, Mohammad Aslam, Zakir Hussain, Mohammad Aslam Mir and Sarpanch Sarh B Irshad Begum participated in the camp.

President FPO Bansi Lal and CEO Kranti Devi also attended the camp. 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, Chillies powder packing & marketing, spices grinding, garlic paste etc.

The District Agriculture Officer Extension Rajesh Verma and Agriculture Extension officer Naresh Gupta elaborated the eligibility and terms of subsidy, interest and other related details of the

The Bank Manager JK Bank Mahore 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. Sarpanches of the Mahore block lauded the efforts of the agriculture department in mitigating the problems of the farming community in remote and hilly areas. The vote of thanks was presented by Naresh Gupta AEO Dharmari.

Budgam Police held a One day workshop on road safety & traffic awareness at Charar Sharief Budgam

Budgam, December Budgam Police today organized a one day workshop on "Road Safety and Traffic Awareness" at Govt Degree College Charar Sharief Budgam.The objective of the workshop was to sensitize awareness about road safety and traffic awareness among students and teachers to minimize the graph of road mishaps. SSP Budgam Shri Tahir Saleem-JKPS was the chief guest on the event. The programme was also attended by Ms Ravina Hassan Principal Govt. Degree College Charar Sharief Budgam Shri Salim Jehangir-JKPS SDPO Charar Shareef, and other officers of Budgam Police. A sizable number of students and teachers attended the programme. Chief Guest SSP Budgam Shri Tahir Saleem-JKPS delivered detailed lecture on road safety & traffic awareness. He raised public awareness about traffic rules to reduce casualties due to road accidents. He added that thousands lose their lives also to do the same.

2022: and tens of thousands get injured in road accidents on yearly basis mainly due to lack of awareness or ignoring traffic rules and hence it is our obligation to make our youth aware of the traffic rules and to persuade them to follow these rules while on road. Moreover, a detailed powerpoint presentation on road safety was presented by the chief Guest. Budgam administered pledge to all participants wherein it was pledged that every participant will obey traffic rules and will persuade others also to do the same. Towards the end of the workshop, Ms Ravina Hassan Learnt principal Govt Degree College Charar Sharief concluded the programme by vote of thanks to Budgam Police for conducting such awareness programmes. SSP Budgam administered oath/pledge to all participants wherein it was pledged that every participant will obey traffic rules and will persuade others

SKIMS orders winter

vacation for faculty

members from Jan 01

Srinagar, Dec 08: The Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura on Thursday announced winter vacation for the faculty members in two halves starting from January 01.

It also noted that 50 per cent of the facul-

ty members must remain available at once.

"The Winter vacation holidays 2023 for Faculty Staff

of SKIMS will be due w.e.f. 01.01.2023 to 28.01.2023 (1st

half) and w.e.f. 01.02.2023 to 28.02.2023 (2nd half). In

this behalf all Heads of Departments are requested

to furnish the names of faculty members who are de-

sirous to avail 1 half/2nd half of vacation. It may be

kept in view that 50% of faculty staff is available in

the department for both the halves," reads a circu-

lar, a copy of which lies with the news agency—O).

"Heads of departments must ensure that one

amongst the senior faculty members remains avail-

able in the department during each half of vacation,

wherever possible. No change will be entertained

after receipt of the roster from the concerned Heads

of Departments. The Administration has right to call

Tourism Department's two day Houseboat Festival concludes on Dal banks

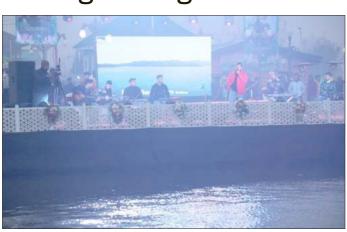
Festival harbinger of a good winter tourism: Sarmad Hafeez

The two-day Houseboat Festival which started yesterday on the banks of Dal and Nigeen Lakes concluded this evening. The festival was organised by the Tourism Department.

During the two day festival, emphasis was laid on the heritage value of the houseboats on these two lakes. There are about 900 houseboats in Dal and Nigeen lakes.

The visitors to the two-day festival were apprised about the history of houseboats, the celebrities who stayed in them and the unique role played by houseboats in attracting tourists from across the globe for decades now. The festival had components of local Music, food, art, culture besides local folk artists performed during a laser show and live concert.

The main highlights of the two day festival were the display of



live music, putting up of Art gallery besides showcasing varied culinary and cuisine specialities. Traditional folk music, a Floating stage and water screen on Dal waters, illuminated shikara carnival and live musical performances by local musical

bands was also the part of the two day festival.

On the occasion, Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez said the idea behind holding the Houseboat festival has been to start the celebrations for coming winter tourism season. He harbinger of a great tourism season during winters in the Valley besides reinvigorating a sense of pride among the people about the rich heritage and memory attached to House-

Director Tourism Kashmir, Fazlul Haseeb said Houseboats have played a unique role in attracting tourists from across the globe. He said the Kashmir Valley's famed houseboats, which over the decades have emerged as dream stay for tourists, will be this winter season's main attraction.

In their responses, Houseboat owners were appreciative of the Department's move and said that the festival would go a long way in boosting winter tourism in Kashmir and send a message across the world that Kashmir is truly warm even in the harshest conditions around.

The festival was organized in the backdrop of a record number of tourists visiting the Valley this year, breaking all the previous records and to showcase the contribution of iconic houseboats in the tourism sector of Kashmir. Director Tourism Kashmir, Fazlul Haseeb said Houseboats have played a unique role in attracting tourists from across the globe. He said the Kashmir Valley's famed houseboats, which over the decades have emerged as dream stay for tourists, will be this winter season's main at-

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back any faculty member during vacation, in case of emergencies and if need arises," it reads further. "It is reiterated that the departure reports of faculty members proceeding on vacation shall not be entertained unless their residential addresses contact numbers are recorded therein," it added. "Further, it should be specifically mentioned in the roster whether any station leaving permission is re-

VC DDC chairs joint Awareness cum **Enrolment drive at Potushai Lolab**

Appeals youth to take benefit under PMEGP, Mission Youth

08 : District Administration Kupwara organized a joint awareness cum enrolment drive in respect of various central/UT schemes at Potushai Lolab, today. The camp was chaired by Vice Chairman DDC Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir.

BDC Chairperson Wavoora, Rafiq Kataria, BMO Sogam, ZEO, BDO, Block Manager NRLM, functionaries from Health, Education, CSC, Labour and Employment department, besides, PRIs and a large number of youth participated in the camp. Addressing the function, the VC said that the aim of holding joint awareness cum enrolment drive is to encourage the unemployed educated youth to stand on their feet by setting up their own income generating units under different self employment generation schemes of the Government including PMEGP and Mission youth. He appealed the unemployed youth to come forward and take advantage of the opportunity by getting financial assistance under these schemes so as to earn their livelihood. The VC expressed gratitude towards all the departments for making awareness/enrolment



camp successful. Meanwhile, officers/ functionaries from different departments pro vided threadbare awareness to the participants regarding their initiative and schemes including E-Sharam SYM), PMJAY, PMEGP, PM-DISHA, Umang, Aadhaar and Tele-law.

On the occasion, enrollment of a large number of youth were made under these

Later, the Vice Chairman distributed various certificates among the beneficiaries including Aadhaar Cards PM Golden Cards, E-Sharam cards and other benefits. District Administration Kup wara organized a joint awareness cum enrolment drive in respect of various central/UT

schemes at Potushai Lolab, today. The camp was chaired by Vice Chairman DDC Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad

BDC Chairperson Wavoora, Rafiq Kataria, BMO Sogam, ZEO, BDO, Block Manager NRLM. functionaries from Health, Education, CSC, Labour and Employment department, besides, PRIs and a large number of youth partic ipated in the camp. Addressing the function, the VC said that the aim of holding joint awareness cum enrolment drive is to encourage the unemployed educated youth to stand on their feet by setting up their own income gener ating units under different self employment generation schemes of the Government.

DC Kulgam reviews measures for smooth traffic flow in district

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, DECEMBER 08: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of Officers and Members of Traders and Transporters Association to discuss and finalise the measures and steps for smooth traffic flow in Kulgam. The meeting held threaddiscussion various issues includ-

ing management of the traffic system in the district and making the more beautiful. Requisite measures were discussed threadbare to overcome traffic jams and ensure better regulation of traffic. Creation of parking zones near Qazigund and Shopain Addas besides making Laroo bus stand fully functional also came under discussion. The DC instructed ARTO, Traffic and Police department and other concerned to work in close coordination and act tough against traf-



He directed the officers to conduct a massive enforcement drive against wrong parking and roadside encroachments in town. The DC also asked to relocate street vendors from heavy traffic junction points which hinder smooth traffic ply. He stressed concerned officers to take all required measures to decongest roads in town to ensure smooth flow of traffic. The meeting was attended by President Munici-

pal Council Kulgam, ADC Kulgam, DSP-HQ, Tehsildars, ARTO, EO Kulgam, Members of traders and transport Association and other officers. The meeting held threadbare discussion on various issues including management of the traffic system in the district and making the town more beautiful. Requisite measures were discussed threadbare to overcome traffic jams and ensure better regulation of traffic. Creation of parking zones near Qazi-

Kulgam Police observed Thana Diwas

quired or not. No faculty member on duty will be per-

mitted to avail any leave for attending conference/ Seminar/Workshop entailing station permission,'

Kulgam: December 08, 2022Kulgam Police continuing its Public outreach programme today held 'Thana Diwas' functions at Police station Kulgam, Police Station Kund, Police Station Manzgam and Police station Behibagh, chaired by respective jurisdictional Police officers in which PRIs, Sarpanches, Panchs, Respectable citizens, civil societies of concerned areas including members of Augaf Committees, Numberdars, Chowkidars, Traders Federation and Transporters of respective areas participated. During the meetings, participants highlighted various issues of public importance, and they were assured that their genuine grievances pertaining to Police will be resolved on priority and that of civil administration will be taken up with the concerned Departments for their early redressal. While speaking on the occasion, it was reiterated that the main aim of organising 'Thana Diwas' is to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability in Policing at grassroot level and to hear and redress grievances of general public, besides seek support and active cooperation in maintaining L&O, curbing drug menace and others social evils in the areas. The participants were also stressed to co-operate with Kulgam Police in identifying anti-national and anti-social elements who always try to disrupt the peaceful environment in the district. The participants appreciated the role of Police for conducting such interactive meetings which further boost Community Policing and Public confidence.

Director Agriculture Kashmir reviews physical, financial progress of the department

SRINAGAR, BER 08: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Igbal today convened a meeting of Officers of the the expenditure made by department to discuss the progress on the im- to review the same. plementation of differ- Chowdhary impressed ent centrally sponsored upon the officers to orschemes and flagship programs being implemented by the department in the division.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on all the schemes of the department viz. CAPEX, RKVY, MIDH, ATMA, NFSM, and RKVY &

The Director stressed and to increase the infor judicious utilization of funds in a time bound manner to improve the expenditure. He said the funds earmarked for different components under various centrally sponsored schemes must be fully utilized for the development of the farming nagar, nodal officers of sector in the region.

DECEM- He asked the officers to expend at least 25% of funds in each quarter and directed them to submit weekly reports on them and hold meetings

> ganise awareness programmes for educated youth so that their attention is attracted towards agriculture activities like mushroom cultivation, apiculture etc.

> He said that every effort should be ensured to improve the socio- economic condition of farmers come of farm operating families. He asked the officers to work in coordination at different levels of administration so that the farmers' interest could be safeguarded. Joint Directors, Chief Agriculture Officer Sri-

different flagship.

DC Pulwama chairs Narco **Coordination Committee meeting**

PULWAMA, DECEM-BER 08: In order to discuss the action plan to curb the drug abuse and narcotic trade in Pulwama, a District Level Committee of Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary here.

At the outset, the DC discussed various issues related to menace of drug addiction, areas of concern, age group of addicts, hot spots of drug peddling/ abuse, besides, cultivation of illicit poppy and cannabis in the district.He emphasised on conducting awareness camps in schools and colleges on mass scale to sensitize the youth about hazards and ill effects of consuming drugs.He also asked the officers of all line departments to make coordinated efforts to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain besides taking



stringent action against the persons involved in this dangerous trade.

Choudhary said, in order to combat this rising societal problem, multipronged rehabilitation, counseling and guidance policy is being implemented on ground to monitor drug abuse and take remedial measures

to curb the menace. He sought cooperation from the families particularly from parents to overcome the menace among the youth which also leads to other social evils and crimes. He said

religious heads and parents have an important role to keep the youngsters away from the use of drugs and also the family support for the affected people could lead them towards normal life.

The DC assured the departments that all requisite support will be provided by the District Administration for saving youth from the ill effects of the drugs.

The DC directed Assistant Drug Controller Pulwama to get CCTV cameras installed at all medical shops which lie within the

limits of schools, colleges, hospitals and masjids so that overall surveillance with regard to the containment of drug sales is enforced. He also directed the Assistant Drug Controller to establish a 24*7 flying squad to check the sales of contraband drugs in the district.

On the occasion, Officers apprised about the situation with regard to the drug menace and shared their suggestions and measures to be taken at District level to control the drug peddling and its consumption, besides measures for rehabilita-

tion of drug victims. Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC Tral S.A Raina, Assistant Commissioner nue, DySP Hq Pulwama/ Awantipora, Assistant Drug Controller, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, besides Officers from Education, Health, Excise, Forest Depart-

Regional P. F. Commissioner visits Srinagar; redresses problems of various stakeholderS

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 08: The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, UT J&K and Ladakh, Rizwan Uddin who is on a three days visit to Srinagar today visited EPFO, Regional Office, Srinagar and redressed problems of various stakeholders.

On the occasion, Nazir Ahmad Dar submitted the joint declaration forms for correction in DOB from 02/01/1959 to 02/01/1970. The Regional P. F. Commissioner-I gave approval to correct the Date of Birth and joint declaration was processed immediately. Another member Tajamul Islam visited Office of RO Srinagar along with joint declaration form for updation of his father name in members profile. The same was updated accordingly.

Besides, female member Asima Khanam visited the office for correction of her husband name Bilal Ahmad Jan and relationship, the same was also updated immediately. Another female member submitted her Joint Declaration form for change of her name Asifa Gulzar Mir to Asifa Waseem Wani and husband name M M to Waseem Yousuf Wani; the same were updated on the same day.

Shabir Ahmad Mir from DPS Budgam School visited office for his change of linked aadhaar number of other member Shabir Ahmad Mir in his profile, the same were updated after due verification of supporting documents and as per approval given by the RP-FC-I for Major changes.

EPFO is servicing the entire area from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with regard to settlement of claims, redressal of grievances, and facilitating stakeholders and so on.

Considering the large number of grievances and to ensure service delivery at doorstep, various online initiatives of EPFO such as balance enquiry, filing of online claims including transfer and Covid-19 advance claims and members' basic details were explained with hands-on demonstration.

Later, P F Commissioner attended a meeting with the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir regarding Land for construction of Central Government Secretariat and Civil Service Officers institute.

Awareness/ Motivational camp on PM-FME (ODOP) scheme held at Budgam

BUDGAM, DECEMBER 08: The Animal Husbandry Budgam today organized a daylong Awareness cum Motivational camp regarding PM-FME (ODOP) scheme at Main Veterinary Campus, Budgam.

At the outset, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Budgam Dr Sheikh Abdul Hai (District Nodal Officer for PM-FME scheme) addressed the participants and apprised them of the benefits of establishing a unit under the scheme and how it will help them in employment generation and uplifting their socio-economic condition.

During his speech, Dr Mohd Iqbal Baba Chief Horticulture Officer Budgam informed the participants about the key challenges faced by

the food processing sector viz. gaps in supply chain infrastructure, lack of investment and access to modern technology and equipment and the lack of marketing and branding ex-

He said that the PM-FME scheme is one of the most potent answers to these all problems launched by the Central Government with an aim to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and to promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups and Producers' Cooperatives along their entire value chain.

During the event, Dr Javed Ahmed



Superintendent District Veterinary Hospital Budgam, presented the detailed guidelines of the scheme and said that the application process for

availing benefits under the scheme has been made very easy for which an online portal has been designed on which any interested youth can apply.

Further, Officers from Department of Animal Husbandry Budgam and District Resource Person PM-FME scheme Budgam assured the particinants that they are always ready to provide handholding support to the motivated beneficiaries in terms of DPR preparation and technical guidance

Many Participants were motivated towards the potentials in establishment of Micro food processing units under "Pradhan Mantri-Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme (PM FME Scheme).

is one of the most potent answers to these all problems launched by the Central Government with an aim to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and to promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups and Producers' Cooperatives along their entire value chain.

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IS HDL CHOLESTEROL GOOD OR **BAD? DECODING THE FACTS**



PARUL DUBE

holesterol is a fat-like, waxy substance that comes from two sources: the animal-based foods vou eat and vour liver. It helps form cell membrane layers, produce vitamin D, make certain hormones, and help the liver synthesise bile for diges-

Cholesterol and other fats circulating in your bloodstream as spherical particles are called lipoproteins. Low-Density Lipoproteins (LDL) and High-Density Lipoproteins (HDL) are the two most commonly known lipoproteins.

Not all cholesterol is bad since a healthy level of HDL can be heart-protective by carrying one-quarter to one-third of your total LDL back to the liver, where the LDL breaks a corrective dietary and physical activity down and gets excreted from the body.

Therefore, your HDL reading should ideally be between 45-60 mg/dl to reduce one's $\,$ HealthifyMe's Metabolic Panel risk of stroke, heart attack, and coronary artery diseases. However, pay heed that too much cholesterol is bad for you, be it HDL months, which helps to measure your prog-

What is HDL Cholesterol?

is the "good" cholesterol because it helps eliminate excess cholesterol in your body. It comprises a lipoprotein coat and cholesterol

inflammatory capacity and anti-atherosclerotic functions. LDL is the "bad" counterpart of HDL, which causes plaque buildup in arteries. Your total cholesterol refers to the total amount of LDL and HDL cholesterol

Normal HDL cholesterol levels in milligrams per deciliter (mg/dl) as per age and gender are as follows:

	At risk	Desirable
Anyone (19 or younger)	More than 45 mg/dl	
Men (aged 20 or over)	Less than 40 mg/dL (1.0 mmol/L)	60 mg/dL (1.6 mmol/L) or above
W o m e n (aged 20 or over)	Less than 50 mg/dL (1.3 mmol/L)	60 mg/dL (1.6 mmol/L) or above

HDL cholesterol is most protective at around 40 to 59 mg/dL, and having an HDL-C for heart disease and stroke increases with poor HDL cholesterol levels. Low HDL often develops due to unhealthy lifestyle habits, Here are the significant roles of HDL cholespoor eating patterns, smoking, and lack of terol:

A study shows that the quantity of HDL can change according to age, gender, puber- reduces inflammation in the blood ves $ty,\ middle-aged\ symptoms,\ diet,\ health\ sels\ and\ helps\ predict\ who\ is\ more\ likely\ \ \textbf{Low\ HDL\ Cholesterol}, \textbf{Now\ What?}$

can measure and monitor your cholesterol levels at the convenience of your home with the all-new HealthifvMe Metabolic Panel.

testing kit that will enable you to understand your entire blood lipid profile amongst 85+ other parameters. A full lipid profile shows the actual levels of each type of fat in your blood, such as LDL, HDL, triglycerides, and

With just a drop of blood, the Metabolic Panel could find your potential predisposition to medical conditions, such as high LDL cholesterol and low HDL cholesterol, diabetes, or hypertension. If you have poor HDL cholesterol levels, the real-time intervention from coaches will help you begin and build approach and plan.

It is a long-term initiative, meaning the test isn't one time. You can do it every three ress quarterly.

The tests available in the Metabolic Panel include thyroid function tests, kidney func-HDL, High-Density Lipoprotein or HDL-C, tion tests, urine routine, iron study, hemogram, vitamin profile, lipid profile, liver function test, and diabetes screening.

All this metabolic information reaches your expert coaches and AI-powered nutri-HDL is a very complex particle with antitionist RIA. Their combined input helps with customising and modifying your lifestyle, so you can make smarter choices and take sustainable steps towards your health goals.

> The premium plans also offer a range of weight loss diet and fitness plans per your requirements. If you're unsure about where to start, HealthifyMe offers trial subscriptions. You can now directly connect with one of the health coaches through WhatsApp to start a conversation regarding a best-suited plan for your goals and provide further details on the available plans and prices

Is HDL Cholesterol Good or Bad?

A common belief about cholesterol is that it is bad for your health. However, you may not know that HDL cholesterol in the right amounts promotes better health.

because HDL particles promote reverse cholesterol transport from peripheral cells. Note Moreover, HDL also possesses antioxidant, $level\ below\ 40\ mg/dL\ is\ unhealthy.\ Your\ risk\quad anti-inflammatory,\ and\ antithrombotic\quad out\ the\ built-up\ LDL\ cholesterol\ in\ the\ arter-level\ below\ 40\ mg/dL$

Reduce Inflammation

The anti-inflammatory ability of HDL efits.

issues, climacteric, and menopause. You to develop a heart attack or any other serious heart-related event. HDL stimulates the production of nitric oxide, a molecule that eases inflammation, helps artery walls relax. It's a comprehensive and personalised and prevents blood clot formation inside the

> The amount of protection from HDL antiinflammatory capacity is higher in women than in men. An interesting statistic shown by research is that for every 22% increase in HDL particles in endothelial cells, there is 23% less chances for anyone to have a cardiovascular event.

Antioxidant Effects

HDL's antioxidant effects protect against atherogenesis or the formation of fatty deposits in the arteries. The small, dense, protein-rich HDL particles reduce oxidative damage by free radicals and deliver potentially toxic proatherogenic lipids to the liver for excretion. However, metabolic and inflammatory diseases can damage the antioxidative function of HDL.

Good for Diabetes Management

HDL appears to protect the beta cells of the pancreas from the toxic effects of glucose to enhance insulin secretion. HDL helps increase insulin activity in skeletal muscles for better glucose uptake. Boosting HDL will lower the risk of early renal impairment and a high inflammatory score in people with your assigned health coach. type 2 diabetes. It is because of the antioxidative activity and endothelial vasodilatory function of HDL. Therefore, having low HDL cholesterol levels increases the risk of type

2 diabetes. While high HDL cholesterol levels reduce cardiovascular events, having higher than optimal amounts may not provide additional cardiovascular benefits. HDL-C can even be harmful in extremely high quantities. In addition, a study noted that higher HDL cho- coach if a particular food you ate is causing lesterol levels did not appear to offer equal a drop or spike in your glucose levels. benefits for all ethnicities.

HDL cholesterol belongs to a family of **Conclusion** different particles. Some types of HDL are indifferent to cholesterol or transfer cholespopularly known as "good cholesterol". It terol the wrong way. To further complicate sweeps LDL or bad cholesterol (low-density matters, some HDL prevents oxygen from lipoprotein) from the arteries to the liver A study shows that higher high-density harmful. Therefore, while HDL cholesterol level of HDL cholesterol, around 40 to 59 lipoprotein levels lower the chances of athi is natural and essential, you must also coning/dL, helps to prevent cholesterol build-

HDL cholesterol is good because it cleans ies. It protects your heart by reverse-transporting LDL from the artery to the liver for disposal. As evident, low HDL cholesterol levels cause a greater risk of heart attacks and may not provide cardiovascular ben-

Everyone with poor HDL cholesterol can benefit from a heart-healthy lifestyle. However, your nutritionist can recommend additional support to manage your overall cholesterol levels, like a personalised diet. especially if your HDL cholesterol is low due to an unhealthy diet or in case of any preexisting health issues.

Cholesterol in foods also matters, but most people are unaware that foods high in dietary cholesterol are also super nutritious. For example, eggs are tasty, filling, proteinrich food but contain cholesterol, with two large eggs providing $372~\mathrm{mg}$.

Unfortunately, due to the misguided fear of the cholesterol in foods, people throw out the yolk, which is by far the most nutritious part of the egg. Therefore, having proper guidance from a nutritionist helps you make smarter, healthier, and more informed choices.

For all the answers you want, for all the health tips you miss, and for all the advice you seek, HealthifyMe's team of certified coaches can provide you with the most precise and relevant information.

HealthifyMe coaches will curate a diet and workout plan ideal for your lifestyle based on your calorie needs, food preferences, and activity level. If something is not working, you may modify your diet plan through chats and consultation calls with

The Pro Plan or HealthifyMe SmartPlan also gives access to 24/7 AI nutritionists, daily and weekly insights to track your progress, macro or micronutrient tracking and healthy recipes. If poor glucose metabolism is a concerning factor for your cholesterol, HealthifvPro 2.0 comes with a continuous glucose monitor to check how your blood glucose levels change throughout the day. A CGM can immediately notify you and your

HDL stands for high-density lipoprotein, chemically altering LDL, making it extra for removal. Therefore, having a healthy erosclerotic cardiovascular diseases. It is sider some potentially hazardous variations. up or plaques in the arteries. As a result, it reduces the risk of heart attack, stroke and blood clots.

An HDL level above 60 mg/dL is high, while below 40 mg/dL is low. Most importantly. HDL levels higher than the recommended range might not offer extra protection. Instead, higher than-optimal amounts of HDL could trigger a heart attack or stroke. So, to achieve the right HDL level, reach out and seek help from Healthifyme's panel of certified nutritionists.

NEWS

Brains with more vitamin D have better cognitive functions, finds study



team of US researchers has completed the first study examining levels of vitamin D in brain tissue, specifically in adults who suffered from varying rates of cognitive decline.

Researchers at Tufts University found that members of this group with higher levels of vitamin \boldsymbol{D} in their brains had better cognitive function.

The study, published in Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association, is the first to examine vitamin D levels in brain tissue and can help scientists further understand dementia and its causes.

An estimated 55 million people worldwide live with dementia, a number that's expected to rise as the global population ages.

To find treatments that can slow or stop the disease, scientists need to better understand the factors that can cause dementia.

"This research reinforces the importance of studying how food and nutrients create resilience to protect the aging brain against diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias," said Sarah Booth, director of the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging (HNRCA) at Tufts.

Many studies have implicated dietary or nutritional factors in cognitive performance or function in older adults, including many studies of vitamin D. but all of them are based on either dietary intakes or blood measures of vitamin D.

"We wanted to know if vitamin D is even present in the brain, and if it is, how those concentrations are linked to cognitive decline," said lead author Kyla Shea, an associate professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts.

In the study, researchers looked for vitamin D in four regions of the brain - two associated with changes linked to Alzheimer's disease, one associated with forms of dementia linked to blood flow. and one region without any known associations with cognitive decline related to Alzheimer's disease or vascular disease.

They found that vitamin D was indeed present in brain tissue, and high vitamin D levels in all four regions of the brain correlated with better cognitive function.

However, it's still unclear exactly how vitamin D might affect brain function.

"Dementia is multifactorial, and lots of the pathological mechanisms underlying it have not been well characterized," Shea said. "Vitamin D could be related to outcomes that we didn't look at yet, but plan to study in the future."

However, experts caution people not to use large doses of vitamin D supplements to boost brain

The recommended dose of vitamin D is 600 IU for people 1-70 years old, and 800 IU for those older - excessive amounts can cause harm, and have been linked to the risk of falling.

What Supplements Cause Fatty Liver?

PRAGYA SHARMA

The liver is the primary detoxifying organ, continuously working to eliminate toxins and metabolic waste before they cause serious harm. Most health-conscious people often use over-the-counter products, especially dietary supplements, to enhance overall wellness. However, while many supplements support liver health, some even cause damage to the liver.

The Food and Drug Administration does not closely regulate medical attention if you experithe manufacturing, production and content of various herbal and dietary supplements (HDS). As a result, they never undergo formal efficacy or safety tests.

Intake of such multi-ingredient nutritional supplements can Note lead to potentially severe, or even fatal, fatty liver, hepatotoxicity and liver damage

Fatty Liver: An Overview

Hepatic steatosis, often known as a fatty liver, is when fat builds up in the liver. There are two main types: alcoholic and nonalcoholic fatty liver. It becomes problematic when fat makes up the disease worsens, it will cause fibrosis (scarring) or perhaps cirrhosis, which is a sign of liver

failure and calls for a liver trans-

A fatty liver caused by supplements typically does not express symptoms in the early stages. However, persistent fatigue and abdominal pain on the upper right side of the torso are warning signs.

Your doctor may do an ultrasound, CT scan, liver biopsy, or fibro scan of the liver to identify the condition. Remember to monitor vour liver enzymes if vou have existing liver disease. Seek ence any signs of liver damage, such as severe vomiting, jaundice, and abdominal pain, after taking any herbal and natural supplements.

Without FDA regulations, product manufacturing guidelines, and standardised chemical analyses, it is nearly impossible to determine the exact chemical makeup of supplements. For example, dietary supplements often promoted for muscle enhancement contain undeclared steroids, causing fatty liver. Hence, consuming over-the-table 5–10% of your liver's weight. If supplements for the liver can have detrimental effects on one's health, especially when taking supplements without a doctor's

guidance.

7 Dietary Supplements That Cause

While there are a number of dietary supplements that can harm the liver. We've listed the most notorious ones for you:

High Doses of Certain Vitamins Vitamin A can harm the liver when consumed in high dosages or for an extended period. Similarly, niacin consumption for a lengthy period can cause fatty liver or damage in certain people.

Niacin can change into (nicotinamide coenzyme) NAD, which, in large doses, can be toxic to the liver. Energy drinks and shots often contain high levels of niacin. Excessive niacin consumption from energy drinks can trigger severe hepatitis.

The majority of kava supplements are in pill form. Several reports claim that the comparative efficacy and safety of kava for the liver are still unsure and can be damaging to the liver

Some think combining kava check your liver enzymes for posand alcohol might harm the liver sible fat buildup. even in regular doses, increasing the risk for alcoholic fatty liver.

Overall, it is still unclear how much liver damage kava alone may cause. However, those with liver issues are best off avoiding it until more research is avail-

Valerian

While valerian is generally safe for 4 to 8 weeks at recommended dosages it has many toxic compounds that can damage liver cells if consumed for longer peri-

There aren't many studies on its liver-damaging effects, but there is possible contamination with germander, another herb with a history of liver toxicity.

Black Cohosh

Black cohosh often leads to autoimmune hepatitis and fatty liver. However, it's unclear whether the black cohosh or product contamination is the cause

One study found that two women who took black cohosh experienced acute liver necrosis. These are unusual instances. If you're using black cohosh to treat hormonal imbalances, you should talk to your doctor and

Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids

The plant butterbur, which may help treat migraines and seasonal allergies, contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which are harmful to the liver. Plants synthesise pyrrolizidine alkaloids as secondary metabolites. Accordinclude over 600 PAs and PA ing the liver. Studies indicate N-oxides, and more than half are harmful to the liver.

PAs included in herbal medicines can harm the liver. However, it is still debatable whether utilising these herbs for limited periods is safe. Therefore, people with severe liver illness should avoid this herb for safety

Kratom

The herb kratom boosts energy, treats anxiety, mood swings and depression, relieves pain, and lessens opioid withdrawal symptoms. Kratom causes acute liver harm and fatty liver.

However, these incidents are uncommon since most people as "natural" doesn't mean it's heal after stopping the supplement. Several kratom products contain lead contamination, so be cautious when using them.

Polygonum Multiflorum (Fo-ti)

The Chinese native plant Polygonum Multiflorum, utilised for digestive and anti-ageing properties, has been linked to liver damage in some cases. When administered alone or in Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) formulations, the herb Polygonum Multiflorum is among the top five liver toxicants.

This herb can cause severe ing to data, more than 6,000 plants harm, including death, by affectthat most individuals recovered after stopping the supplement; however, up to 10% of cases were severe or deadly, requiring a liver transplant.

Conclusion

Although taking a few supplements daily is generally considered acceptable and possibly even beneficial for boosting your liver health, doing so in large quantities for a prolonged period of time can seriously harm the liver.

Using supplements without being aware of their solvents can cause fat buildup in the liver. Just because a supplement is labelled necessarily healthy for you. The problem can worsen if you use multiple liver-acting drugs or herbs. It's best to consult a doctor before starting with a supple-

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HEADLINES TODAY

HT FRIDAY FOCUS

ZAKAAT: THE COMPULSORY CHARITY

akaat is an Arabic word meaning Charity. It is not just recommended by Islam, however it is required to be performed in letter and spirit by every financially sound Muslim. Giving Charity in a manner is what is termed by Allah in holy Quran as 'helping Allah in his deeds'.

Charity is to be given to those who deserve it the most. It is part of Muslim character and one of the Five Pillars of Islamic practice. Zakat is viewed as "compulsory charity"; it is an obligation for those who have received their wealth from God to respond to those members of the community in need. Devoid of sentiments of universal love, some people know only to hoard wealth and to add to it by lending it out on interest. Islam's teachings are the very antithesis of this attitude. Islam encourages the sharing of wealth with others and helps people to stand on their own and become productive members of the society

In Arabic it is known as zakat which literally means "purification", because zakat is considered to purify one's heart of greed. Love of wealth is natural and it takes firm belief in God for a person to part with some of his wealth. Zakat must be paid on different categories of property — gold, silver, money; livestock; agricultural produce; and business commodities and is payable each year after one year's possession. It requires an annual contribution of 2.5 percent of an individual's wealth and assets.

Like prayer, which is both an individual and communal responsibility, zakat expresses a Muslim's worship of and thanksgiving to God by supporting those in need. In Islam, the true owner of things is not man, but God. Acquisition of wealth for its own sake, or so that it may increase a man's worth, is condemned. Mere acquisition of wealth counts for nothing in the sight of God. It does not give man any merit in this life or in the hereafter. Islam teaches that people should acquire wealth with the intention of spending it on their own needs and the needs of others.

"'Man', said the Prophet, 'says: My wealth! My wealth!' Have you not any wealth except that which you give as alms and thus preserve, wear and tatter, eat and use up?"

The whole concept of wealth is considered in Islam as a gift from God. God, who provided it to the person, made a portion of it for the poor, so the poor have a right over one's wealth. Zakat reminds Muslims that everything they have belongs to God. People are given their wealth as a trust from God, and zakat is intended to free Muslims from the love of money. The money paid in zakat is not something God needs or receives. He is above any type of dependency. God, in His boundless mercy, promises rewards for helping those in need with one basic condition that zakat be paid in the name of God; one should not expect or demand any worldly gains from the beneficiaries nor aim at making one's name as a philanthropist. The feelings of a beneficiary should not be hurt by making him feel inferior or reminding him of the assistance.

Money given as zakat can only be used for certain specific things. Islamic Law stipulates that alms are to be used to support the poor and the needy, to free slaves and debtors, as specifically mentioned in the Ouran (9:60). Zakat, which developed fourteen hundred years ago, functions as a form of social security in a Muslim society.

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India-Azerbaijan Cooperation: **Confluence and Convergences**

DR BHARTI CHHIBBER

ecently, the fifth round of foreign office consultations was held between India and Azerbaijan, who are also commemorating the 30th anniversary of establishing their diplomatic relations. These foreign office consultations were all inclusive of political, trade, economic and cultural affairs. The two countries also contemplated regional matters and cooperation in the United Nations and other multilateral entities.

Civilizational connections and cultural links are the foundation of India-Azerbaijan's expanding bilateral cooperation. The Fire temple known as Ateshgah in Baku has inscriptions in Sanskrit. In 2018, erstwhile External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj visited the medieval holy place which was also designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1998. It also signifies historical trade relations and the importance of Azerbaijan towns connecting Indian traders to the West through Central Asia.

In 1991 when Azerbaijan declared its independence from the USSR, India recognized Azerbaijan as an independent country and formal diplomatic relations were established in 1992. India opened a resident Indian Mission in Baku in 1999 and Azerbaijan resident Mission opened in New Delhi in 2004. In the political domain, there are many high-level visits between the two countries including in 2019 when the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, and External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar visited Azerbaijan for the NAM Summit. During the Covid 19 pandemic, interaction continued virtually with Prime Minister Narendra Modi joining the online NAM Summit on COVID-19 which was an initiative of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in 2020

India and Azerbaijan are collaborating in comprehensive fields. In 2007, an agreement to establish India-Azerbaijan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was signed. In 2013, Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)



Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in nities. Criminal Matters and Extradition Treaty were signed which were followed by the signing of a Protocol on Exchange of Instruments of Ratification of MLAT on Civil & Commercial Matters in 2016. Other significant areas of collaboration and discussion are double taxation avoidance and Bilateral Investment Treaty.

Bilateral trade between the two countries before the Covid 19 pandemic increased to around US\$ 1093 million in 2019 from around US\$ 50 million in 2005. This year, the bilateral trade turnover between the two states touched US\$ 1.184 billion in January-July 2022. India is now Azerbaijan's fourth largest trade partner after Italy, Turkey and Russia. Primarily, India imports crude oil from Azerbaijan and export products vary from rice, cellphones, medicines, granite, stones and tiles. Recently the Federation of Indian Export Organisations and the Embassy of India in Baku, along with other partners organized an Indian products Trade Show in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Further, ONGC Videsh Ltd has invested in Azerbaijan in the development project of the Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli oil field and the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipe line. In November 2014, the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly work on LNG projects globally including capacity booking, LNG procurement, and optimiza-

tion of LNG marketing. Azerbaijan also plays an important role in International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) route. INSTC is a 7,200 km-long multi-modal network providing the shortest connectivity passage to its members. It was instituted by India, Russia and Iran in 2000 at the Euro-Asian Conference on Transport in St. Petersburg. Other member countries are Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Ukraine. The route has immense potential for better trade and commercial The participating Indian compa- exchange at the regional level and nies showcased quality products, statically reduces transport time

between India and Azerbaijan.

Likewise, the cooperation continues in wide-ranging areas of inter-parliamentary relations, agriculture, connectivity, ICT, health and tourism. India's pharmaceutical sector is widely appreciated in Azerbaijan. Moreover, cooperation in the agrarian field like agriculture machinery, plant breeding, and the exchange of agricultural scientists has already gained

India also provides training to Azerbaijani officials as part of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. E-ITEC was organised by the Government of India in 2020-21. Cultural collaboration renew shared association and traditions between the two countries. The Embassy of India in Azerbaijan has arranged many cultural events on Indic culture, films and Indian traditional dances. International Day of Yoga is also widely celebrated in Azerbaijan. In 2021, an Indian Gallery showcasing the heritage sites of India was inaugurated in collaboration with the Gobustan National Historical Artistic Preserve at Gobustan, Azerbaijan, Of late, the Embassy of

an Exclusive Fashion Show emphasising that the textile and apparel sector can be another significant area of partnership between India and Azerbaijan.

Tourism is another area which has great potential of further bringing the two countries together. India's vibrant cultural diversity and national heritage make it a widely popular tourist destination. Annually about 7% of India's GDP comes from the tourism sector. India provides an e-visa facilities for Azerbaijani citizens. It would be appropriate to create more awareness about tourist attractions in India and Azerbaijan for promoting mutual tourist flow. Direct flights between Delhi and Baku will not only reduce travel time but also contribute to enhanced and ease of two-way movement of people. Likewise, Azerbaijan Tourism Board has initiated 'Azerbaijan 101' online platform for informing tour operators and travel agents about Azerbaijan. New tourism infrastructure is coming up, for example, many Indian restaurants are opening up in Baku to cater to Indian tourists. Baku, Azerbaijan is also emerging as a popular destination for film shooting. Nine Indian films were shot in Azerbaiian in 2018-19.

Hence, the bilateral relations between the two states has evolved substantially over a period of time. Taking it forward, present cooperation can be truly enhanced. The two countries are also part of many regional initiatives like the INSTC route and the BTC pipeline. Additionally, to mitigate the consequences of global climate change, the two states can work together in the realms of renewable energy and energy efficiency. It is time that India and Azerbaijan take their partnership to newer heights and fully achieve cooperation potential in the domain of agriculture, capacity building, education, information technology, pharmaceuticals, tourism and science & technology

(The author is a foreign policy & environment expert and teaches international relations in the University of Delhi.)

India's G20 presidency A new India is in making

RAMAN SURI

ndia, having taken over gavel from Indonesian President Joko Widodo, has not only taken the biggest ever opportunity to lead the world from the front but also enabled itself to emerge as a world leader besides bringing G20 nations on one common platform when it comes to addressing global issues, be it elimination of terrorism, saving environment, facing global recession, bringing nations out of the economic crisis or even ending conflicts between countries that are at war affecting global peace.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after having settled very sensitive domestic issues like abrogation of Article 370 that had become a bone of contention, destruction of enemy camps in hostile nations proving India's mettle, enlightenment of fellow country people to adopt hygiene, development of massive infrastructure and giving a right direction to the country, elevated himself to now address global issues through this platform whose theme is Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" meaning "One Earth, One Family, One Future"

Another best thing about this G20 presidency is that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will also blink on international maps for hosting some meetings. if a nod comes from the Union Government. If the move matures, India will be able to expose before the world nefarious designs of Pakistan and also establish that people of this UT believe in peace and prosperity. There is every chance of this summit being held in SMVDU or SKICC convention centres but the government is also exploring the possibility of playing host in picturesque Gulmarg, sometime in September next.

Given the opportunity, Jammu and Kashmir will definitely be able to attract foreign investment in tourism, adventure sports, agriculture or even health sectors. If this matures, Gulmarg will become India's Davos, a mountain resort town in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland where World Economic Forum (WEF) holds its annual meeting and world leaders descend there. By making Jammu and Kashmir important, presumption of our UT being disturbed will



be done away with.

Coming to the global impact of India's presidency, one must know that G20 nations comprise twothirds of the world's population and 75 per cent of international trade is done between these nations. US president Joe Biden, while being a supporter of India, has categorically said that he is looking forward to supporting what he termed as his friend Prime Minister Narendra resolved to adopt human-centric globalisation.

Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Since India is emerging as a world leader and playing host to G20 nations, the this programme in the best ever manner it can. About two hundred has already resolved to crack its Indian cities and this is a golden so as well. Digital transaction is to reckon with.

India, in years to come and especially through these proposed meetings, will also be strengthening international support in varied social and economic sectors including energy, trade, digital economy, employment, anti-corruption and women empowerment. These the WTO. are certain vital areas that every

meetings aimed at addressing the issues. Founded in 1999 after the economic crisis that had emerged way back in 1997 as well as in 2008. Ever since then, G20 leaders have been meeting annually to address global issues

Now that India has taken over the reins of G20 nations, the challenges that it faces include ensuring sustainable development for all nations, food and housing for all besides giving best education and Modi, during India's presidency of healthcare facilities to all and also G20. Both these leaders have also providing potable water and sanitation in the fast-developing urban areas, for all of which international This is for sure that a new India cooperation is needed. India is defiis in making and the credit for nitely going to be carbon neutral it goes to the most transparent. in the shortest possible timeframe effective, answerable and cred- and this is what's expected from ible Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) other G20 nations as well who will also be asked to do away with combustion engines and move towards

renewable sources of energy. Employment is going to be opposition must also rise above the biggest challenge before G20 self or petty politics and support nations and resolution of this issue will be seen in days to come. India events have been planned for 50 whip on terrorism and is doing opportunity to be a support to the one such measure that's going move, that's making India a nation to nail black money and money that is used for terror activities. We are already moving towards digital-information-technology, open access software and utilising space as the next frontier but what's needed is how we are able to strengthen global partnership with the IMF, WHO, the World Bank and

This G20, a forum for internacountry wants to address as well. tional economic cooperation, plays Started as G7, leaders of other a vital role in building global archideveloped as well as developing tecture and good governance on nations were also involved in these all major international economic

Asian financial crisis, it started pulling in other developing nations as well and today it comprises of 19 countries including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States and the European Union (EU). Since the prime agenda of G20 nations is universal sense of oneness, India has given it a very apt theme - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

India in 2023 is poised to lead from the front and with its vast experience, also ready to present a model before the world that's sustainable and environmentfriendly. Since the basic theme revolves around humanity, the prime concern of providing food, fertiliser and healthcare facilities will definitely be made to rise above political considerations to help humanity. We are concerned about weapons of mass destruction and India, in the coming year, is sure to engage countries that are threatening world peace and humanity.

Coronavirus pandemic and geopolitical tensions besides economic slowdown have already affected food and energy prices and India is determined to address these issues but playing a major role in bringing an end to war in Ukraine or dealing with China would remain a challenge, for which our Prime Minister is well equipped and has already showed a way by asking both Russia and Ukraine that this is not the era of war. Narendra Modi has also already talked to

Chinese President Xi Jinping and now it's for China to respond in a positive manner, especially when the host nation is welcoming G20 nations with open arms. Modi has already made a beginning and a little way forward might bring in desired results in next one year.

The G20 nations have already recognised India's composite culture and appreciate the richness and cultural diversity of our country. This is a big opportunity for India to showcase its socio-economic and cultural powers and bring together world bodies to work in unison and make this planet worth living for ages to come. Prime Minister Narendra Modi very recently unveiled the Logo, Theme and Website of India's G20 Presidency, that is aimed at drawing inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag. India has used its national flower lotus in the logo sending a message of growth. Below the G20 logo is "Bharat", written in the Devanagari - a script known as 'Script of the divine city' that came from Devanagara or the 'city of the God'.

The theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" has also been drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad that guides us all to respect every life on Earth be it that of human, animal, plant or microorganisms. India, in addition to the website of G20, has also launched a mobile app "G20 India" which will keep us all updated with all the activities of G20 nations and the outcomes of their meetings being held across the length and breadth of the country.

There are people, especially opposition leaders, who are dubbing India's G20 presidency as an opportunity for 2024 general elections. These people must not indulge in such petty politics and realise India's potential that has enabled it to take the gavel from Indonesia to lead G20 nations for 2023. There will be several occasions when opposition can play their constructive role effectively but this opportunity must be seized to showcase to the world how strong and effective India is in resolving global issues or bringing G20 nations on a common platform to end conflict, save the planet and work for humanity. Jai Hind!

(The writer is Bharativa Janata Party J&K Executive Member)

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CONGRESS WIN IN HIMACHAL IS A POSITIVE SIGNAL FOR OTHER HINDI SPEAKING STATES

DR. GYAN PATHAK

elhi Municipal Corporation polls results on December 7 and Vidhan Sabha election results of Himachal Pradesh on December 8 should enthuse Congress on several counts chief of which is the shadowing of electoral prospects of its prime rival BJP, which has performed well only in Gujarat the home turf

of PM Narendra Modi. AAP has thrown BJP out of power from MCD which they have been ruling since 2007, while Congress is set to wrest power with winning majority seats from the saffron party in Himachal Pradesh amidst rumour that BJP could upset their applecart through defection. BJP had to suffer humiliating defeats both in Delhi and Himachal Pradesh. Congress gain in Himachal Pradesh is spectacular.

Gujarati's decided just to honour the PM Narendra Modi from among themselves who aroused their Guiarati sentiment and sympathy in his favour as

a 'victim of being defamed' during his election camreflect political sentiment of

dutva, along with Narendra Modi's charisma, and BJP's Chanakya Amit Shah's electoral strategy have become considerably weakened or rather not working as effectively as their followers have been thinking. Since Congress is the largest national political party in opposition in the country having support base across the country which seems to be rising during last few months of Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi, shadowing of the BJP's political prospects in this manner will certainly bring the party forward with greater advantage during the big political fight in general election 2024, which will be held only about 18 months

In 250-seat Municipal Corcould bag only 9. It was the tion of three municipal cor-

paign, and hence does not porations in 2017, when elections were held for 272 seats. AAP had contested the elec-These results are a stark tions for the first time and revelation that BJP's Hin- had won 49 seats pushing in Delhi must not be inter-Congress to their position with 31 seats in its bag. Congress has thus found a formidable political competitor in AAP. Many have interpreted this as existential threat to the Congress as its share of votes slumped by about 10 per cent from 21.21 per cent it had gained in MCD polls 2017. However, such an interpretation may have some errors on account of sharp polarization of voters, a larger section of which votes against BJP to only winnable

Congress. Himachal Pradesh results show it. AAP had also fielded their candidates in this Vidhan Sabha election, but poration of Delhi, Congress they electorally performed very badly, and the election first election after unifica- remained bipolar between BJP and Congress. A large

candidates, a trend that has

been in existence throughout

the country, and hence they

cannot be counted as anti-

porations in Delhi. There section of voters voted to make inroads when there candidates who happened to be of Congress.

Therefore, rise of AAP preted as a phenomenon that would work necessarily against Congress across the country, though it had recently unseated Congress from Punjab. It should be noted that Congress was a badly divided house in Punjab just before Vidhan Sabha elections, and the two opposing groups in the infighting worked against each other during the election that turned into advantage AAP at a time when the farmers were angry on the regional party Akali Dal that had parted ways from

Though there is an alarm bell ringing against the Congress on account of infighting in the party in several states where they are ruling or have large support base and where AAP is seriously trying to make inroads. Himachal Pradesh result shows that APP does not succeed

were three municipal coragainst the ruling BJP to is united Congress. Rather only winnable opposition AAP succeeds only where there is an ugly infighting within Congress and is virtually not in a position to take on BJP candidates successfully. The anti-BJP voters tend to vote to any political party's candidates according to their perceived winning

Gujarat election, though not reflecting real political preference of the voters but the Gujarati sentiment and sympathy factor for Narendra Modi, also shows that winnability against BJP candidates is a major anti-BJP vote catcher and in absence of it votes, become distributive. If AAP has made inroads for the party there, it is precisely because of this reason.

result is read with the earlier recent Vidhan Sabha election results such as in Uttarakhand or Uttar Pradesh. similar trends of anti-BJP voters have been noticed. In Uttarakhand, AAP could not make inroads, while win-

case of Uttar Pradesh anti-BJP votes were bagged by Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi party, that again shows the same trend of anti-BJP votes to the dominant regional party, and AAP remained immaterial

Congress has thus two major lessons for the big fight against the BJP in 2024 general election - first, the party needs to contain infighting, and secondly it should make alliance with dominant regional political parties in states. Though AAP led by Arvind Kejriwal has emerged as more brightened political star, they are ineffective where there is a dominant regional party or stronger and united Congress in fight against the BJP. This could be disheart-If the present election ening for AAP, which may compel them to make alliance with regional parties, many of which are more than willing to make a grand alliance against the Modi-Shah duo and BJP with Congress

in the lead, IPA SERVICE

INDIA GOVT MUST COME OUT EARLY WITH A **DEFINITE POLICY ON CRYPTO CURRENCY**

ARUN KUMAR SHRIVASTAV

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has revealed that it has tracked nearly 3,300 crypto accounts from April to November 2022 for illegal activities such as wildlife smuggling, drug trade, money laundering, and funding social unrest. The total illegal transaction through these accounts amounted to nearly Rs 28,000 crore, which took place between 2019 and 2021. FIU has been able to get 70% of these accounts closed while it's working to get the remaining accounts closed. Some of them are on foreign exchanges and to get those accounts blocked FIU is coordinating with international agencies such as Interpol and Europol, among others.

FIU which works under the Ministry of Finance has shared the input with other premier investigation agencies such as ED, CBI, and IT Department for field investigations. It has also directed investi-

Indian crypto firms but has named them publicly.

In the face of a crypto meltdown and the collapse of a string of big crypto companies that resulted in tens of thousands of investors losing their money, the crypto space is being seen with doubts and concerns not seen in its history so far. Indian investigators being on the hot trail of wrongdoers in this space have been able to ensure that India is not hit by the cascading effects of big collapses. The RBI's stance against cryptocurrency looks to be vindicated as it has vehemently opposed any legitimacy to digital coins so far.

But that is not the full story. Early this month, UK's Economic Secretary Andrew Griffith reaffirmed the country's commitment to the crypto industry and its ambition to become a key player. This is despite the collapse of FTX, which has left investors with a setback of \$ 8 billion. "We're driving forabout the future of crypto, but we'd be foolish to ignore the potential of the underlying technology," Griffith said last Thursday.

Michael Gronagar, CEO of Chainalysis, a Blockchain intelligence company that counts governments, investigation agencies, and financial companies as its clients, says in a new blog that the failure of entities such as FTX is an opportunity to reiterate the reason why we are in the crypto industry, what we believe in, and why we are building. This intends to clarify that crypto is going to reinvent the exchange of value in the same as the internet has reinvented the exchange of information.

The official stance of the Indian government on the issue of cryptocurrency has been one that of indeidea for which there are not enough

chair the crypto-engagement group cial instability and spike funding to hear from industry and share of illegal activities. India wants a progress... Yes, there are questions global voice against cryptocurrency that acts in unison. With India assuming G20 Presidency, it is expected that it will work towards the goal of global regulation for this sector. That may or may not come, given differing viewpoints and interests of member countries of this important economic block.

In Griffith's reassertion of the UK's resolve to move ahead with its crypto plans because of the powerful technology that underpins the world of digital assets, failures like FTX notwithstanding, he has the support of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who had overseen some important initiatives taken under his previous role as the UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer. While not letting crypto flourish by formal and informal means, the government may have a case that it wants cision. It believes it is an emerging to protect the investors. But by not taking adequate initiatives in this

gations against three prominent ward this agenda, and I continue to safeguards and it may trigger finan-field, it's putting cold water on India's lead in this space.

For example, India is debating a new bill on personal data protection and even when this is going on, several institutions of national importance such as AIIMS have seen malicious attacks on their data centres, resulting in the exposure of data of millions of Indians to bad actors. It appears from the reports so far that these attacks are being sponsored by India's arch rivals and neighbours China and Pakistan as a test of resilience of India's critical IT infrastructures. These attacks often launched from a third country in Eastern Europe and elsewhere amount to a threat to India's national interest. Can blockchain technology help in this matter?

Well, it seems we are not allowing India's tech capability to respond to emerging challenges in

'DELIBERATE AMBIGUITY': ISRAEL'S **NUCLEAR WEAPONS POSE GREATEST** THREAT TO MIDDLE EAST

RAMZY BAROUD

s western countries are Russia could escalate its conflict with Ukraine to a nuclear war, many western governments continue to turn a blind eve to Israel's own nuclear weapons capabilities. Luckily, many countries around the world do not subscribe to this endemic western hypocrisy.

'The Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction' was held between November 14-18, with the sole purpose of creating new standards of accountability that, as should have always been the case, be applied equally to all Middle Eastern countries.

The debate regarding nuclear weapons in the Middle East could not possibly be any more pertinent or urgent. International observers rightly note that the period following the Russia-Ukraine war is likely to accelerate the quest for nuclear weapons throughout the world. Considering the seemingly perpetual state of conflict in the Middle East, the region is likely to witness nuclear rivalry as well.

For years, Arab and other countries attempted to raise the issue that accountability regarding the development and acquisition of nuclear weapons cannot be confined to states that are perceived to be enemies of Israel and the West.

The latest of these efforts was called on Israel to dispose of its Energy Agency (IAEA). Resolution

number A/C.1/77/L.2, which was drafted by Egypt with the support of other Arab countries, passed floating the theory that with an initial vote of 152-5. Unsurprisingly, among the five countries that voted against the draft were the United States, Canada and, of course, Israel itself. US and Canadian blind support

of Tel Aviv notwithstanding, what compels Washington and Ottawa to vote against a draft entitled: "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East"? Keeping in mind the successive right-wing extremist governments that have ruled over Israel for many years, Washington must understand that the risk of using nuclear weapons under the guise of fending off an 'existential threat' is a real possibility.

Since its inception, Israel has resorted to, and utilized the phrase 'existential threat' countless times. Various Arab governments, later Iran and even individual Palestinian resistance movements were accused of endangering Israel's very existence. Even the non-violent Palestinian civil society-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement was accused by then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2015 of being an existential threat to Israel. Netanyahu claimed that the boycott movement was "not connected to our actions; it is connected to our very exis-

This should worry everyone, not just in the Middle East, but the whole world. A country with such a United Nations resolution that hyped sensitivity about imagined 'existential threats' should not nuclear weapons, and to place its be allowed to acquire the kind of nuclear facilities under the moni- weapons that could destroy the toring of the International Atomic entire Middle East, several times



nuclear arsenal was intrinsically its historical conflict with the from their historic homeland, and long before any serious Arab or Palestinian resistance was carried out in response, Israel was already on the lookout for nuclear weapons.

had found uranium deposits in the Negev Desert, leading to the establishment, in 1952, of the very secretive Israel Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC).

In 1955, the US government sold Israel a nuclear research reactor. But that was not enough. Eager to become a full nuclear power, Tel Aviv resorted to Paris in 1957. The Negev Desert.

The father of the Israeli nuclear inspection. program at the time was none other

Some may argue that Israel's in 1994. The Dimona Nuclear Reactor is now named 'Shimon Peres linked to real fears resulting from Nuclear Research Center-Negev'.

With no international moni-Arabs. However, this is not the toring whatsoever, thus with case. As soon as Israel finalized its zero legal accountability, Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestinians nuclear quest continues until this day. In 1963, Israel purchased 100 tons of uranium ore from Argentina, and it is strongly believed that during the October 1973 Israel-Arab war, Israel "came close to making As early as 1949, the Israeli army a nuclear preemptive strike", according to Richard Sale, writing in United Press International (UPI).

> Currently, Israel is believed to have "enough fissionable material to fabricate 60-300 nuclear weapons," according to former US Army Officer Edwin S. Cochran.

Estimates vary, but the facts about Israel's weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) are hardly latter became a major partner in contested. Israel itself practices Israel's sinister nuclear activities what is known as 'deliberate ambiwhen it helped the Israeli gov- guity', as to send a message to its ernment construct a clandestine enemies of its lethal power, withnuclear reactor near Dimona in the out revealing anything that may hold it accountable to international

What we know about Israel's than Shimon Peres who, ironically, nuclear weapons has been made was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize possible partly because of the

bravery of a former Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu, a whistleblower who was held in solitary confinement for a decade due to his courage in exposing Israel's darkest secrets.

Still, Israel refuses to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), endorsed by 191 countries.

Israeli leaders adhere to what is known as the 'Begin Doctrine', in reference to Menachem Begin, the rightwing Israeli prime minister who invaded Lebanon in 1982, resulting in the killing of thousands. The doctrine is formulated around the idea that while Israel gives itself the right to own nuclear weapons, its enemies in the Middle East must not. This belief continues to direct Israeli actions to this

The US support for Israel is not confined to ensuring the latter has 'military edge' over its neighbors in terms of traditional weapons, but to also ensure Israel remains the region's only superpower, even if that entails escaping international accountability for the development of WMDs.

The collective efforts by Arab and other countries at the UNGA to create a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons are welcomed initiatives. It behooves everyone, Washington included, to join the rest of the world in finally forcing Israel to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty, a first but critical step towards long-delayed accountabil-

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AGRICULTURE IS CONTRIBUTING IN A BIG WAY TO INDIA'S EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

KRISHNA JHA

riven by good performance compared to other sectors during the pandemic, agriculture has absorbed an additional 11 million workers over the last three years while the rest of the economy lost 15 million jobs, said the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). Jobs apart, the question remains where does the surplus from the bumper crops gets accommodated.

According to CMIE's Consumer Pyramids Household Survey, agriculture saw an estimated 4.5 million increase in employment during fiscal 2021-22. While total employment fell by 21.7 million in the pandemic year of 2020-21, agriculture provided employment to a substantial 3.4 million. In 2019-20 as well agriculture saw an addition of 3.1 million to its count of employed.

This has been possible because of good monsoon, bumper production and higher prices, the CMIE said. It is a fact that even though there was a hike in prices in agricultural production, that hardly helped the rural producers. Life remained as hard as ever. With the bumper crops, difficulties for the farmers were not resolved as the market forces were not in their side. Situation remained grim and the migration rate was huge. There were the adversities, in 2019-20, and yet agriculture grew by 5.5 percent, while the nonagricultural sectors grew by a lower 3.5 percent. In 2020-21, agriculture grew by 3.3 per cent, though the rest of the economy shrunk by 6.3 per cent. In 2021-22, while economy was recovering from its deep fall, agriculture continued to grow by 3.3 per cent.

The industry and services sector, that constitutes more than 80 percent of the gross value added (GVA) in the country, provides employment to 54.4 percent of work force, and so far as agriculture is concerned that accounted for 18.19 percent of GVA in 2019-20, and retained 45.6 percent of the workforce.

Agriculture is one sector that has the highest number of people employed as agricultural workers, as high as 151 million in the financial year of 2021, despite the epidemic and lock down that had the extreme negative impact on the country's GDP ratio. Agrarian sector was the only one that saw an increasing employment trend. With a vear-on-vear growth rate of 4.1 percent, the sector accounted for almost 40.9 percent of employment growth. Number of people employed in this sector, in millions in the financial year of 2021, was 151.79, for 2020, it was 145.88, for 2019, 143, for 2018, 143.83, and for 2017, it stood at 145.66.

As per census, 2011, conducted by the registrar general of India, the total number of agricultural workers in the country went up from 234.1 million, among them were included 127.3 million cultivators and 106.8 million agricultural workers. In recent years the share of agricultural workers has come down to 58.2 percent in 2000 and by 2011, it was 54.6 percent. Migration of rural to urban areas by the agricultural workers was one factor that took its toll in this shift. It was in fact a general phenomenon and natural in the development process. The reason for this shift was lure for better wages, employment opportunities, in industries and services as the graph of urbanisation was going up. In a market economy like India has, the movement of people for better opportunities is inevitable. The food grain production kept up its high levels. During 2018-19, the production was estimated as 284.95 million tonnes (As per fourth advance estimates, 2018-19).

As per the seventh schedule of our Constitution, land comes under the purview of state government, and therefore it is on the state governments, to make efforts to increase cultivable land, and the Centre has to help the states through supplementing in crop development programmes. But in reality, the Centre is busy in acquiring land for its own vested interests. The purpose has been to serve the service and construction sector, and such non-productive areas that help the corporate sector to evolve. It is not the food grains they are interested in, the land in their hands turns

Despite the fact that India has further fallen in the Hunger Index to 107th position out of 121 countries, the government of India, instead of finding ways to resolve the ultimate, that concerns life, is busy criticising the agencies like Welthungerhilife or Concern Worldwide that calculate the index. When the country is facing the grim scenario, the latest India Wealth Report 2021, the number of dollar-millionaire households in India is increased by 11 per cent to 4,58,000 households in 2021, as compared to 2020. A household having a net worth of at least INR 7 crore (1 million dollar), is referred to as a $dollar\hbox{-}millionaire\ household.\ The\ report\ has\ estimated$ that the number of dollar-millionaire households in the country shall increase by 30 percent over the next five years to reach 6,00,000 households in 2026.

The contrast is obvious. There is the growth, even though restricted, there are haunting shadows too. The basics are kept intact. The surplus from the bumper production does not feed the hunger of those living at the bottom, their wages are still not even the minimum, while MSP remains a far cry.

IPA SERVICE

TO MY TEACHERS SANIYA ZEHRA DAR

You teach me how to live as a human being. You motivate me when motivation is missing. You make when nothing is to construct.

You show the path that is truest. You build our personalities when no one is around. You are my spiritual fathers.

Without you, we cannot prosper in any sense. I pray for your health and prosperity. I am thankful to all, particularly Bilal Sir for trans-

May you all live long!

The budding poet is a class 9 student from Khushipora, HMT, Srinagar

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BRIEFLY NEWS

Bigg Boss 16: Sreejita De re-enters as wildcard

he morning in the house of 'Bigg Boss 16' starts with Tina Datta and Shalin Bhanot discussing where they stand in their relationship.

There have been constant ups and downs, and lots of arguments between the two. In an ongoing conversation, Shalin says to Tina to not worry about him and that he goes only where he feels wanted. He further adds that whatever Tina is doing is correct and he is wrong. Upset Tina says to Shalin that she is the one wrong and thanks him for giving her a closure. Will Tina and Shalin try to resolve things between them?

Viewers will witness the biggest 'dhamaka' tonight! Eliminated in the first week of 'Bigg Boss 16'. Sreeijta De re-enters the house as a wildcard. bringing lots of drama and fun along.

Bigg Boss announces everyone to gather in the living area and asks the housemates to better their game before it's too late, for that he has organized a Yoga session for all to open their minds. That's when Sreejita comes to the picture and is seen in the activity room doing Yoga. The housemates flabbergast as they see Sreejita on the screen.

One by one 'Bigg Boss' asks the housemates to go into the activity room where Sreejita will make them do yoga positions. As Tina enters the activity room, Sreejita does not let her meet and asks to maintain a distance. She tells Tina that her heart is black, and her vibe isn't good.

In a tiff between Soundarya Sharma and Tina, Tina breaks down as she denies the accusation put on her by Soundarya regarding the stealing of 'tofu'. She goes through an emotional turmoil and says why would she take something like food from anyone. She adds that she only fights for chicken in this house and not even her own food. Will Tina be able to survive amidst the challenges put before her?

'Bigg Boss 16' airs every Monday to Friday at 10 pm and every Saturday - Sunday at 9 pm on COLORS

Pratibha Singh's ghazal 'Kya Kije' out

ollywood singer Pratibha Singh Baghel known for lending her voice in films 'Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhaniya', 'Zid', 'Manikarnika', among others, and noted lyricist Aalok Shrivastav have come together for a music album titled 'Kya Kije'

The music has been produced by Gaurav Vaswani and composed by Ghansham Vaswani has been released under the label of 'BeK Music', founded by producer Ved Gupta.

Talking about the song, Pratibha said,"It's a new single releasing on Bazm-e-khas written by Aalok. This whole idea of 'Kya Kije' came up with so much love and affection from both poet and producer to me that I felt compelled to sing this poetry."

Poet and lyricist Aalok shared,"I'm associated with Ghansham Vaswani since almost 30 years now so working with him was a emotional moment for me. Also, Pratibha Singh Baghel is a very prominent artist full of talent. I'm very glad to work with her and producer Ved Gupta ji who values art, culture and literature. His support towards artists is unsurpassable. Working with such an amazing team was pleasure for me. Also, Gaurav Vaswani who is one of the top notch music producers in the industry."

Ghansham commented,"Kya Kije' pis a beautifully written by Aalok ji and it's soulful ghazal which touched my heart so I decided to compose it. Pratibha Singh Baghel's voice to this is the icing on the cake.'

"It's a beautiful ghazal and we can call it a love song as well. It's about young unfulfilled love of a girl with someone. Aalok and Pratibha did a fantastic job. There's a contemporary feel in the video which you will get to watch," added Ved Gupta, producer and founder of Bazm-e-khas

Shilpa Shetty to feature on 'Datebaazi'

he fourth episode of Amazon miniTV's Datebaazi' is all set to feature Shilpa Shetty

'Datebaazi' is a show that lets parents decide who their child goes on a date with. Hosted by Rithvik Dhanjani, the show comprising of 20 episodes, with each one bringing new and innovative challenges for the participants.

While the show sounds and looks fascinating, there is one more piece of news for the viewers that will make the idea of watching 'Datebaazi' just a little more exciting.

Shilpa will be seen alongside host Rithvik to help the parents choose the perfect date for their children. As strange as it may sound, this show promises to be an absolute roller coaster ride with some of the most bizarre demands that the new generation have about their dates

Talking about her experience working on this dating show, Shilpa said, "We have evolved a lot over the years... our choices, the trends we're seeing around the world, the way we approach our relationships, all of it. When I heard about the show, Datebaazi, I was quite intrigued by the concept of parents picking out a date for their children. It's great that Amazon miniTV is presenting such a fun and modern show, especially at a time when parents share a rather friendly and unique bond with their children and it was super exciting to be a part of this episode from the get go.

Created by Frames Productions, 'Datebaazi' is now streaming on Amazon miniTV.

NTR Jr introduces 'Virupaksha' in Telugu

an of masses NTR Jr has lent his roaring voice to the title glimpse of Sai Dharam LTej's (SDT) 15th film. □

The title of the much-awaited mystical thriller was revealed on Thursday as 'Virupaksha'. The teaser, released in five languages, has NTR Jr introducing the world of 'Virupaksha' and SDT's character in Telugu.

The 'RRR' actor sets the tone of the intriguing new film and raises our excitement with his distinct and commanding voice.

'Virupaksha' is directed by Karthik Dandu and produced by Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra and Sukumar Writings

Still basking in RRR's success, NTR Jr will soon commence the shoot of NTR30 which is helmed by Janatha Garage director Koratala Siva. He also has NTR31 directed by KGF director Prashanth Neel on the cards

Enjoyed achieving intensity of 'Freddy's character: Kartik Aaryan

superstar Kartik Aaryan.

After enjoying the success of his mega-blockbuster 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', he has basked in heaps of praise from both audiences and critics for his portrayal of 'Freddy'.

Kartik has delivered the best performance of his career in 'Freddy' and without a doubt, he has pulled off a very layered and intense role with the utmost fineness. Presently, 'Freddy' is a huge success and the entire credit goes to Kartik for playing a very demanding and spine-chilling

Kartik said in a statement, "I am extremely overjoyed by the kind of response I have been receiving for Freddy. It was indeed a very tough character that has come my way, but I enjoyed the process of achieving the intensity. This is something I always like to experiment with my characters and I am very glad that the audience is loving the performance and accepted Freddy, the way we really wanted this character to come out."

"As an actor in me, it feels truly amazing to know that people are accepting me in this shade too as I tried my hand at this genre for the first time," he added.

On the work front, he has Shehzada, Aashiqui 3, Satya Prem Ki Katha, and Kabir Khan's untitled next.



Papon collabs with Bhansali for 'Dard Pattharon Ko'

inger-composer Papon, who is known for soul soothing songs, has collaborated with ace filmmaker-composer Sanjay Leela Bhansali for his first ever music album 'Sukoon'.

'Dard Pattharon Ko' marks their first collaboration, and is one of the nine beautiful ghazals from the album

Papon shared the announcement on Instagram and said "Here's a piece of our heart for your soul! Embrace, enjoy and enter the world of #Sukoon, the first ever music album made by #SanjayLeelaBhansali".

Talking about the special



"It has been a pleasure to has Sukoon as the album definitely a beautiful way to collaborate with the multi- name suggests. I am over- end the year." faceted man Mr. Bhansali. whelmed with the response

collaboration, Papon said, Every song in this album I have received so far. It's

Disney+Hotstar to launch new Simpsons short on Dec 15 isnev+ Hotstar on Thursday announced

that the new short "The Simpsons meet the Bocellis in 'Feliz Navidad'" will launch on December 15.

In the upcoming short from "The Simpsons," Homer surprises Marge with the ultimate gift: an unforgettable performance from Italian opera superstar Andrea Bocelli and his 25-year-old son Matteo and 10-year-old daughter Virginia.

On December 15, Andrea, Matteo, and Virginia Bocelli will also release the new Christmas.'

December 17 as "The Simp- Disney+ Hotstar.



single "Feliz Navidad" fea- sons" celebrates 33 vears tured in the short and off since its first episode aired their new album, "A Family in 1989. The first 33 seasons of "The Simpsons" are cur- of shorts from "The Simp-The festivities continue rently available to stream on sons" created exclusively for

"The Simpsons meet the Bocellis in 'Feliz Navidad' is the latest in a collection Disney+ Hotstar.

Amazon miniTV to air 'Bhai-Behen Zee Theatre to air 'Shadyantra' vs The World' on Dec 12

gearing up to premiere an extremely hilarious and relatable web series, 'Bhai-Behen vs The World', from December 12.

The streaming service on Thursday unveiled the trailer for the quirky series that will see real-life brother-sister duo Shubham and Saloni Gaur in lead roles.

The trailer gives us a sneak peek into a sibling jodi where Shubham plays the elder brother who thinks he is a master of all trades, while his younger sister Saloni is the real mastermind who knows won't back down from any battle.

Speaking on the upcoming show, Saloni said, "Our bhaibehen content has received



Bhai-Behen vs The World. Usually, it is Bhai vs Behen camaraderie between us and how we unite against

Echoing her sentiments, Shubham shared, "It was great playing bhai-behen a lot of love always. So, we for the reel also. We hope decided to do something the audiences like our chem-

bigger and different with sitry and have a great time watching the show because we had an amazing time but here, you'll witness the making it. Siblings all across ages will be able to relate to our show and we are both super excited for it!'

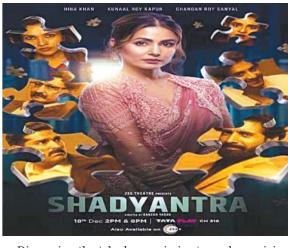
> Created by Team Yellow Montage, 'Bhai-Behen vs The World' is set to stream on the service from Decem-

on December 18

to premiere 'Shady-antra', a star-studded edge-of-the-seat thriller packed with psychological intrigue, from December 18.

Woven around primary human impulses of greed, ambition, self-preservation and revenge, it stars Hina Khan, Chandan Roy Sanyal and Kunaal Roy Kapur in

The teleplay narrates the story of a married couple, Rohan Tiwari and Natasha Malhotra Tiwari. Natasha is the heiress of a construction company but leads a contented life far removed from business intrigue. Then a shocking murder changes Natasha's life forever and investigating police officer Mohan Khanna arrives to solve the mystery.



ative Officer - Special Projthrilled to premiere Shadyantra which is part of our

Discussing the teleplay, mission to produce original Shailia Kejriwal, Chief Cre- and engrossing contemporary plays for audiences ects, ZEEL, said, "We are and make them select theatre as their entertainment

ZEE5 to air 'Har Har Mahadev' on Dec 9

EE5 on Thursday announced the premiere of the Marathi historical action-drama film 'Har Har Mahadev', on December 9.

The inspiring story of Baji Prabhu Deshpande is backed with an ensemble cast such as Sharad Kelkar, Subodh Bhave, Amruta Khanvilkar, Nishigandha Wad, Sayali Sanjeev, Hardeek Joshi, Milind Shinde, Kishore Kadam, Nitish Chavan, and Ashok Shinde.

Directed by Abhijeet Deshpande and produced by Zee Studios along with Sunil Phadtare under the banner of Shree Ganesh Marketing and Films, 'Har Har Mahadev' is the first Marathi multilingual film which depicts the inspiring story of Baji Prabhu Deshpande, a general of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who fought alongside 12,000 Bijapuri soldiers with his army of 300 soldiers.

With an IMDB rating of the craving. We are elated to 8.1, the emotional storyline, have the first Marathi multiaction-packed sequences, and phenomenal acting in and are looking forward to a this historical action drama successful run.' struck a chord with the audiences in theatres.

ness Officer, ZEE5 India action thriller that will keep



been to acquire blockbuster films across languages. And there is growing appetite for Marathi films. With films like Har Har Mahadev being added to our portfolio, we believe that we will satiate lingual film on our platform

Director Abhijeet Deshpande commented, "Har Manish Kalra, Chief Busi- Har mahadev is a historical

that will keep the audience interested and carry them through a range of emotions. With grand visuals and powerful performances, this story also reveals the unknown facets of the grand Maratha history. We are glad that the movie will be movie will have a larger available for the viewers in 190 plus countries and will get a wider reach via ZEE5."

Sharad shared, "Har Har Mahadev was a challenging film as it demanded a film will be available to lot from me physically and said, "In an effort to cater to you at the edge of your seat mentally. I am glad to have Telugu, Tamil and Kannada the rising demand for quali-throughout the film. The gone through this enrich-languages.

ing experience. Now with Har Har Mahadev having its world digital premier on OTT, I look forward to the film reaching a wider audience! Hope we a get the same response like we did in the theatres!!"

Subodh said, "Being part of a movie like Har Har Mahadev was a different experience altogether. The movie narrates a very strong and inspirational story of a real battle. Each character was carefully crafted by the makers, and everyone has put in their all to preserve the sanctity of the role. I am glad that via ZEE5 the audience in 190 + countries will be able to watch it.

Amruta added, "I am delighted to be a part of this movie that not only entertained the audience but also had a great storyline. Now that the movie is releasing on ZEE5 in five languages, we are sure that due to the brand's global reach, the audience and be widely regarded. Can't wait for more people to watch it."

With its premiere on ZEE5 on December 16, the viewers in Marathi, Hindi,

'Cirkus': Deepika-Ranveer's track 'Current Laga Re' out



he duo, Deepika Padukone and Rohit Shetty who impressed us with their first outing, of the superhit comedy 'Chennai Express' are back together for 'Current Laga Re', a new song from the director's upcoming next, 'Cirkus', starring Ranveer Singh.

Touted as the 'Queen of Entertainment', Deepika has set her charm not just in the country but is also making waves globally, representing the Indian entertainment industry on the global map.

The makers of 'Cirkus' released the first track from the film on Thursday, and it is an absolute treat. The track titled 'Current Laga Re' features star couple Ranveer and Deepika dancing their hearts out. The track begins with Deepika ruling K' starring Prabhas.

the dance floor matched by Ranveer's energy and the star couple's electrifying chemistry Ever since the audience

saw a glimpse of her in the trailer of Rohit's 'Cirkus', they were eagerly waiting for the song to release. Deepika's short cameo in the trailer as well had broken the internet and the song is all set to do the same.

Moreover, Deepika can be seen coming back after nine years in her Meenamma vibes from 'Chennai Express' on the screen, which has sent her fan clubs in frenzy

On the film front, Deepika has 'Pathaan', alongside Shah Rukh Khan; 'Fighter' with Hrithik Roshan, 'The Intern' remake; and 'Project

My Town My Pride:Sarita Chauhan, Vivek Sharma review functioning of Samba Municipality

of ambitious 'My Town My Pride' (MTMP) 2.0 programme of providing services to people at their doorsteps, Commissioner Secretary, Labour and Employment, Sarita Chauhan and Director General, Social Welfare Jammu, Vivek Sharma (Visiting Officers) today reviewed functioning of Samba Municipality besides conducting interaction session with ULB Councilors regarding their

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta, CPO Sukhleen Kour, ADC, Rakesh Dubey, Executive Officer, Municipality Samba besides other district officers and Urban Local Body councilors were also present on the occa-

Executive Officer informed about status of various mega projects including town upgradation of Municipal Complex, Samba, construction of multi functional complex at Bus Stand Samba with shopping complex, upgradation of ponds, community hall, children's park besides highlighting other works being executed under District Capex Budget, IDMT, material recovery facility, PMAY-U, PMSvaNidhi,

Visiting Officers laid stress on provision of public services at doorsteps of general public with focus on those living in unorganized townships, priority house-



uration under IHHL facility in Samba town

Under PM SVANIDHI scheme,

Visiting Officers asked the officers to ensure that all eligible street vendors be provided with 100% trade licenses. "The Rehri walas spots should be fixed at a suitable place in a systematic manner so that separate rehri zones be created. Besides, each and every Rehri wala should carry dustbins along with them for waste management to keep their surroundings neat and clean", added the Visiting Officers.

Visiting Officers stressed creating massive awareness on digitization of services through online portals, green city plan under which e-Rickshaws should be used in place of petrol /diesel vehicles, usage of door to door waste carriers and other initiatives of government in the town area. They exhorted upon all

members of ULBs to carry out

massive plantation drives near

railway station, mega projects

sites so that aesthetics of city can

be evolved "Under self employment generation schemes awareness be generated among youths on benefits of MUMKIN, TEJASVI, HI-MAYAT and other government sponsored schemes" maintained the Visiting Officers

Visiting Officers listened to the issues of ward members and assured that these will be solved

on priority level through proper

Meanwhile, Visiting Officers also distributed cheques among (URBAN) Mission. They also conducted an extensive tour of Samba town. Executive Officer informed about status of various mega projects including town upgradation of Municipal Complex, Samba, construction of multi functional complex at Bus Stand Samba with shopping complex, upgradation of ponds, community hall, children's park besides highlighting other works being executed under District Capex Budget, IDMT, material recovery facility, PMAY-U, PMSvaNidhi, IHHL.

Visiting Officers laid stress on provision of public services at doorsteps of general public with focus on those living in unorganized townships, priority households besides ensuring 100% saturation under IHHL facility in

Under PM SVANIDHI scheme, Visiting Officers asked the officers to ensure that all eligible street vendors be provided with 100% trade licenses. "The Rehri walas spots should be fixed at a suitable place in a systematic manner so that separate rehri zones be created. Besides, each and every Rehri wala should car-

Agriculture department, SKUAST (J) joins hands to revive Black Zeera cultivation in District Kishtwar

BER 08: Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Kishtwar in collaboration with SKUAST Jammu have joined hands to revive & reintroduce Black Zeera Cultivation in the District. On the direction of Di-

rector of Agriculture, Jammu, K.K Sharma and under the guidance of District Development Commissioner, war Dr Devansh Yadav, the department has distributed 60,000 Zeera Tubers among 30 progressive of Block Padder (Funded through NABARD & procured from Himachal Pradesh) under the close supervision of Chief Agriculture Officer, (CAO) Amjad Hussain Malik and in collaboration with SKUAST, Jammu.During the distribution, the CAO Kishtwar also interacted with the farmers of Padder area and made them aware about the cultivation of Black Zeera commercial Besides, the Department of Agriculture, District Kishtwar for the first time laid 20,000 Black



rejuvenation over a 10 Kanal of area in the Zeera Research Farm, Atholi, Padder,It is pertinent to mention here that the same tubers have been introduced at Saffron Development Farm, Berwar, Kishtwar on trial basis.

The Chief Agriculture Officer asked the concerned officers to supervise the activities regarding Zeera cultivation and record its data for future references. He mentioned the utility of spice which will only become successful if it is introduced in other parts of non-traditional areas of the district in the future. Department of Agriculture & Farm-Welfare Kishtwar ers' in collaboration with SKUAST Jammu have ioined hands to revive &

reintroduce Black Zeera Cultivation in the District.On the direction of Director of Agriculture, Jammu, K.K Sharma and under the guidance of District Development Commissioner, war Dr Devansh Yadav, the department has distributed 60,000 Zeera Tubers among 30 progressive Farmers of Block Padder (Funded through NABARD & procured from Himachal Pradesh) under the close supervision of Chief Agriculture Officer, (CAO) Amjad Hussain Malik and in collaboration with SKUAST, Jammu.During the distribution, the CAO Kishtwar also interacted with the farmers of Padder area and made them

ADC Bhadarwah listens to issues of media persons



BHADARWAH, DECEMBER 08: Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Choudhary Dilmir today convened an interactive meeting with local media persons here at meeting Hall Dak Bunglow Bhadarwah. The meeting was attended by the ASP Bhadarwah Aftab Alam besides media persons representing different print, electronic and social media organisations. The media persons highlighted different issues being faced by the fraternity and general public of the Sub Division Bhadarwah. Thorough discussions were held to maintain better coordination between the administration and media agencies to facilitate dissemination of factual information through the media. Suggestions were also sought from the media persons for addressing the problems being faced by them in connection with the dissemination of developmental activities being carried out in Bhadarwah. The ADC, while speaking on the occasion, said that media plays an important role in getting public teedback and enables the administration to im plement the government welfare schemes and other activities on the lines of public aspirations for inclusive development. He thanked all the media persons and extended his best wishes to them.ASP Bhadarwah said that the real essence of democracy can be realised only with a healthy journalism. He ensured that the police.

SKCGDC Poonch organises students' tour, Swachta Abhyan under My Town My Pride

partment of Botany, Shri Krishan Chander Govt Degree College Poonch organized a local plant collection tour at village Jhulas and a Swachchata Abhiyan in the Mangnar area of Poonch with the involvement of the students of Sem Ist.

The plant collection tour was organised to impart practical knowledge to students, and inculcate a comprehensive approach in them as prescribed in

During the tour the students knew how plants grow and function in nature, their habits and the different types of habitats, and various other aspects of plant diversity pertaining to to focus on practical learning as

their syllabus. The tour was de signed to mitigate the "practical" related problems of the students. The college has planned more such practical learning programs and other curricular and extracurricular programs for the SEM III and Sem V students in days to come. The event further aimed to compensate the loss of studies in corona years with regard to "practical" learning and acquaint them with the actual purpose of field studies. Dr. Mahroof Khan of the Department of Botany discussed in depth the topics related to the subject. Dr Rani Mughal discussed the importance of biodiversity for mankind and advised students



much as they do on classroom and laboratory experiments.

Meanwhile, the students of Bsc Sem 1 actively participated in

their desire to have a neat and environment clean Poonch township.

Dr. Mahroof Khan in charge of

guest faculty of the institution also accompanied the local tour. ate the "practical" related prob-lems of the students. The college has planned more such practical learning programs and other curricular and extracurricular programs for the SEM III and Sem V students in days to come. The event further aimed to compensate the loss of studies in corona years with regard to "practical" learning and acquaint them with the actual purpose of field studies. Dr. Mahroof Khan of the Department of Botany discussed in depth the topics relat-

of the Prime Minister's Swachchata Abhiyan. Dr Zeba Manzar

NDRF team conducts Table Top mock Drill at Doda

DODA, DECEMBER 08: A team of 13th Bn NDRF on Thursday conducted Table Top Exercise (TTE) on Earthquakes and Landslides as a part of its 2-day awareness program starting from today.

Table Top Exercise organised in the Conference hall of the DC office complex was attended by ADC Dr Ravi Kumar Bharti officers of NDRF, SDRF, Police,

CRPF and HoDs of line departments. It was informed that the Mock Drill was organised by the NDRF team to sensitise stakeholders about the rescue preparedness at the time of an earthquake, landslide, and fire incident

On the first day of the exercise, the Na tional Disaster Response Force (NDRF) demonstrated Table Top Exercise (TTE) which is helpful in staying safe in the wake of an earthquake or landslide.

Earlier, Assistant Commandant, 13th Battalion, NDRF, Javed Iqbal gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the structure and role of NDRF in India, its abilities, the details of machines used for dealing with all types of natural and man-made disasters, etc.

Javed Iqbal stressed on the need to maintain coordination among the stakeholders during a disaster to reduce



response time for rescue measures as District Doda falls under IV and V earthquake seismic zones

The meeting held threadbare discus-

sion on the Response, Rescue and Rehabilitation preparation plan and strategy to mitigate the damage and loss of lives and property during high intensity earthquakes and other disasters.

Heads of different stakeholder departments responded to the queries during the meeting.

Deliberations were also held on the utility of satellite phone, helipads, medical infrastructure and response team. hygiene and sanitation, drinking water supply, role of media, awareness and training to effectively tackle the unprecedented disaster in the district.

JKRLM organises awareness Workshop to educate women SHGs about Menstrual Health & Hygiene

JAMMU, DECEMBER 08: To spread awareness among the members of women Self Help Groups (SHGs) about Menstrual Health & Hygiene, Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) on Thursday organised a daylong workshop on the theme "Menstrual Hygiene Management -Mardun ki Zubani".

The day-long programme was organized across all the blocks of the Mission to sensitise the SHG women about vital social and health issues, especially those related to personal health and

During the workshop, the SHGs were told about the science behind menstruation and the myths surrounding it. The SHGs were also taught about basic hygiene that should be maintained during periods. It helped in sensitising them on various complications arising out of lack of menstrual hygiene

Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib, in her keynote address said that Menstruation is a natural part of the reproductive cycle. However, in most parts of the country, it remains a taboo and is rarely talked about, which leads to gender issues and all anti social activities. She therefore said that the purpose of this workshop was to create awareness on menstruation and its hy-

She explained that the clean-

Government of India is a significant move and the Menstrual Hygiene Management as a component is equally important as the about the heightened vulnerabilities of menstrual hygiene and its management

The focus of the program was to



taboo associated with Menstrual cycle is still existing in our society. "Conducting the Menstrual Hygiene Management workshop will significantly focus on taking Men folk on board to make them understand the help and support they must provide to the women going through this natural phase every month," the MD added. She further said "Our aim is to

empower young women and girls

on personal hygiene particularly on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and the participants were asked to act as ambassadors for sensitising other women to maintain MHM safe and hygienic sanitation, the MD added.

She hoped that the training would be a beginning and the first step towards building up confidence and boldness among the women groups. In this conter trainers to understand well and spread awareness

Archana Gosh, National Programme Manager, National Rural Livelihood Mission(NRLM) - the resource person of the event , spoke on the important issue of menstrual hygiene, its sustainability when it comes to over all period management.

She said that the purpose was to create awareness, to mitigate the challenges associated with periods and encourage the master trainers to spread awareness so that every woman and girl has access to safe and sustainable menstrual hygiene products along with holistic and accurate information to manage menstru-

Guest speaker Dr. Meenali Rajput, Medical officer, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) emphasized on cleanliness and hygiene. She mentioned that in today's time the management of menstruation requires three key things: awareness, access (mainly in rural setup) and disposal of used sanitary napkins in an environment friendly manner, Girls and women need to maintain good menstrual hygiene to uphold their health and dignity.

The session focused on various menstrual health related topics like periods and its causes, period myths and taboos, Urinary Tract Infection (UTIs)

2 Day Training Program on registration of Births & Deaths through CRS Portal concludes at Jammu



JAMMU, DECEMBER 08: District Administration Jammu, in collaboration with Directorate of Census Operation J&K and Directorate of Economics & Statistics J&K, organised a 2 Day Training Programme on 7th & 8th December -2022 for 'Registration of Births & Deaths through Civil Registration System (CRS) Portal.

The training session was held under the patronage of Deputy Commissioner, Avny Lavasa, which concluded here today at the DC Office.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized upon the need for implementation of CRS through the portal and highlighted the significance of the training programme and the role of the newly notified registrars

which is of prime importance for so-

cio-economic planning.
The Additional Chief Registrar, Births & Deaths (Regional Director, E&S) Jammu elucidated about the revised Birth & Death Rules- 2022 notified in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir w.e.f. 10th October'22 and the role of the various stakeholders involved in the process of the registration of Births & Deaths.

District Registrar (Chief Medical Officer), Dr. Harbaksh Singh exhorted upon all present in the training to implement the registration of the vital events of Births & Deaths through CRS Portal in-toto w.e.f 01.01.2023 towards effective implementation of the programme in the

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

the Lt Governor.

Observing that discipline and determination are the defining attributes of youth, the Lt Governor said, through Mission Youth, we are encouraging the young generation to selflessly work for the social development.

Youth in different educational institutions should join Scouts & Guides in large numbers and play a positive role in nation building, he added.

The Lt Governor, who is also the Chief Patron of J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides, was briefed about the activities of the Scouts & Guides in the UT and the achievements of the last one year.

The Lt Governor assured full support of the UT Administration to Bharat Scouts and Guides movement.

SABHA

society since ages and organisations like Dogra Sadar Sabha represent the inherent values and traditions of our ancient Indian culture.

Prosperity and growth require unity and oneness. Our nation is home to unity in diversity and it has always welcomed every religion that ever came to this land. Many prominent religions have their deep connections with this land about which many people do not know, he added.

Addressing the august gathering, the Lt Governor said that the convention provided a unique platform to spread the eternal & universal message of peace, social equality and communal harmony; aptly echoing the belief of all humanistic thinkers around the world.

We are the inheritors of a great civilisation that has always believed in world peace and universal brotherhood. Thinkers and individuals must take advantage of the immense moral force of the two and contribute to create an inclusive ecosystem for the society, he said.

We are witnessing new threats to peace, and terrorism exported by the neighbouring country is one of them. We are dealing with threat of terrorism firmly and confident of rooting out this menace from our soil, the Lt Governor further added.

Noting that social development and aspirations of people can be fulfilled only in conditions of peace, the Lt Governor said every segment of society must realize the futility of conflict and utility of peace, harmony and brotherhood.

As India has assumed G20 Presidency for the next one year, the message of peace, friendship and cooperation enshrined in our cultural heritage should become the guiding principle for the world, said the Lt Governor

Earlier, Prominent religious scholars from different religions, including Padma Shri Vishwamurti Shastri, Moulana Shahzad Azam Anwari Qasmi, President SGPC, S Ranjit Singh and Fr.Lawrence Tharsis, spoke about the message of fraternity and love as taught by all religions which need to be instilled in the hearts of younger generations.

Thakur Gulchain Singh Charak, President Dogra Sadar Sabha, in his welcome address threw light on the foundation of Dogra Sadar Sabha and the vision behind organising the conference on "Message of Humanity".

Office bearers and senior member of Dogra Sadar Sabha, and prominent personalities of society and large gathering of people from all walks of life were present on the

Haj in 2022 after two years of break due to Covid pandemic, only 80,000 Indian Muslims performed Haj. All of them had to undergo Covid vaccination and take along the vaccination certificate as part of mandatory docu-

Sources said that in Haj 2023, pilgrims will be also allowed to bring sacred water called 'Zam Zam' without any hassle or hindrance. "Each pilgrim will be allowed to bring 5 kg Zam Zam. HCoI will fully facilitate the process of providing Zam Zam water to each pilgrim," he said—(KNO)

intensified searches towards suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon the party, which was retaliated to, triggering an encounter.

"After initial exchange of fire, no contact was established with the militants," he said.

He said cordon layers were tightened after initial exchange of fire, however, no militants were found during subsequent searches after which the operation was

He, however, said during searches two Pherans, two pistol rounds and three AK-47 rounds were recovered from the site—(KNO)

Aadhaar stations through awareness campaigns, local representatives", Dr. Mehta instructed the DCs.

The Chief Secretary further asked the DCs to hold meetings of District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee meetings on regular basis in order to assess the requirement of additional enrollment and update centres timely and ensure availability of these centres in uncovered areas. He directed the officers to start the Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration (ALBR) by the 15th of this month in all district hospitals and subsequently launch the Civil Registration System (CRS) by the end of this month across the J&K.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary Information Technology, informed that overall Aadhaar saturation has increased from 81% to 89% from the last one year across J&K and till date around 1.21 crore Aadhaars have been generated till date. She further informed the meeting that the operational Aadhaar centres across the UT have increased from 331 to 1105 with additional 250 enrollment stations being made operational from Janu-

Meanwhile, Dr. Mehta also reviewed the progress on 4G connectivity saturation of BSNL across the 410 sites of Jammu and Kashmir under the Universal Service Obligation Fund of Ministry of Communications, Government of India.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed all the DCs to transfer the land of these sites to BSNL expeditiously so that better connectivity is provided to all the far flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir. "Pendencies should be cleared expeditiously by prioritising uncovered areas", Dr. Mehta directed the DCs.

The Chief Secretary further enjoined upon the DCs and officers to BSNL to conduct the joint survey pf pending sites within a weeks time so that the works for establishing the towers and other infrastructure is started timely. During the meeting, CGM, BSNL gave a detailed briefing on the 4G saturation across Jammu and Kashmir.

in drug addiction which is more worst than cancer, besides we are going through many uncertain things. There is no MLA, no CM or any other representative who can represent the people in government. To end this uncertainty, elections need of an hour," Azad said.

He also said, that all previous regimes have neglected the Lolab—(KNO)

during the remaining time till the winter vacations. "We will try to culminate those exams first and then we will take a call regarding the vacations.

Earlier this week the Vice Chancellor for University of Kashmir (KU) Prof Nilofar Khan said that it will announce the winter vacations for a short time and as per

Khan said that the mechanism of working and functioning of Universities is different from the schools. We cannot keep it at par with the mechanisms or svs-

tem of school level," she said.

Nilofar said, "Keeping in view the availability of infrastructure and as per our need, we will announce a short period of winter vacations.

'However, the examination already slated by the university will be conducted on time and wherever required. the teaching faculty will also continue the academics, she said—(KNO)

and 5100 females exercised their franchise.

In Hajin-A, Ms. Naza Independent (Symbol: Helicopter) won by securing 2706 votes followed by Atiqa Begum of Peoples Conference (Symbol: Apple) who got 2283 votes. 53.33 % voting was recorded in 57 polling Stations in Hajin- A. 8669 Electors out of the total 16313 cast their votes. 4717 Males out of 8565 and 3982 females out of 7748 cast their votes.

the J&K High Court, Srinagar, wherein it was directed to get the case of petitioner examined.

The examination of service records of the ex-principal revealed that the records regarding his retirement and date of birth are dubious, as two dates of retirement 31.07.2005 and 31.07.2009 came to fore as revealed from personal pension order (PPO) and service book respec-

It added further the PPO mentions date of birth as 20.07.1947 and the Service book reveals DOB as 20.07.1951. 'The matter was forwarded to CEO Bandipora who sought a report from Principal Govt Girls Hr. Ŝec School Bandipora and during verification, it came to fore that the suspect, has drawn his leave salary twice i.e in year 2006 (Rs. 1,28,500 for 188 days) & in 2016 (Rs. 4,09734 for

It reads the second leave salary has been drawn by the suspect on the basis of production of a fake order purportedly shown to have been passed by the High Court of

Accordingly Case FIR No. 28/2017 was registered in P/S CBK. During the course of investigation, offences under section 409, 420, 468, 471, 201, 120-B RPC have been found established against the ex-prinvipal, Mohammad Yousuf Malla, Hameedullah Mir and Zahoor Ahmad Shah—all residents of Bandipora and Muneera Rasool of

It reads accordingly challan was filed in case FIR No. 28/2017 U/S, 409, 420, 468, 471,201,120-B RPC before the

practices in public examinations and accordingly appropriate action be initiated against those found guilty," the court observed.

The court also stated that the by its own act of omission and commission, the functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board does not inspire confidence in holding public examinations.

"It has become incumbent on all stake holders to review the functioning of the Board," it observed—(KNO)

Dastaar Welfare foundation of India in collaboration with Kashmir Government polytechnic College organises Drug Free Kashmir program



Srinagar 08 December: Dastaar Welfare foundation of India in a collaboration with Kashmir Government polytechnic College Gogji bagh Srinagar organised a drug awareness Seminar at Auditorium hall of KGP college. Seminar was attended by huge number of students, teachers of many schools, many reputable Citizens of the area and many other dignitaries also participated in the event. The opening of the event was performed by reciting verses from Holy Quran and Naat sharief by the students. Other guests who spoke in the event were full of enthusiasm, knowledge and positivity in their approach. Speaking on the ocassion many dignitaries of the different areas highlighted the ill effects of drugs on our society. Prominent Social Activist Syed Aijaz Kashani also highlighted the ill effects of drugs over society and stressed upon the respected and responsible citizens in the even to come forward and support to eradicate this social menace from society, furthermore he explained the important role of parents and civil society in curbing the menace of drug addiction. While speaking on the ocassion Principal Kashmir Government polytechnic College Mr Imtiyaz ahmad Shaw requested both the student faternity and common masses to help those who have been engulfed by menace of drugs by guiding them in a positive manner. Other dignitaries who spoke and present on the ocas-

al Mir. Mr Mursaleen.

sion including chairman MKPA international Musadiq Alam, OSD to the Divitional commissioner Kashmir Mr Tahir magray, Political activist Khalid Rathore, Advocate Sajid yousuf, Er sahil Bashir, professor Salim Mir, Shohaib wani, were among other dignitaries who were part of today's event. The event was concluded by a drug free pledge and guests were honored by certificates from chairman DWFOI MR Faisal Mir. Mr Mursaleen and Miss mehar the organisers assured for continue Effords to aware youth regarding this serious threat. The event was concluded by a drug free pledge and guests were honored by certificates from chairman DWFOI MR Fais-

7 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized in Dodal

DODA, DECEMBER 08: Acting tough against Illegal mining in Sub-Division Thathri, a joint team of local administration and Geology and Mining Department seized six

Vehicles involved in Illegal Mining.
The team comprising Tehsildar, Sahil Randhawa, District Mining Officer, Sunil Manhas and SHO Amrit Katoch seized the vehicles during raids at different locations. The vehicles seized have been booked under the Mining Act, sending a clear message of strict action to the perpetrators of illegal mining.

Contract Carriage permit rules

MVD Doda organises awareness program for Transporters

DODA DECEMBER 08: Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Kuldeep Singh along with his team of officials organised an awareness program here at Kotli Bus Stand Bhaderwah to educate the transporters about the recent amendments in Contract Carriage Permit rules. Drivers and Transporters from all over the district attended the

The ARTO Doda said that the aim of amendments was to make the process easy and pro people wherein the J & K UT has decided to scrap the grant of Letter of Authority which was earlier mandatory for registration of commercial vehicles.

The permit procedures have been simplified as now onwards an applicant can apply directly for the permit online on the transport department website after registration of vehicles under contract carriages segment. Earlier, the applicant had to apply for a Letter of Authority after the approval of RTA/STA, which was mandatory for registration of vehicles and subsequent issuance of Route Permit under any commercial segment.

As per latest amendment in J&K Motor Vehicles Rules the applicant can directly approach any concerned dealer, along with requisite formalities for registration of any commercial vehicle in compliance with BS-VI Emission norms (Approved Models Only) under Contract Carriage Segment (for Built up Vehicles).

In case of registration of Vehicles with drive away Chassis, the registration will be done by concerned RTO/

DHSJ organises awareness workshop on NTCP



JAMMU, DECEMBER 08: A one day State Level Sensitization Workshop for Key Stakeholders in Tobacco Control was organized by Directorate of Health Services,

The event was held under the aegis of National Tobacco Control Programme(NTCP) with Technical Support from The International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, New Delhi.

More than 50 officers from various Government departments like School Education, Food and Drug Administration, Excise, Higher Education and Health attended the workshop.

The workshop's aim was to sensitize the key stakeholders about the menace of Tobacco use, the laws regulating Tobacco in our country, Tobacco Cessation and various provisions of Tobacco Free Educational Institutions Guidelines & Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act, COTPA-2003. The participants gained knowledge about their specific roles in advancing Tobacco Control in their respective fields.

A presentation was also given on Tobacco Vendor Licensing by a nationally acclaimed guest speaker from The Union, New Delhi where he laid emphasis on the necessity and benefits of having a licensing mechanism for the shops selling tobacco products. He also informed the gathering about Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC which aims to protect the Governments from tobacco industry interference.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Dr Saleem-ur-Rehman, Director General Family Welfare and Director Health Services, Jammu. Director Health Services, Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather was the Guest of

It is important to know that annually Tobacco kills 50 lakh people globally out of which 13 lakhs die due to Tobacco in India alone, which translates to almost 3500

Dust disturbs all environment of Dhargloon school

M S Nazki



MENDHÀR Dust puts the life of school children and staff The life of school children in grave of danger and staff of Govt. Higher Secondary School Dhargloon is in danger because as the main road from BG to Mendhar passing along the boundary wall of the school which is totally in a dilapidated condition. The heavy rush of traffic on the road makes the premises as well as the surrounding of the school highly dusty. Nothing is visible due to the dust during the day time. And even majority of the children in the school as well as the staff is suffering from the respiratory diseases and it looks it will prove an epidemic. The rooms, desks, tables, chairs and laboratory equipments all are covered with dust. The staff and the school children appeal the authorities concerned to take notice of this grave situation and get at least one kilometre road in the school surrounding macadamised The children in the school threatened to remain away from school if the higher authorities remain mum or in

PMFME workshop conducted at Batwina, Ganderbal



Ganderbal 08-12-2022 A workshop on promotion of Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Enterprises (PMFME) was conducted at Kirmaniya Farmers Producer Organization (KFPO) at Batwina today on 08-12-2022, which was attended by all the developement departments. Dr. Umar Bin Farooq, SMS, FPO Ganderbal opened the session with deliberation on the working and support of the FFPO. Dr. Salman Rauoof Chalkoo, DNO, PMFME deliberated the importance of PMFME and the financial benefits under the scheme for the farmer producer organizations. Mr. Nazir Ahmed deliberated upon the banking formalities for coverage under PMFME. A good debate on banking modalities was held with 65 members of the fpo, who were acquainted with all the possibilities for hassle free banking service. Ms. Mehnaz Coordinator and Ms. Naureen, BPM, NRLM deliberated upon the processing and preservation of food produce. Ms. Iffat Mushtaq from HP&M deliberated about the marketing avenues and possibilities of expansion of business with the help of different departments. Dr. Sumina Ramzan, HDO, deliberated on the ODOP of the district and possibilities of expansion to make ODOP product to be more extensive and familiar. The workshop ended with certificate distribution among participants

Old Rusted Shell Found in Mendhar

Srinagar, December 08:Police on thursday said that an old rusted used shell was found in Mendhar sector of Jammu division.A police official told HT that a rusted fired shell was found by children while they were playing near Gholad School. People later informed the security forces about the presence of shell, he said.

The officer further stated that the shell might have fallen this side of the area during ceasefire violation.

Sheep Injured In Mine Blast **Near LoC Poonch**

M S Nazki

Srinagar, December 08:Police on Thursday said that a sheep was injured due to mine blast near LoC at Kirni area of Poonch district.

A senior police officer told HT that one sheep of Shepherd identified as Mohd Sayeed son of Mohd Nazir resident of Pawan Mohalla was injured due to mine blast at

Cause of mine blast was being ascertained, likely due to over stepping accidentally on mine could have triggered the mine, the officer said.

Department of HP&M conducts awareness programme at Town **Hall Langate**



KUPWARA, December 08: As part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing District Kupwara (HP&M) conducted one day awareness programme regarding Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprise Scheme (PM-FME) at Town Hall Langate, today.

The BDC Chairperson langate, Showkat Pandit was the chief guest at the occasion.

Addressing the function, the BDC Chairpersons stressed upon the all stakeholders to come forward and take advantage of the Government Schemes being implemented from time to time. He various new and innovative schemes are available with different and people especially youth should take benefits of these schemes.

The Nodal Officer PM-FME/ Area Marketing Officer Kupwara, Mushtaq Ahmad highlighted the importance of spreading awareness among the public for motivating them to start entrepreneurial units and also encourage existing unit holders to expand their business by availing the benefits of the scheme with the help of financial Other speakers and Resource Persons institutions. of PM-FME shared information about the scheme and importance of One District One Product to generate employment besides the modalities and procedure of formation of cases to avail benefits with subsidy for establishment of entrepreneur units of PM FME.

On the occasion, the speakers invited participants to approach the department where officers will handhold them in the DPR to start business with confidence.

The concerned Manager, J&K Bank while speaking at the awareness camp said that J&K Bank always facilitates entrepreneurs to avail financial help, provided the DPR is feasible and eligibility criteria is met as specified by department.

During the interactive session between potential applicants and Bank authorities, the representatives also addressed various queries and apprehensions on the spot and demanded that all the stakeholders including HP&M, JK Bank and entrepreneurs shall come on one platform to chalk out steps to make the entire process simple, easy and glitch free.

Meanwhile, various entrepreneurs also shared success stories of their growth with the intervention of the PM-FME scheme that increased their income and expanded their units. During the interactive session between potential applicants and Bank authorities, the representatives also addressed various queries and apprehensions on the spot and demanded that all the stakeholders including HP&M, JK Bank and entrepreneurs shall come on one platform to chalk out steps to make the entire process simple, easy and glitch free.

Lightning kills 907 in India as extreme weather surges in 2022

NEW DELHI: India saw a big jump in extreme weather events such as heatwaves and lightning strikes this year and related deaths rose to their highest in three years, government data showed on Wednesday, with scientists blaming climate change for the heavy toll.

There were nearly eight times as many heatwaves, 27 in all, and lightning strikes rose more than 111 times, killing 907 people, the Ministry of Earth Sciences said in a report to parliament. Thunderstorms increased more than five times to 240.

This year's 2,183 deaths due to such events until last month were the highest since 2019's 3,017. Lightning and floods and heavy rains accounted for 78pc of the deaths this year, the data showed.

Temperaturesduring India's monsoon season have risen this century and the country could see more frequent heatwaves in future, the government said in August. India is the world's third-largest carbon polluter, though its per-capita emissions are much lower than many developed countries.

The country of nearly 1.4 billion suffered its hottest March in more than a century and temperatures were unusually high in April and May, blamed mainly on cli-

The World Health Organisation says that from 1998-2017, more than 166,000 people died due to heatwaves globally. It says that between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause about 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.

Hundreds held in Bangladesh after anti-govt clashes



DHAKA: At least one person died on Wednesday and scores were injured in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka as police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at opposition supporters before arresting hundreds, witnesses and police

Tension has been building this week after the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) called a massive rally on Saturday to force Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign.

Opposition spokesman Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie said police fired at around 5,000 opposition supporters who peacefully gathered outside the BNP main office in central Dhaka on Wednesday.

"We allowed traffic to move. But police suddenly attacked us, firing at our activists and supporters. At least 100 people were injured," Annie said. The BNP said at least two of their activists, including a student leader, were killed by police fire

Live footage shared on BNP's verified Facebook page – which could not be independently corroborated — appeared to show injured party activists lying on the stairs

Abdul Hye, a police constable posted at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said that one dead body and at least eight injured people were brought to the hospital. He could not say whether the body was hit by live or rubber

Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman Faruq Ahmed blamed the BNP for the clashes, saying they were trying to clear roads for traffic when party activists attacked law enforcement officers with rocks and Molotov cocktails. "We fired rubber bullets and tear gas to evacuate the people from the road," he said. Current BNP chief Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said "police arrested at least 500 activists from inside the party headquarters". "This is a breach of human rights and the constitution,"

The activists chanted slogans against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while being driven away in prison vans: "It will fall! God willing the Hasina regime will fall".

The clashes came after BNP officials expressed fears that the police would trigger violence to scuttle Saturday's rally, which the party expects will draw hundreds of thousands of people.

Rizvi Ahmed, another party spokesman, said at least $1,\!430$ BNP activists and supporters had been arrested since November 30 in an attempt to stop the rally from taking place. The BNP want Hasina to resign and for a caretaker administration to govern until fresh elections

Time magazine names Zelensky 'Person of the Year'



NEW YORK: Time magazine named President Volodymyr Zelensky as well as "the spirit of Ukraine" as its 2022 person of the year on Wednesday, for the resistance the country has shown in the face of Russia's invasion.

Calling Zelensky's decision to remain in Kyiv and rally his country "fateful," Time editor in chief Edward Felsenthal said this year's decision was "the most clearcut in memory." Since Russia's Feb 24 invasion, Zelensky has delivered daily speeches that are followed not only by Ukrainians but by citizens and governments

He has appeared on the front lines and recently celebrated in the streets of Kherson when Ukraine pushed Russia from the critical southern city. "His information offensive shifted the geopolitical weather system, setting off a wave of action that swept the globe," Felsenthal wrote in announcing the winner.

"Whether the battle for Ukraine fills one with hope or with fear, Volodymyr Zelensky galvanized the world in a way we haven't seen in decades," Felsenthal added.

Zelensky's response to the Russian invasion has transformed the 44-year-old former comedian from an embattled leader of a struggling European outlier to a global

BJP registers massive victory, breaks all records in Gujarat

ister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday appeared headed for a record victory in Gujarat as trends available after five rounds of voting showed the party was leading in 155 of the state's 182 assembly seats that went to polls earlier this month.

The Congress party was seen finishing a distant second, with leads in 18 seats, while the Aam Aadmi party was leading in 6 seats. Others, including independent candidate, were ahead in 3 seats, the Election Commission said as counting of votes crossed the half-way mark in most constituencies. BJP has so far received 53 per cent of the votes counted, while Congress had 27 per cent and AAP 13 per cent. If the trends continued through the day, the BJP would not only beat its best showing till date — 127 seats in 2002, but also surpass the all-time record set by the Congress party in 1985, when it won 149 seats under the leadership of late Madhavsinh Solanki. In winning for a seventh term, the party would also equal the Left Front's feat in West Ben-

The BJP has not lost an



1995. Thursday's big win will be a huge morale boost for the party, said Sanjay Kumar at the New Delhi-based Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. It will enthuse BJP's rank and file, and reinforce the impression that the party will win the 2024 Lok Sabha elections,

Kumar said. Gujarat PTIPublished: Dec 8, 2022, 10:41 am ISTUpdated : Dec 8, 2022, 1:50 pm IST Modi realises his dream of breaking the 1985 Congress record of 149 seats under Madhav Singh So-

BJP leaders and workers celebrate the party's decisive lead in Gujarat Assembly elections, at the party headquarters in Gandhinagar, Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022. (PTI Photo/

BJP leaders and workers celebrate the party's decisive lead in Gujarat Assembly elections, at the party headquarters in Gandhinagar, Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022. (PTI Photo/ Pradipta Narayan)

Ahmedabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday appeared headed for a record victory in Gujarat as trends available after five rounds of voting showed the party was leading in 155 of the state's 182 assembly seats that went to polls earlier this month.

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The BJP has not lost an election in Gujarat since 1995. Thursday's big win will be a huge morale boost for the party, said Sanjay Kumar at the New Delhi-based Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. It will enthuse BJP's rank and file, and reinforce the impression that the party will win the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Kumar said.

Although the Modi government is struggling with rising inflation, slowing growth and joblessness, but the economic troubles appeared to have had no impact on

returned any incumbent

government to power in

the last nearly four decades

Congress supporters of-

fer sweets to party leader

Pawan Khera celebrating

the party's lead in Him-

achal Pradesh Assembly

elections, at AICC head-

quarters in New Delhi

Thursday, Dec 8, 2022. (PTI

Congress supporters of-

Photo/Kamal Singh)(

India's absence from US religious violators list explained

WASHINGTON: India was not designated a violator of religious freedom because US Secretary of State Antony Blinken felt that the situation in India did not warrant such a designation, says the US State Department.On Friday, Secretary Blinken designated Burma, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as Countries of Particular Concern ... for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom." India, however, was spared. For the last three years, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has demanded that because of widespread discriminations against religious minorities, India should also be put on the violators' list.USCIRF is a bipartisan agency of the US Federal Government which monitors religious freedom across the globe and recommends various actions against the violators."Secretary Blinken, given the totality of the facts and the circumstances, determined that religious freedom concerns in India do not warrant a Country of Particular Concern designation or placement on the Special Watch List," said State Department Spokesperson Ned Price when asked why India was excluded.

"But of course, these are conversations that we continue to have with our Indian partners and with partners around the world," the spokesperson added.

In its 2022 Annual Report, USCIRF recommended that India be designated a "country of particular concern" for engaging in or tolerating "systematic, ongoing, and egregious" violations of religious freedom.

The report noted that in 2022, religious freedom conditions in India remained poor. During the year, the Indian government at the national. State, and local levels continued to promote and enforce policies, including laws targeting religious conversion, interfaith relationships, and cow slaughter, that negatively affect Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits and Adivasis.

Israel's Netanyahu Secures Majority In Parliament, Close To **Form Government**



Jerusalem: Israel's incoming Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu secured a parliamentary majority on Thursday after his Likud party said it had reached an agreement with the Jewish ultra-Orthodox Shas party. Netanyahu's right-wing alliance won a comfortable victory in a Nov. 1 election, Israel's fifth in less than four years. His partnership with far-right parties has stirred concern at home and abroad.

"We have completed another step towards the formation of a right-wing government that will act to serve all of Israel's citizens." Netanyahu said in the statement. The agreement with Shas gives Netanyahu control over 64 of the Knesset's 120 seats, though a final coalition deal has yet to be signed.

According to the agreement, Shas leader Aryeh Deri will head the interior and health ministries during the first half of the government's term, then take up the finance ministry in the second half. Deri will also serve as deputy prime minister throughout Netanyahu's tenure.

Deri, a veteran politician, was convicted of tax fraud last year but spared jail under a plea deal. The Knesset will have to pass legislation that would enable his re-

Congress surges in Himachal Pradesh, likely to form govt SHIMLA: The Congress Himachal Pradesh has not

has surged ahead of the BJP leading on 38 out of the 68 seats while the ruling party has won one seat and is ahead on 26, according to early trends from Himachal Pradesh where counting of votes cast in the assembly polls is in progress.

Independent candidates were ahead on three seats while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which had fielded candidates on 67 seats, is yet to open its account, according to the Election Commission. The result of one seat of Sundernagar in Mandi district has been declared where BJP's Rakesh Jamwal, who is the sitting MLA, has defeated his nearest Congress rival by a margin of 8,125 votes.

Candidates who are leading include Chief Minister Lal



Jai Ram Thakur from Seraj, Ministers Bikram Singh (Jaswant Paragpur) and Speaker and BJP leader Vipin Singh Parmar (Sullah). The chief minister has attained a healthy lead of more than 31,000 votes over his nearest Congress rival Chet Ram.Ministers Ram Markanda (Lahaul

Spiti), Govind Sih Thakur (Manali) and Suresh Bhardwaj (Kasumpti), Rajinder Garg (Ghumarwin), Saizal (Kasauli), Rakesh Pathania (Fatehpur) and Sarveen Chaudhary (Shahpur) too are leading. govtPTIPublished : Dec 8, 2022, 11:13 am IS-TUpdated: Dec 8, 2022, 1:53

fer sweets to party leader Pawan Khera celebrating the party's lead in Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections, at AICC head quarters in New Delhi Thursday, Dec 8, 2022. (PTI Photo/Kamal Singh)(SHIMLA: The Congress

has surged ahead of the BJP leading on 38 out of the

Iran carries out first execution over Mahsa Amini protests

ecution on Thursday over protests sparked by Mahsa Amini's death, hanging a man convicted of blocking a street and wounding a paramilitary

Demonstrations have swept Iran for nearly three months over the death-in-custody of Amini—a 22-yearold Iranian of Kurdish origin — after her arrest by the morality police in Tehran for an alleged breach of the country's hijab dress code for women. "Mohsen Shekari, a rioter who blocked Sattar Khan Street in Tehran on September 25 and wounded one of the security guards with a machete, was executed this morning," the judiciary's Mizan Online website said. The revolutionary court in Tehran heard Shekari had been arrested after striking the member of the Basij para-

military force in the shoulder with

stitches, Mizan Online said.

The judiciary said Shekari was found guilty of fighting and drawing a weapon "with the intention of killing, causing terror and disturbing the order and security of society".

It convicted him of "moharebeh" —

or waging "war against God" under Iran's law — on Nov 1, said Mizan, adding that he appealed the ruling but the supreme court upheld it on Nov 20. Iran's crackdown on protests

Women, university students and schoolgirls have led the demonstrations, removing and burning their headscarves in the streets, chanting anti-government slogans and confronting the security forces.

Iran, which has struggled to contain the protests, describes them as "riots" fomented by its arch-foe the United States and its allies, including Britain

Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights said the security forces have responded with a crackdown that has killed at least 458 people, including 63 children, in an updated toll issued on Wednes-

The crackdown, which has drawn widespread international criticism, has also seen thousands of people arrested — including academics, journalists and lawyers.

The United Nations Human Rights Council on Nov 24 voted to create a high-level investigation into the crackdown — a move that Iran rejected and said violates its national sovereignty. The Basij is a state-sanctioned volunteer force that is linked to Iran's powerful Islamic Revolutionary_Guard Corps.An Iranian court on Tuesday sentenced five people to death by hanging for killing a Basij member.

US to take action if terrorists regroup in Afghanistan: **State Department**

State Department Spokesperson Ned Price has reiterated President Joe Biden's pledge of taking action "in a way that protects our interests" if the US sees "international terrorists regrouping in Afghanistan".

The statement came on Wednesday in response to a question asked during a press briefing about the rise of violence in Afghanistan and the Taliban's failure to not provide "safe havens" to terrorist groups — including the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, al-Qaeda, the Islamic State and others. Price said that the Afghan Taliban had been "either

unable or unwilling to live up to the commitments that they've made in a number of areas" and that the US' broader goal was to make sure that "terrorists and others aren't able to use Afghanistan as a launch pad for attacks on Pakistan". He also mentioned the killing of the al-Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri by a US strike in August to prove the US' demonstration of its capabilities to act against terrorists. Stating that the US values its "bilateral relationship" with Pakistan. Price said that the US is determined to work with its partners in the region, including Pakistan.

Saudi lays on lavish welcome as China's Xi heralds 'new era' in relations

bin Salman received President Xi Jinping on Thursday as the Chinese leader heralded "a new era" in Arab relations, with a lavish welcome signalling Riyadh's interest in deepening ties with Beijing despite the United State's

Members of the Saudi Royal Guard riding Arabian horses and carrying Chinese and Saudi flags escorted Xi's car as it entered the royal palace in Riyadh, where Prince Mohammed — de facto ruler of the oil giant — greeted him with a warm smile.

It stood in stark contrast to the low-key welcome extended in July to US President Joe Biden,

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Khashoggi that had overshadowed the awkward visit. The US, warily watching Chi-

na's growing sway and with its ties to Riyadh at a nadir, said on Wednesday the visit was an example of Chinese attempts to exert influence around the world and would not change US policy towards the Middle East.

Prince Mohammed — with whom Biden bumped fists instead of shaking hands in July — has made a comeback on the world stage following the Khashoggi killing, which cast a pall over Saudi-US ties, and has been defiant in the face of US ire over oil supplies and pressure from Washington to help isolate Rus-



air force jets as it entered Saudi airspace and a 21-gun salute was with whom ties have been strained by Saudi energy policy Setting the tone for Xi's visit, and the 2018 murder of Jamal his plane was escorted by Saudi energy policy him at the airport on Wednesship lane was escorted by Saudi day, the Chinese foreign minis-

try said.In an op-ed published in Saudi media, Xi said he was on a

China and Arab countries would "continue to hold high the banner of non-interference in internal affairs, firmly support each other in safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity", he wrote. Xi — due to meet with other Gulf oil producers and attend a wider gathering of Arab leaders on Friday - said these states were a "treasure trove of energy for the world economy [...] and are fer-tile ground for the development of high-tech industries"

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states like the United Arab Emirates have said that they would not choose sides between global powers and were diversifying partners to serve national economic and security interests. 'Trusted partner'

Chief Secretary declares 33rd Sr National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship open

Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today declared the 33rd Senior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship open here at M.A Stadium. Speaking as a Chief Guest he remarked that the government is committed to create a world class infrastructure for the sports lovers of the UT. He further said that the administration is determined to organize the marquee events of National & International championships across J&K.

He further stated that such events certainly provide excellent opportunities of showcasing budding sports talent amongst the youth.

Dr Mehta observed that the administration this year gave opportunity to some 50 lakh youth to demonstrate their sporting skills across the length and breadth of J&K. He declared that it had been made a reality to have a playfield in every panchayat and atleast an Indoor Stadium in each district.



He made out that in order to hone the skills of youth many stadia are provided with flood lights and artificial turfs. He stated that youth in areas like Downtown Srinagar and other districts can be seen playing games till late hours at such

venues. He stated that a culture of sports and cultural activities is taking roots in J&K. He said that every person young or old is encouraged to take up either sports or culture to channelize his/her energy towards better and healthy activities.

stated that the Sports Council & J&K Tennis Ball association has been very active in organizing the 33rd National Championship from 8-11 December in this sprawling stadium in the magnificent city.

The Secretary Sports Council while presenting the welcome address of the 4-day long championship being organized under "My Youth My Pride" initiative of the Sports Council added that the championship confirms the participation of 36 Men & 28 Women teams of the Country. She gave out that the participation of around 1000 sports persons from 28 States including 8 UT's took part in the inaugural function.

It was pointed out that the grand affair is being organized to provide a healthy competition to the players to showcase their versatility and exhibit best of their sporting talent.

A pledge for fair play & war against drug abuse was also taken by the participants of the championship.

Rohit out of final Bangladesh ODI with thumb injury



hit will miss the next

game, fly back to Mum-

bai consult with an ex-

pert and see how it is and

whether he could come

back for the Test matches

or not, I am not sure. Too

India and Bangladesh

will play two Tests start-

Rohit, who hit five sixes

in his blitz and needed a

six to win on the final ball

when Mustafizur Rah-

man held his nerve, had

gone off the field early in

He dropped Bangladesh

opener Anamul Haque in the second over at slip as

the ball seemed to catch

the webbing between the

thumb and forefinger

Dravid hailed Rohit's

courage to run Bangla-

desh close with an in-

jured hand after India

had slipped to a hope

chase of 272.

less-looking 207-7 in their

"It was phenomenal for

him to show that level of

courage. He had a serious

dislocation, had to go to

hospital to get that set

with blood oozing out.

Bangladesh's innings.

early to say.

ing December 14.

Dhaka,India skipper Rohit Sharma was set to fly back home Thursday to seek medical advice for a thumb injury and will miss the final one-day international against Bangladesh, coach Rahul Dravid said.

Rohit heroically batted at number nine with stitches and a bandage on his left thumb to hit a valiant 51 not out in his team's nail-biting fiverun loss to Bangladesh.

The victory in front of an ecstatic home crowd in Dhaka gave the hosts an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

The captain adds to India's growing injury list with Kuldeep Sen, who missed the match due to stiffness in his back, and fellow quick Deepak Chahar, who bowled just three overs due to a hamstring strain, also ruled out of the series.

are) struggling "(We with a few injuries, which is not ideal, not easy for us," Dravid told reporters after the loss. "Kuldeep and Deepak football from Portugal as they became the last team to reach the quarter-finals of the World Cup with their trouncing of Switzerland, but there was no doubt about who

Doha,IT was exhibition

Even Kylian Mbappe yet again, four years on from Russia, the dazzling star of the World Cup tweeted for the "Moroccan King"

the coolest man in Qatar

was on Tuesday night.

His Paris St Germain teammate Achraf Hakimi wasn't just the toast of Morocco but the whole region as well; his breathtaking 'Panenka' penalty with the eyes of the whole world on him ensured there was an Arab team



Footprints: The coolest team in Qatar

in the last eight of the first World Cup in the Arab world.

Morocco's victory also meant that after a group stage for the underdogs and after the heavyweights of world football had largely reasserted themselves in the round of 16, there was at least one outlier; a team that will provide fans of the region something to cheer about as the World Cup reached the sharp end.

brimming with fans in Moroccan colours.

It was a massive celebration. "But today we're not having Shisha [Hookahl because we've been screaming like crazy and our throats are down,.

It's not that Morocco

don't have thousands of

fans of their own. The

Royal Moroccan Football

ed 10,000 tickets for the

last-16 game to fans who could show the country's

passport. Just like after

matches featuring Sau-

di Arabia, who notably

stunned Argentina in

the group stage, the al-

leyways and the cobbled

streets of Souq Waqif, the

traditional market with

cafes and restaurants was

distribut-

Federation

Marnus Labuschagne, Travis Head Hit Centuries As Australia Take Charge vs West Indies

Run machine Marnus Labuschagne belted a third successive Test century and Travis Head also made a ton Thursday as Australia seized control on day one of the pinkball second Test against an injury-hit West Indies. Consistent number three Labuschagne smacked 204 then 104 not out at the first Test in Perth to overtake England's Joe Root this week as the world's top-ranked Test batsman. And he carried that form to Adelaide with a patient unbeaten 120 to again torment the Caribbean team, as the hosts amassed 330-3 by stumps.



The chanceless Head was not out 114, relieved at converting to three figures after he was out for 99 in the first Test.The visitors, who are missing three first-choice bowlers, enjoyed some success

on a flat track that offered little for the fast bowlers. removing David Warner (21), Usman Khawaja (62), and captain Steve Smith for a duck.Khawaja surpassed 1,000 Test runs for the year in his knock,

man in 2022 to hit the landmark after Root and fellow Englishman Jonny Bairstow, who have both played more matches.

He departed lbw to debutant Devon Thomas, who earned his first Test wicket.Like Labuschagne, Smith smacked 200 in Perth but he only lasted eight balls, caught and bowled by Jason Holder. while Warner nicked Alzarri Joseph to wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva. The home side, who have won every day-night Test they have contested, including six-from-six in Adelaide, are looking.

England recall Wood, Pope retains keeper's gloves for Multan test



England have replaced injured all-rounder Liam Livingstone with fast bowler Mark Wood in the only change to their squad for the second test against Pakistan, with Ollie Pope retaining the wicketkeeper's gloves.Livingstone has returned home after sustaining a knee injury in his debut test in Rawalpindi, where England pulled off a remarkable 74-run victory for a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Wood missed the first test as he continued his recovery from a hip injury.Ben Foakes, who missed the opener with illness, is now fully fit but England skipper Ben Stokes confirmed that Pope, who made 108 in the first innings in Rawalpindi, will continue behind the wicket because of his superior batting. "I'll still keep saying that he (Foakes) is the best keeper in the world," Stokes said on the eve of the match, which begins on Friday.

"It must sound silly to not be picking him but you got to see the conditions we face here. Pakistan is a very hard place to come and win."Adding Mark Wood into the side gives us the best opporunity to take 20 wickets."That's what we came here to do. We came here to try and win the game of cricket and not be conservative [...]," he added.Off-spinner Will Jacks, who claimed six wickets on his test debut in Rawalpindi, was also retained. England would conclude their first test tour of Pakistan since 2005 with a match in Karachi.Team England: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes, Will Jacks, Ollie Robinson, Jack Leach, Mark Wood, James An-

'Royal-Rodeo' competition to be held from Dec 16

Kolhapur, Dec 8 (UNI) Three-day long "Royal-Rodeo', will be held on Mohite's Academy racing track, organised by Royal Riders and Mohite Racing Academy with the recognition of Federation of Motor Sports Club of India. Jaydeep Pawar, president of organising committee, said that a expo-exhibition of different motorbikes will also be organised at the competition site.More than 500 competitors from across the country would participate in the three-day competition. Pawar said that the competition will be held in three groups including Autocross competition on December 16, MTB cycle Super cross on December 17 and Motorcycle supercross racing competition on December 18. He said that in autocross competition group will held on 800m track in nine different class in Motorcycle, Bike, Scooter(Moped) and E-vehicle groups, in which total 150 competitors will participate.On December 17 MTB super cross competition, which to be held only in Kolhapur on super cross track and in five age group. On December 18 motorcycle super crossing competition in 22 different class will be held. The competition will be held in five age group under 14, under 17, 18 to 30 age, 31 to 45 age and over 45 age group, Pawar

Newly-laid hockey pitches all-set for action at FIH Men's WC 2023

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8 (UNI) Ahead of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela, four new pitches have been laid and all-set for action in the state-of-the-art venues here at Kalinga Hockey Stadium as well as the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela. The main pitch in the Kalinga Stadium as well as the practice pitch has been re-laid, while Rourkela will feature brand new pitches that are certified by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). The FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar - Rourkela will be the 15th edition of this highly prestigious event..



