



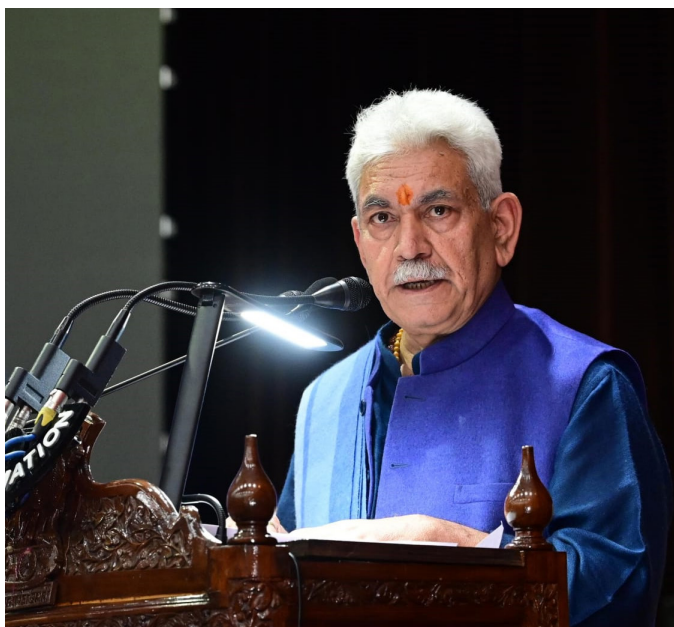
Safeguarding Rights, Extend All Benifits to the Tribal Community is our Top Priority: LG Manoj Sinha

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOV 17: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the 'Janjatiya Gaurav Saptah' celebration at the Convention Centre, Jammu.

The iconic week event is dedicated to the memory of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, brave tribal freedom fighters and to celebrate and commemorate the glorious history of tribal communities, culture and achievements.

In his address, the Lt Governor paid tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda and other great tribal personalities and lauded the significant contribution of tribal communities in nation-building.



He announced that the J&K UT Administration will provide 5 marla land to the 17,000 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (G) eligible landless tribal beneficiaries in coming days.

"It is our topmost priority to safeguard the rights and benefits extended to all the tribal communities. The administration is committed to ensure that the tribal population in Jammu Kashmir enjoy equitable benefits of growth," he said.

At the Janjatiya Gaurav Saptah event, the Lt Governor highlighted the efforts of the UT Administration for welfare and development of tribal communities over the past few years.

Community and Individual
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Why strokes mostly occur in bathrooms, doctor explains

Dr Showkat Shah reveals link between bathing habits and stroke risk, shares prevention strategies

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: Stroke, a medical condition resulting in cell death due to poor blood flow to the brain, can occur anywhere, but the incidence of strokes is notably higher in bathrooms, according to Dr Showkat Shah, a critical care specialist and Medical Superintendent at Khyber Hospital in Srinagar.

Dr Shah, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), explained that strokes are categorised into two main types: ischemic, caused by a lack of blood flow, and hemorrhagic, caused by bleeding. Both types can lead to impaired brain function.

"Signs and symptoms of a stroke may include an inability to move or feel on one side of the body, problems understanding or speaking, feeling like the world is spinning, or loss of vision to one side that often appears soon after the stroke has occurred," he said.



However, it is a quite surprising fact that many strokes happen in bathrooms during a

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Mainly dry weather to continue till 26th November: MeT

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: The meteorological department forecasts generally dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir until November 26th, with occasional cloudiness on the 18th and 25th of November.

An official from the department mentioned that the current weather is mainly clear to partly cloudy across most places in the region.

Despite these conditions, shallow fog with mist during morning and evening hours may affect visibility in certain areas. The official assured that there will be no significant weather activity until November 26th.

Highlighting the minimum
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Ladakh secures 4th GI tag – for 'Ladakh Seabuckthorn'

LEH, NOV 17: The Geographical Indication Registry, operating under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has officially granted the GI tag to the Department of Industries & Commerce, Ladakh and approved it as the Registered Proprietor for 'Ladakh Seabuckthorn' in Class 31.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), 'Ladakh Seabuckthorn' becomes the 4th product from the Union Territory to receive the coveted GI tag after Ladakh Pashmina, Ladakh Apricot (Raktsey Karpoo), and Ladakhi Wood Carving. Ladakh has rapidly succeeded

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Rajouri Encounter: 01 militant killed, operation on

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: One militant has been killed in an ongoing encounter at Behrot in Budhal area of Rajouri district on Friday.

Official sources told GNS, that one militant has been killed in an ongoing encounter, however identity of the slain militant is yet to be ascertained.

Earlier Reports reaching GNS that a joint team of Police and army launched a cordon and search operation in Behrot.

As the joint team of forces approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon the forces, triggering off a gunfight.

JJM holds 4464 activities across J&K during "Back to Village" phase V

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: As part of fifth phase of ambitious "Back to Village" programme which concluded here yesterday on high note,



the Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K conducted 4464 activities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The activities included awareness camps, inauguration of water supply schemes, inspection of works, training of handling and

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

GoC 15 Corps visits LoC in Uri

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: Two days after a key militant commander was killed in the Uri sector of Baramulla district in a counter infiltration operation, the General Officer Commanding of Army's Srinagar based Chinar Corps, Lt General Rajiv Ghai visited the area along the Line of Control and complimented troops for the successful operation.

At least two suspected militants—Bashir Ahmad Malik and Ahmed Gani Sheikh were killed in a joint operation

code named "Op Kali" by the Army and the police on Wednesday and they foiled an infiltration bid in Uri.

Army said Malik was active for over three decades and was an important cog in the Pakistan-enabled cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Chinar Corps Cdr visited troops deployed along the LoC in Counter Terrorism grid in Baramulla today. He complimented troops for meticulous planning and successful conduct of OP KALI, #Uri on 15 Nov where an infiltration

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

5 LeT militants killed in Kulgam gun battle

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: Security forces shot dead five local militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba in an 20-hour long encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday.

Police said the slain were involved in a number of attacks on minorities including an attack on a Kashmiri Pandit in April last year.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Rayees Bhat termed the operation as a 'big success'

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Demand for Turkish Inglenooks surges as Kashmir Braces for Extreme Winter

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: Demand for Turkish inglenook—locally Bukhari, has surged as Kashmir is leapfrogging towards the extreme winter.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Turkish inglenook, renowned for its elegant design and efficient heating capabilities, has become a sought-after item among

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



J&K govt sets-up committees headed by CS for periodic review of suspension cases of JKAS, JKPS officers

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Friday constituted two high-level committees headed by chief secretary for periodic review of suspension cases of officers of the Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Services and Jammu & Kashmir Police Services.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), headed by CS, the panel constituted for review of suspension cases of JKAS officers comprises Admin-



istrative Secretary Home Department, Administrative Secretary General

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As temperature plummets, smoked fish (Phari), a winter delicacy in huge demand in Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: As the winter chill returns to Kashmir, a couple of delicacies are in the good demand in the markets.

Similarly, smoked fish—known as 'Phari' are in huge demand as the delicacy always attracts the people in the chilly weather conditions. A reddish-brown smoked fish is believed to provide great resistance against diseases related to cold.

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NIA attaches properties of key terror operative in UA(P)A case

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOV 17: Cracking down on terrorist groups promoting violence and militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday attached the properties of a key terror operative undergoing trial in a UA(P)A case involving seizure of arms, ammunition, explosives and narcotics.

The accused, Mohammad Yaseen, a

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Div Com reviews arrangements for Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls in District Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir & Electoral Roll Observer Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today reviewed the arrangements for the on-going Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls and disposal of claims in Srinagar District, in a meeting here at the Conference Hall of DC Office Srinagar.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is also District Election Officer (DEO), Srinagar was



also present on the occasion.

At the outset the Divisional Commissioner took a detailed review of the progress

achieved in the District under on-going SSR-2023 and the number of fresh

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Antiviral drugs reduce risk of flu deaths: DAK

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: With a surge in the number of flu cases in Kashmir valley, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday urged doctors to prescribe antiviral drugs for flu patients.

"Antiviral medication reduces risk of flu deaths," said influenza expert and DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Quoting a large study, he said early treatment with antiviral medication reduces the risk of flu deaths by 60 percent.

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District Pulwama marks 70th Cooperative Week with vibrant Celebrations

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 17: In a jubilant celebration of the 70th Cooperative Week, District Pulwama set the stage for a dynamic event centered on the theme, 'Emerging Areas and Ease of Doing Business for Cooperative'.

The event was graced by the presence of Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom as the chief guest, who, along with other dignitaries, explored the multifaceted contributions of cooperatives in the district.

The Cooperative week celebrations

started-off with an energetic inspection of stalls, where various cooperative societies proudly showcased their diverse products, epitomizing the evolution of the cooperative sector in embracing emerging areas. From traditional to contemporary, the stalls depicted the adaptability and innovation of local cooperatives.

Addressing the diverse gathering, the DC expressed his pleasure at witnessing such a vibrant assembly. Emphasizing the theme, he articulated the critical role of cooperatives in uplifting the local economy. He underscored the need for continuous innovation, adaptability, and exploration of new avenues for cooperatives to thrive.



tion of new avenues for cooperatives to thrive.

The DC further delved into the evolution of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). He articulated the significant shift of PACS from conventional shops to dynamic centers, underscoring their evolution in tandem with the changing economic landscape. He also highlighted how PACS, once confined to traditional roles, have diversified their services, becoming multifaceted hubs catering to a range of diverse economic needs.

Adding to the significance of the occasion, registration certificates were presented to newly registered cooperatives by the DC, symbolizing their official recognition and integration

into the cooperative sector. Mementos were also presented to well-performing cooperative societies serving as a motivation for others to strive for excellence, fostering healthy competition within the cooperative sector.

Earlier, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Pulwama, Adnan Nazir in his address, shed light on the achievements of cooperatives within the district, emphasizing their crucial role in contributing to economic growth. He specifically highlighted the theme, underlining the need for cooperatives to explore emerging areas and streamline processes for ease of doing business.

70th All India Cooperative Week celebrated at Shopian

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 17: On the eve of 70th All India Cooperative Week, the Department of Cooperatives, District Shopian, today organized a function to highlight the achievements of the cooperative sector in the district and to generate awareness among the general public.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Addressing the function, ADDC impressed upon the concerned officers to provide mass awareness to the people about the schemes of the Cooperative department so that they could get benefited properly.

He called for proper coverage of success stories of the department so that unemployed youth in particular will be encouraged to earn their livelihood through different avenues provided by the department.

The ADDC highlighted the role of Cooperative Societies in the socio-econom-



ic upliftment of the people and emphasized the need for formation of new Cooperatives in different fields while impressing upon stakeholders to work hard for making cooperative societies more active and generate maximum avenues for the employment of youth.

ADDC also inspected the stalls installed by various line departments.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Shopian, Muzaffar Ahmed

highlighted the achievements of Cooperative Societies in the district. He provided detailed awareness regarding various schemes of the Cooperative department in the district.

Special emphasis was given to persuade the educated youth, women and people from weaker sections to join the cooperatives for earning their livelihood in multiple diversified sectors.

Certificates and mementos were also distributed among best performing

cooperatives.

Among others, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, AD Fisheries, Assistant Registrars Cooperative Societies of district Shopian, District Manager NRLM, District Manager CSC, in addition representatives from Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Health, Drug Controller and other departments were also present besides members of cooperative societies and general public.

DC Kupwara reviews Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) in polling stations

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan who is also District Election Officer today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) in Polling Stations of the district. On the occasion, the DC took a detailed review of the polling stations where Assured Minimum Facilities like drinking water, toilets, electricity connection, ramps and internet are not in place as per the norms. The DC impressed upon the officers to ensure availability of the facilities on war footing basis as it is the statutory obligation. She directed the PHE, R&B, PDD and RDD to ensure availability of facilities within 10 days.

She also asked the officers of R&B and RDD to hold joint visits to the polling stations to check if the facilities installed there are up to the mark. The DC also passed on spot directions to the concerned officers for construction of ramps at 47 polling stations, which have been reported without ramps, in the district and also to submit a certificate that ramps already in place are as per the gradient norms. The Exn R&B Karnah, Handwara and Kupwara were directed to complete formalities for construction of toilets.

Dozens Vehicles blacklisted in Anantnag for violating Traffic Rules

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 17: Following complaints against flouting of traffic rules by commercial passenger vehicles, team ARTO Anantnag today laid Nakka checking in different parts of the district and challaned more than 100 such vehicles and imposed fine on vehicle owners to the tune of Rs. 60,000 for violating the norms. A total of 200 vehicles were checked and fine under various provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act and other rules was realized.

Public Notice

My name and address was bonafidely wrongly mentioned in passport records as Aqib Mushtaq Ahangar instead of Aqib Mushtaq and address as Near New Fruit Mandi Chowk Parimpora Chowk A, Srinagar instead of Sheikh Ul alam Colony Green Avenue opposite Hokesar Dubai Grand School Sector 13 Umar Abad Srinagar under passport no by L1914389 Now I am applying for its correction, If anybody having any objection, he may contact concerned passport office Srinagar within 7 days from the publication of this notice. after that no objection shall be entertained.

Public Notice

I informed to general public that my Daughters Date of birth (DOB) is 24/06/2011... Now I am applying for his date of birth Certificate (DOB) if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file His /her objection in the (BDO) office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that **no objection will be entertained**

Name.....MANZOOR AHMAD MIR
F/O.....ZAINAB MANZOOR
R/O.....KACHWA MUQAM
Block.... WAGOORA

Public Notice

I have lost my Date of Birth (DOB) Certificate bearing registration no B-2013 1-05261-000450 with date of birth 19/12/1972.. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact with concerned department within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....GHULAM MOHAMMAD GANAI
S/O... MOHAMMAD RAMZAN GANAI
R/O... MANAGAM
Distt...BARAMULLA

DC Kulgam chairs DCDC meeting, reviews Cooperative sector

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired the District Cooperative Development Committee meeting at the mini-secretariat Kulgam to review the Cooperative sector in the district.

During the meeting, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Nazir Ahmad informed the chair that the department has taken several initiatives to strengthen the cooperative movement in the district. He gave an overview of the present status of cooperative societies in the district.

It was given out that there are 14 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), 11 poultry societies,



49 dairy cooperatives and 2 Farmer producers organization (FPO) in the district.

The DC urged the allied departments to work towards the objective of strengthening the cooperative movement in the district and deepening its reach to the grassroots level.

He directed the con-

cerned officials to make vigorous efforts in order to realize the vision of Sahakar se Samridhi for strengthening the cooperative sector.

The DC also reviewed the progress of adoption of model bylaws, Jan Aushadhi Kendras and Prime Minister Kissan Samridhi Kendras and activation of PACSs as CSC centres, computerization of PACS,

updating of data in national cooperative databases and other agenda as per the guidelines.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rather; ADC Viqar Ahmad; ACR Mir Imtiyaz UI Aziz; DDM NABARD, Rouf Ahmad; Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, CAO, DSHO, AD Fisheries and other officers.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION URI

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
eNIT No.86 of 2023-24/5083-92/R&B Uri e-tendering DATED: 17-11-2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on an percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

| S.No. | Name of Work | Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of DOC (In Rupees) | E/Money | Time for completion of work | Time & Date of Opening of Bid | Class of Contractor | M.Hof Account |
|-------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | |
| 01 | Construction of road from Chandanwari NH1 to Ziyarat Sharief Manthra W No.3 by way of earth work cutting, protection work and upgradation of GSB, G-II | 29.36 | 1100/- | 58750/- | 50 days | 24.11.2023 | AAY BEE | UT Sector |
| 02 | Construction of road from main road Kamalkote to ward No.1 Kundl Birjala near land of Tariq & others | 16.33 | 800/- | 32700/- | 40 days | 24.11.2023 | BEE CEE | UT Sector |

Project Authority: Chief Engineer Kashmir

Position of funds: Available

Position of AAA/ TS / Accorded

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

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 17.11.2023 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 17.11.2023 from (12:00 PM) to 23.11.2023 (4:00 PM) |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 17.11.2023 (12:00 PM) |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 23.11.2023 (4:00 PM) |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 24.11.2023 (11:00 AM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri |

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 Uri (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 Uri. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Allotted 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 x 21 cm to be provided.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of the Tender receiving authority.

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

6. Instructions to bidders regarding tendering process.

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

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidder-scanned digital certificate from any approved vendor.

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

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

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (the date of challan should be in between the date of start of bid and Bid submission end date) must be uploaded with the bid. The original Treasury challan (cost of tender document), and related document set must be uploaded with the documents of the bid.

The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. Price escalation and taxes: The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

12. In case of CRF and any other specified project here relevant guidelines/standard bidding document shall be followed.

13. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

a. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their bids.

b. All bidders shall upload copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status. Place of registration and principal place of business with cell No. and correspondence address.

c. All bidders shall upload treasury challan.

d. All bidders shall upload Bid security Declaration form.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&KUT,

DIPK-12373/23

Dated: 17-11-2023

Sd/= Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Uri.

Mega awareness programme marks 70th All India Cooperative Week celebration at Kishtwar

DC Kishtwar emphasizes role of Cooperatives in socio-economic upliftment of people

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 17: The Department of Cooperatives District Kishtwar today held a day-long mega awareness programme to celebrate 70th All India Cooperative Week at Auditorium of the GDC Kishtwar in spirit with the theme "Role of Cooperative in \$5 Trillion Economy and SDGs".

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav was chief guest on the occasion whereas Additional SP Kishtwar Rajinder Singh was guest of Honour.

Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies Kishtwar, in his welcome address, highlighted the achievements of the

Cooperative Societies.

Deputy Registrar talked about Cooperative Marketing Society Kishtwar which had over 14 lakh annual profit and working in the field of Fertilizer, Charcoal and Stationary. He also emphasised the importance of PACS which worked at the lower level and had over 4000 members in district Kishtwar. These PACS are soon going to operate Common Service Centres, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samriddhi Kendras and Jan Aushadhi Kendras. Even Dool, Galhar MPCs and Asthangam MPCs already got the drug licence and are soon going to operate Jan Aushadhi Kendras at PHC Keeru and CHC Nowpachi Marwah respectively. These Jan Aushadhi Kendras will provide affordable generic medicine to



common people in these remote areas.

Deputy Commissioner, during his address, appreciated Cooperative Department Kishtwar for its exemplary work and efforts to transform the lives of people associated with Cooperative Societies.

He highlighted the role of Cooperative in the socio-economic upliftment and emphasized on the need for formation of new Cooperatives in different fields by involving more and more youth. The DC encouraged the District Cooperative Department to keep working hard in collaboration with other stakeholder departments like agriculture, Horticulture, Handicrafts etc and pursue it in a way that we are able to create numerous success stories in the district in alignment

with the HADP programmes etc.

The main objective of the celebrations is to highlight the achievement of the Cooperative Sector, create awareness about how to uplift the weaker sections of society, share success stories and to chalk out the future strategy for strengthening the Cooperative movement.

Students on the occasion presented the Cultural Performances besides the various societies were felicitated for their exemplary performances under cooperatives. Registration certificates were also distributed among various Societies. The achievements and success stories of Cooperative Sector Kishtwar were highlighted through movie screening during the programme.

Arrangements discussed for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Udhampur

HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 17: Director of Commerce and Industry, Sumeet Kumar Jarangal, who is also the Prabhari Officer of District Udhampur, chaired a meeting to discuss and strategize for the seamless and successful execution of the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" in the district at Conference Hall in the DC Office Complex.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai, Senior Superintendent of Police, Joginder Singh, Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Sham Singh, Additional SP Anwar-UI-Haq, Chief Planning Officer Mudassir Yaqoob Zargar, PO, Poshan Subash Dogra, Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal besides senior officers were present in the meeting.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the Prabhari Officer on the comprehensive implementation of centrally sponsored schemes. She provided insights into the preparations and department-wise arrangements in progress to saturate schemes across the district. The DC also informed the meeting about the establishment of a district-level control room for overall monitoring, overseen by the designated Nodal officer.

While addressing the meeting, the Prabhari Officer stressed the importance of making adequate arrangements for the successful conduct of the yatra. The focus was on enhanced mobilization and reaching out to those left out to include them under welfare schemes. He directed officers to ensure maximum public participation in the Yatra, aimed at raising awareness about the Government's schemes and achievements.

During the meeting, meticulous reviews of arrangements for cultural events, health camps, and various other activities associated with the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra took place. This comprehensive planning aimed to guarantee a successful and impactful event for the benefit of the community. During the meeting, meticulous reviews of arrangements for cultural events, health camps, and various other activities associated with the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra took place.

District Level Committee meeting on Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra held in Samba

HT News Network

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma chaired a District Level Committee meeting to discuss the preparations of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, here today.

During the meeting, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Samba was entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the safety and security of the Yatra in every Panchayat. It was emphasized that the route chart should be shared with every police station for better coordination.

The Subdivision Magistrates Ghaghwal and Vijaypur were directed to ensure the implementation of the directives at the grassroots level. All concerned were instructed to submit the

status of saturation flagship schemes and submit the list of beneficiaries of each panchayat. Additionally, it was decided to set up a control room, led by the District Information Officer, along with representatives from other departments, for getting video testimonials of beneficiaries. The Jal Shakti department was assigned the task of ensuring water availability at the event venues. The lead manager bank was entrusted with providing banking services at the sites. District Social Welfare Officer was tasked to identify women achievers in every Panchayat, while the District Youth Services and Sports Officer was directed to identify sports persons at the Panchayat and ward level. It was emphasized that a celebratory spirit should be ensured throughout the Yatra.

DC Poonch chairs meeting to strengthen Road Safety Measures in the District

HT News Network

POONCH, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner, Yasin M. Choudhary, who also serves as the Chairman of the Road Safety Committee, convened a meeting with members of the District Road Safety Committee in Poonch to address the formulation and implementation of an effective traffic management plan.

The meeting was attended by ADC Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, ACR Poonch, Zaheer Ahmed Kaifi besides other concerned officers.

The meeting encompassed a comprehensive discussion on various agenda points, highlighting key areas such as the installation of crash barriers, progress on Mughal Road construction, tackling overloading and illegal parking, organizing road safety awareness camps, enhancing ambulance facilities, identifying accident-prone areas and assessing the total number of vehicles in the district.

The DC emphasized the need for collec-



tive efforts to mitigate road accidents and urged the concerned officers to foster close interdepartmental coordination. This collaboration is necessary to minimize accidents and ensure the timely rehabilitation of accident victims.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed Naib Tehsildars, Tehsildars, Police, Traffic Police and ARTO office to establish checkpoints in their respective areas and enforce traffic regulations to curb violations effectively.

DC Rajouri presides over DLTFC Meet; clears 56 cases under JKREGP

HT News Network

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 17: The District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) in Rajouri, under the chairmanship of the District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal approved 56 cases today under Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Program (JKREGP). These cases encompassed a loan amount of Rs 368 lakh, showcasing the commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and empowering the local youth.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the pivotal role of timely disbursement of loan assistance to the deserving beneficiaries. Recognizing the signifi-



cance of prompt support, the District Development Commissioner reaffirmed the commitment to fulfilling the objectives of the scheme. The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Program, launched by the government, aims to stimulate economic growth, nurture entrepreneurship, and create self-employment avenues for young individuals.

The approval of 56 cases under the JKREGP signifies a significant stride towards

providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to the youth of Rajouri. By extending financial support and encouraging entrepreneurial ventures, the program aims to address the unemployment challenges faced by the region, ultimately fostering economic development and social empowerment. The beneficiaries of the approved cases will gain access to crucial financial resources, enabling them to establish and expand their own ventures. By pro-

moting entrepreneurship, the program aims to create conducive environment for the growth of small-scale industries, thus driving economic progress at the grassroots level. The District Development Commissioner expressed his satisfaction with the number of cases cleared and the loan amount sanctioned under the JKREGP. He acknowledged the efforts of the DLTFC in meticulously evaluating and selecting the deserving candidates, ensuring transparency and fairness in the selection process. He further emphasized the importance of effective implementation and monitoring mechanisms to ensure the successful execution of the program.

Forest Department launches campaign on "Plastic Free Forests" during B2V5

Inaugurates City Forest in Panchayat Champa Gram, Batote for public

HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 17: The J&K Forest Department has initiated a UT wide campaign involving members of Gram Panchayats, ULBs, Paryavaran Mitras, locals and Forest staff to clean forest areas from plastic/polythene garbage. Focus is being laid at tourist destinations like Patnitop, Batote, Sanasar, Pahalgam, Gulmarg Doodhpathri etc which witness high influx of floating population.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF J&K Forest Department, Roshan Jaggi, distributed certificates of participation and interacted with participants who conducted such drives in Champa and adjoining areas in Batote in last two days during B2V5 campaign.

PCCF enjoined upon locals and PRI representatives to spread awareness and lead such campaigns regularly in their respective areas to remove garbage and prevent use of SuP items in Forests to maintain health and serenity of natural environment.

The PCCF also inaugurated a City Forest at Gram Panchayat Champa at Batote during B2V programme. The City Forest has been developed over an area of 200 kanals along Batote - Ramban Highway which will offer various facilities to locals as well as tourists moving along the National Highway. Gram Panchayat, Batote Municipal Committee representatives and



locals lauded Forest Department for creating recreational avenues.

PCCF & HoFF reviewed the works of Champa Gram Panchayat and participated in plantation programme under Green JK Drive. J&K Forest PCCF also held a high level meeting of officers of Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban and Udhampur Districts at Batote to take stock of various developmental and forest protection related works. He inspected the progress of works rehabilitation of over 600 hectare of highly degraded forest area along Nathatop - Sanasar road where 5.50 lakh plants are being planted to regenerate forests on a huge denuded forest land under CAMPA programme. It was informed that an amount of Rs. 2778.5 lakh is being spent under this special eco-restoration project. He informed that upto March 2024, most of the vulnerable forest boundary lines in J&K shall be digitized and demarcated to create a strong deterrence against forest encroachments.

Under new Minor Forest Produce Policy of Depart-

ment 1140 local households collect 12 Minor Forest Produce species including Guchie, Mushkbal, Dhoob, Nagchattri, Belladonna, Chilgosa etc are getting benefited by earning higher profits under the new policy.

PCCF & HoFF appreciated the efforts of field / officers in slope stabilization works taken under a special CAMPA Project along Batote - Ramban - Banihal National Highway through an improvised geo-textile technology and it is proving very effective in stabilization of Chronic erosion prone vulnerable spots like Nashri.

PCCF & HoFF also inaugurated the winter planting programme under Green J&K Drive 2023-24 at Shopian and Anantnag areas in Kashmir Valley during his two day visit to these areas. PCCF & HoFF was accompanied by senior officers from Forest and allied departments during his field visits. PCCF & HoFF also inaugurated the winter planting programme under Green J&K Drive 2023-24 at Shopian and Anantnag areas in Kashmir Valley.

NHM Employees Association Doda organizes blood donation camp

HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 17: National Health Mission (NHM) Employees under the banner of All J&K NHM Employees Association District Unit Doda on Friday organized a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at Associated Hospital, Government Medical College Doda. The event was organized in association with District Administration Doda, Government Medical College Doda and District Health Society Doda. The inauguration of the event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, along with



Principal GMC Doda, Dr. Puja Vimesh, CMO Doda Dr. Ab Hamid Zargar, MSAH GMC Doda, Dr. Tanveer Ahmed, HOD Pathology GMC

Doda, Dr. Sumat ul Khurshid, BMO Ghat, Dr. Ab Gafoor Ahmed, President NHM Union Doda, Dr. Nasir Masood Indrabai and others. Speak-

ing on the occasion, the DC urged the people to donate blood voluntarily as it is a great service to humanity and helps in saving precious lives. While lauding the contribution of blood donors, the DC Doda acknowledged the remarkable dedication and humanitarian spirit displayed by the NHM Employees of the health department for their life-saving contributions. The President NHM Association Doda, Dr. Nasir Masood, who was also among the blood donors, informed that it is for the first time in UT J&K, such event of blood donation by NHM employees has been held, which depicts their dedicated services.

EDITORIAL

Alarming Surge in Highway Accidents across J&K?

Tragic road traffic accident in doda, that claimed about 40 lives has once more send shock waves across. A chilling reminder about reckless driving, sub-standard road network, ill managed traffic control and common man's non serious attitude.

In recent times, Kashmir has witnessed a disturbing surge in highway accidents, posing a significant threat to public safety. According to the latest data, the number of accidents on Kashmir's highways has spiked by a staggering 30% in the past year alone. This alarming trend demands immediate attention and comprehensive measures to ensure the well-being of commuters.

The root causes of these accidents are multifaceted. Poor road conditions, inadequate lighting, and a lack of proper signage contribute to the rising toll. Additionally, reckless driving practices and insufficient law enforcement exacerbate the situation. It is crucial for authorities to address these issues holistically, adopting a multi-pronged approach to curb the escalating crisis.

Investment in infrastructure improvement is paramount. Upgrading road surfaces, installing better lighting systems, and strategically placing warning signs can significantly enhance road safety. Simultaneously, law enforcement agencies must intensify efforts to curb reckless driving behavior. Strict penalties and increased patrolling can act as deterrents, fostering a culture of responsible driving.

Community engagement and awareness campaigns play a pivotal role in fostering a safer road environment. Educating the public about the consequences of reckless driving and the importance of adhering to traffic rules can contribute to a positive behavioral shift.

The rising tide of highway accidents in Kashmir demands immediate action. The government, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, must prioritize road safety initiatives to protect lives and create a secure environment for all commuters.

PALESTINE CONFLICT OVERSHADOWS UKRAINE WAR

■ Asad Mirza

The on-going Palestine-Israel conflict seems to have overtaken the global attention from more than 18 months-old war in Ukraine. It also seems that the U.S. is slowly turning its back on Ukraine, and it is unlikely the Europeans can make up for any foreseeable shortfall by including Ukraine amongst the comity.

Ukraine's ambitions of joining the European Union (EU) received an important boost on Wednesday 8th November, when the bloc's executive body said detailed negotiations on Ukraine's membership should begin next year.

A recent EU report has said that the so-called accession talks should finally start; 18 months after the EU accepted Ukraine as a candidate state. The same report recommended that the process should also begin with Moldova, which borders Ukraine.

On Wednesday 8th November, EU President Ursula von der Leyen said: "Today is a historic day, because today the Commission recommends that the Council opens accession negotiations with Ukraine and with Moldova."

Ukraine has long held ambitions to join the EU. In 2013, then-President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted after weeks of street protests when he decided to scrap a trade deal with the EU and instead shift towards Russia, this was followed in March 2014 by Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. Historically, the aim of joining the bloc – along with NATO – has formally been part of Ukraine's constitution since 2019.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who applied for EU membership in February 2022, shortly before Russia invaded his country, welcomed Wednesday's announcement.

Zelenskyy said that, today, the history of Ukraine and the whole of Europe has taken the right step. Despite all the difficulties, we are moving forward.

And although Ukraine welcomed Brussels' suggestion that talks are open and it fully expects the 27 EU member states to agree and adopt the position later this year, the recommendation comes with some caveats that will be hard for Kyiv to comply with at this moment, particularly around the issue of fighting corruption.

Interestingly, it seems that the western resolve in support of Ukraine has remained remarkably solid ever since February 2022. Apart from extending financial and military support, their support for Ukraine joining Western institutions like the EU and NATO, many European officials have privately expressed wonder at precisely how



long Europe has not only remained focused, but also not torn itself apart on the issue, as reported by the CNN.

Remarkably, Ukraine has had what the European diplomat described as "our undivided attention" for the best part of two years.

Since February 2022, Zelenskyy has become a master at using the media to further his political aims. He has been able to persuade various Western governments to supply Ukraine with more weapons, ammunition and money for the defensive campaign against Russia using the moral pressure of defending the Ukrainian citizens.

This sentimental sell has resulted in Ukraine getting many advanced armaments, which might not have possible in the peaceful time, such as heavy artillery, modern air defence systems, Leopard 2 tanks and even F-16 fighter jets – all weapons systems whose delivery to Ukraine had previously seemed unfathomable.

Significantly, Ukrainian officials have been concerned that lately global and in particular the U.S. attention has shifted from Ukraine to the Middle East since the Hamas attacks on Israel on 7th October.

This trend could be noticed in the manner in which the President Joe Biden has requested a further \$106 billion from Congress for Israel, Ukraine

and the Pacific Rim. But the Republicans have put a spanner in his plans, Mike Johnson, the new speaker of the House, has agreed to wave through \$14 billion for Israel, but hasn't released even a single cent for Ukraine. Similarly, in the Senate, the Republicans only want to release the money for Kyiv if the U.S. government tightens its rules for asylum-seekers.

In reality any end to U.S. aid would be no less than a disaster for Ukraine. Its army is suffering from huge shortages after more than 600 days of war. At the moment Kyiv's list of priorities are weapons for air defence – from portable devices including Stinger missiles to state-of-the-art missile defence systems like Europe's Iris-T. Artillery and electronic warfare equipment to defend against Russian drones are also urgently needed in this war of attrition.

Commenting editorially on the development The Guardian commented editorially, that responding to recent talk of "war fatigue" in the west, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy recently acknowledged the gruelling nature of the attritional conflict that has been forced on Ukraine by Vladimir Putin. Nevertheless, he added, he was confident that support for Ukraine in its struggle against Russian forces remained robust.

The Guardian's editorial further opined that this view was vindicated on Wednesday, when Ms von der Leyen recommended that the European Union begin membership talks with Ukraine. This was a necessary and much-needed act of solidarity – all the more so at a time when international attention is focused on the tragic events in the Middle East.

Indeed, it is even possible the United States will start reducing its support to Ukraine, and the EU would not be able to make up for that shortfall, as it is not equipped to match the deep coffers of the U.S.

This is due to the fact that traditionally the U.S. can't leave Israel, one of its most staunch allies, alone at this juncture, as this may transform into a completely reworked geopolitical scenario in the region with its accompanied global impact, and which the U.S. could least afford at present, with President Joe Biden facing one of the most crucial times of his presidency, with attacks from the liberal elements throughout the country accompanied with the Republican offensive for the next year's presidential elections.

The author is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator. Courtesy Daily Excelsior

Opportunities are Increasing in the New Era of Banking

■ Vijay Garg

Getting a job in a bank is like a dream come true for any graduate. But if we talk about traditional banking sector, here competitive examinations prove to be a big challenge in the path of opportunity in this sector. While traditional banking is still the niche choice for the youth, there has also been an increase in the number of institutions baking on the technology platform and new banking niches like neobanks and digital banks. Among these, only graduates with understanding of banking can upscale.

By doing this you can find opportunities for yourself. What is digital and neo banking Digital Banking: Ever since the emergence of financial technology companies, sensing the need of the times, traditional banking institutions also had to come to the digital platform of banking. In this way systems like net banking became popular.

Automated processes were added to it, which is called digital banking. Now digital banking includes both those types of banks, which are present online as a branch or are completely doing banking based on digital technology. Are. In this way, a digital banker becomes a part of the information and promotion campaign of his bank's financial products, creating new customers through mobile banking.

Neo Banking: These are banks that do business entirely online and are known for specialized services like micro agriculture or international banking. More than 50 neo banks are operating in India. Like



Razor pay Xer, Open, Insta Pay, Fee Money etc. Understanding of financial transactions is important Another finance and It is important to understand commerce, on the other hand nickels will also be required.

These technical skills come in handy Related to Digital Banking: Knowledge of digital banking technologies like digital banking platforms, mobile banking applications, online banking systems and fintech solutions etc. will help.

Programming and Development related: Digestive R to create data based applications. Strong knowledge of SQL etc. and skills in working on multiple cloud platforms to manage digital banking infra-

structure. Also, the skills of online communication servicing, user experience user interface, etc. will prove to be additional essential qualifications for you.

Data visualization and related technical skin related to cyber security in digital banking like co-blockchain, data privacy regulations, risk management etc. Where to learn: There are various platforms for this which will help you, like Udemy, Coursera, edX Google let what should be the roadmap Graduation in Finance, Economics, Computer Science or related field. banking data Do courses in analytics or fintech. In this way you will be equipped with the necessary techniques in digital banking.

Intern at a digital banking platform. It would be better to go to a digital bank after working in a traditional bank. In this way your grip will increase. there is so much kind of work

Digital Banking Product Manager
Banking Analyst
Banking Text Digital Banking Marketeer
Fraud & Risk Analyst
Marketing & Customer Care TA Scientist
Machine Learning Engineer US & UI Designer online course
Digital Banking through SBI on Business Model S
Digital Banking 2023 Master Class and Introduction to Fintech Demi

Metals of Digital
Post Graduate Course in Retail Banking
Main sources of course
BSE Institute Limited

Global Academy of Learning "It doesn't matter whether you are an MBA or a normal graduate, but the more beneficial you prove to the bank by constantly upgrading yourself, the better it will be for your career. Opportunities will increase. Banks also offer courses It is visible that the axis Banks: Big banks like ICICI Bank of India can start banking by typing from a university. Getting it done. Since there are many types of work in the bank, like customer handling and loan section etc. then you can learn from these courses.

You can specialize in any one of these areas. Global opportunities too Global banking is its own world. To get opportunities in this, it is necessary to have command over a foreign language. For example, those who know Arabic can get access to the language in foreign countries and in the banks of countries like France, German language, Germany and Austria. practical get information If you want to prepare yourself to work in a bank, then you should start from the lower level.

Work at the stall in life as well. Here you will know how to do it and your hesitation will also be removed. You have been working in a call center for some time now where issues related to the banking sector are resolved.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout

Voice of Global South is unique platform in 21st century: PM

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, Nov 17 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Voice of Global South is a unique platform reflecting the changing world in the 21st century.

Addressing the inaugural session of the virtual Voice of Global South Summit, Prime Minister Modi said, "Global South has been able to find its voice after the concerted efforts of all Global South nations".

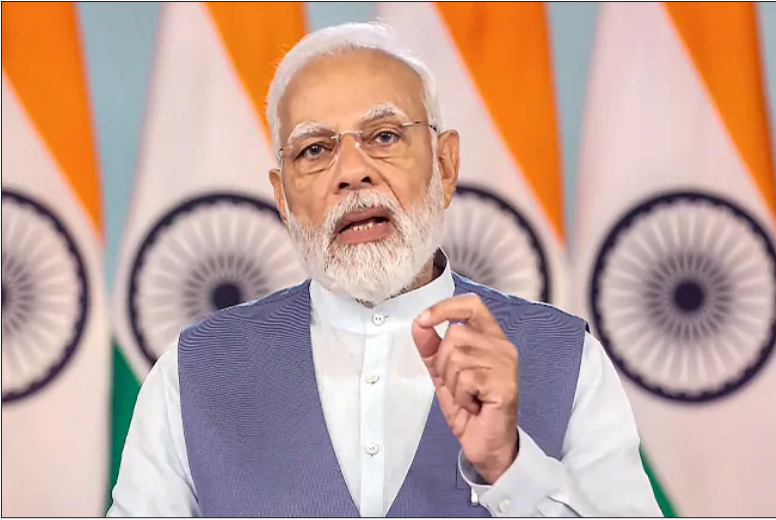
"The priorities of the over 100 countries constituting Global South are similar" he added.

The Prime Minister noted that this is the time when the countries of the Global South should unite for the greater global good.

India is hosting the Voice of Global South Summit in a virtual format with a theme of the inaugural Leaders' Session of "Together, for Everyone's Growth, with Everyone's Trust" and that of the Concluding Leaders' Session, "Global South: Together for One Future".

Highlighting the challenges emerged from the events in the West Asia region, PM Modi said India has condemned the terrorist attack in Israel on 7th October and laid emphasis on exercising restraint and on dialogue and diplomacy.

"India strongly condemns the deaths of civilians in the conflict between Israel and Hamas" he further added.



The Prime Minister said the issues concerning Global South were brought to the fore during the G20 Summit held in Delhi.

Modi stressed that "he cannot forget the historic moment when the African Union was inducted into G20 as a permanent member with India's efforts".

Prime Minister also announced that India will host the AI Global Partnership Summit next month.

Talking about the decision taken in the G20 summit he said, "G20 showed seriousness this time on climate finance and the Global Biofuel Alliance was also launched during the G20 Summit was a great step towards sustainability".

"India believes that new technol-

ogy should not create any distance between the North and South and the era of Artificial Intelligence, there is a need to utilise technology in a responsible way" he added. Prime Minister also announced that India will host the AI Global Partnership Summit next month.

Talking about the decision taken in the G20 summit he said, "G20 showed seriousness this time on climate finance and the Global Biofuel Alliance was also launched during the G20 Summit was a great step towards sustainability". India believes that new technology should not create any distance between the North and South and the era of Artificial Intelligence, there is a need to utilise technology in a responsible way" he added.

S Jaishankar Raises Concerns Over Khalistan Issue With UK Leaders

■ HT News Network

London: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has raised India's long-standing concerns about pro-Khalistan extremism in the UK during his meetings with the country's top leaders, stressing that they should be on guard against the misuse of freedom of expression and speech.

Mr Jaishankar concluded his five-day visit to the UK on Wednesday, which he described as "timely" after a series of cross-party engagements amid "substantial progress" on the ongoing free trade agreement negotiations.

During his meeting with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Jaishankar conveyed best wishes on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Rishi Sunak and Mr Jaishankar expressed satisfaction at positive momentum in enhancing the India-UK relationship as an important factor in addressing contemporary challenges.

They also reviewed implementation of Roadmap 2030 and discussed ongoing negotiations for an India-UK Free Trade Agree-



ment (FTA), the Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release on Thursday.

During a media interaction at the High Commission of India in London before leaving, S Jaishankar shared some insights from his discussions with the UK Cabinet ministers and Opposition leaders which covered a whole spectrum of global and bilateral issues.

India's concerns regarding pro-Khalistan extremism in relation to the safety of its diplomats in the country were among the topics that came up during his meetings with UK Home Secretary James Cleverly and National Security Adviser (NSA) Tim Barrow.

"We have long-standing

concerns about extremist and sometimes even violent activities of various forces, including those who propagate Khalistan," said S Jaishankar.

"We have been trying to get the government here to understand that while we as a fellow democracy certainly understand the importance of freedom of expression, and of speech, they should be on guard against the misuse of these freedoms," he said.

With reference to the violent protests at India House in March, he said the "gravity of the situation is sharply recognised" and India's expectation is that its diplomatic mission would be provided requisite protection to conduct their

activities in an unrestricted way and there would be a "firm stance against the advocacy of violence and extremism".

During his meeting with Home Secretary Cleverly, the two leaders "underscored the need for close collaboration on combating violent extremism and radicalism and agreed to deepen and expand dialogue on these and other shared concerns," the MEA said.

Asked if the upcoming 14th round of negotiations on the FTA is likely to be the final one, S Jaishankar told reporters, "We have made substantial progress, but I don't think it would be prudent of me to make predictions or to put timelines. I think both sides are very aware of the importance of the FTA and will make the utmost effort to get there. So, we have to take it as it happens." As the first minister to hold bilateral talks with the newly appointed UK Foreign Secretary, David Cameron, Jaishankar said they covered a range of regional issues such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict and also the Israel-Hamas conflict in West Asia.

ASI shot dead by unidentified assailants in Punjab

■ HT News Network

Amritsar, Nov 17 (UNI) An Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police was shot dead by unidentified assailants near Jandiala Guru in Amritsar district of Punjab on Thursday night. Police said on Friday that the ASI Saroop Singh had gone for official work, and when he didn't return home, his family started searching for him.

His body was found near Khankot village this morning. Police registered a case and are investigating.

Telangana Polls: Mallikarjun Kharge Releases Congress Manifesto

■ HT News Network

Hyderabad: AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday released Congress party's manifesto which includes six guarantees and different declarations for Telangana.

After releasing the 42 page manifesto, "Abhaya Hastham", the Congress chief said the mood of the people of Telangana is such that the grand old party has to be brought to power, "come what may".

The six guarantees of Congress include the promise of 2,500 per month and gas cylinders at 500 for women, as well as 200 units of free electricity to all households, if the party comes to power in the state after November 30 polls.

Under Rythu Bharosa, the party promises 15,000 investment assistance to farmers every year, while farm labourers will get 12,000.

Under "Cheyutha", 4,000 social pension will be given to eligible beneficiaries and 10 lakh health insurance cover.

"Not In Race For Chief Minister Post": Jyotiraditya Scindia

■ HT News Network

Gwalior (MP): Union minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Jyotiraditya Scindia on Friday said he was not in the race for the chief minister's post in Madhya Pradesh. Mr Scindia on Friday cast his vote at a polling booth in Gwalior.

"I have told you (media) earlier, I am not in the chief ministerial race. I was neither in this race earlier nor today. You have asked me repeatedly in 2013, 2018 and now and I told you the same," he said after casting his vote. The civil aviation minister also said that the people of the state would make Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) win this election with full majority in order to secure their future, and for development and progress. The BJP has not projected any chief ministerial face in the state, where polling for the 230-member assembly is currently underway.

The Congress government under state party chief Kamal Nath, which came to power after the assembly polls in 2018, collapsed in March 2020 following a revolt by several MLAs loyal to Scindia. It paved the way for the return of Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the chief minister, while the rebel MLAs and Scindia joined the BJP. The BJP has not projected any chief ministerial face in the state, where polling for the 230-member assembly is currently underway.

"Closed 20 Of 26 Chapters Of Free Trade Agreement With UK": Piyush Goyal

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, provided an update on the ongoing negotiations for the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the United Kingdom. Mr Goyal expressed optimism about the progress made in the negotiations, highlighting that almost 20 out of 26 chapters have been closed. "We've had several rounds of negotiations with the UK. Currently, we are in active dialogue on different tracks. The Free Trade Agreement has closed almost 20 chapters out of 26. Amongst the few issues pending, there's nothing which is impossible to navigate. Free Trade Agreements are actually crystal gazing into the future" the Union Minister told ANI. Mr Goyal added, "You have to really project how the agreement will play out 20, 30, 50 years into the future. So they are crafted very carefully. One never rushes to do a free trade agreement. One should do it with great care and consideration of different interests". Elaborating on the careful crafting of FTAs, Minister Piyush Goyal emphasized the forward-looking nature of such agreements. Mr Goyal stressed the impor-



ance of a meticulous approach in ensuring that the agreement aligns with the long-term interests of both nations. Acknowledging the sensitivity of certain issues in the negotiations, Mr Goyal expressed confidence that the teams from both sides are addressing matters crucial to each other. "Both sides are looking at issues which are of a very sensitive nature to each other, also very important to each other, and we hope that in the coming weeks, we'll be able to come to some conclusion" the minister stated. The ongoing discussions reflect the commitment of India and the UK to fostering a comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade relationship. The bilateral trade between India and the U.K. increased to \$20.36 billion in 2022-23.

Digital India Pavilion key attraction at 42nd India International Trade Fair

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: See the future of digital possibilities become a reality at the Digital India Pavilion in Hall No. 5, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. One of the major attractions at the 42nd IITF 2023 which is taking place from November 14-27, 2023, the exhibit showcases pioneering initiatives: DigiLocker, UPI, e-Sanjevani, Bhashini and Mann Ki Baat. Set up by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the DI Pavilion is turning more than a few interested heads offering people a remarkable opportunity to engage with cutting-edge technologies. There are interactive displays, engaging experiences for all ages and an opportunity to learn about DI initiatives directly from the experts. From curious students to discerning office goers, energetic women entrepreneurs to enthusiastic senior citizens,



the pavilion showcases innovative technologies for New India that wants to be digitally savvy. At the UPI (United Payments Interface) exhibit, visitors can reap the benefits of going cashless! Encounter a state-of-the-art UPI enabled ATM that provides visitors cash withdrawal through UPI Mode. Customers of select banks can use their UPI apps to scan a QR code generated on the machine's screen to withdraw cash. This latest payment service is based on ICCW (Interoperable Careless Cash Withdrawal) mechanism and

will be soon rolled out in all ATM machines. Since no physical card is required, this mechanism prevents frauds/tampering such as skimming and card cloning.

DigiLocker pioneers a paperless era, offering citizens seamless access to an extensive array of crucial digital documents, ranging from Birth Certificates, Records of Will, Driving License, educational certificates etc. A revolutionary platform in digital document management, DigiLocker signifies a convergence of accessibility and security, all at the fingertips

of 200 Million citizens now! This innovative platform not only simplifies administrative processes but also enhances efficiency, reducing bureaucratic hurdles. Taking centre stage at the Digital India pavilion, the DigiLocker exhibit showcases a larger than life phone featuring the DigiLocker App and how it is empowering citizens to access myriad documents anytime, and from anywhere. Bhashini aims to enable all Indians easy access to the internet and digital services in their own language, and increase the content in Indian languages. The Bhashini exhibits underscore inclusivity. Visitors can download the Bhashini App to translate content in their native language. The App allows users to converse through 3 key features—TEXT, VOICE, and CONVERSE. The TEXT feature supports translation into 22 Indian languages, while the CONVERSE and SPEAK features each cover 13 languages.

"Unconstitutional": Haryana's 75% Quota In Private Sector Scrapped By Court

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The controversial Haryana law mandating 75% reservation for residents of the state in private-sector jobs has been struck down by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which has termed it unconstitutional.

The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, which underwent several changes after it was passed in 2020, provided for 75% of private-sector jobs with a monthly salary or wages of less than 30,000 being reserved for people with a resident or domicile certificate. The domicile requirement had been brought down from 15 years to five.

With less than a year to go for the Assembly elections in Haryana, the decision is being seen as a big setback for the Manohar Lal Khattar-led government, which had brought in the law with an eye on consolidating the votes of local communities, especially the Jat community. The state is likely to appeal the judgment in the Supreme Court. The Act, which was passed by the Haryana Assembly in November 2020 and had received the governor's assent in March 2021, was seen as the brainchild of the Jannayak Janata Party, which is an ally of the BJP in the state, and whose leader, Dushyant Chautala, serves as the deputy chief minister. Providing the reservation was one of the key promises made by Mr Chautala ahead of the 2019 Assembly elections. While introducing the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill in 2020, the state government had said that the "influx of migrants competing for low-paid jobs places a significant impact on local infrastructure and housing, and leads to proliferation of slums".



Cong accused of deceiving Karnataka with false guarantees, says Harish Rao

■ HT News Network

Hyderabad, Nov 17 (UNI) Telangana Finance and Health Minister Harish Rao alleged that the Congress party has deceived the people of Karnataka in the name of five guarantees.

He further claimed that the Congress is attempting a similar deception with six guarantees in Telangana.

Speaking to the media on the occasion of several leaders joining the BRS party at Telangana Bhavan here on Friday, Harish Rao expressed concern over the challenging situation faced by the people of Karnataka under the rule of the Congress party. He criticized the Congress government for relying on outdated schemes, reducing children's scholarships, and neglecting funds for development projects.

Minister Harish emphasized that Congress leaders promised heaven to the people of Karnataka but failed to deliver on their commitments. He pointed out the absence of Rahul Gandhi, who made promises in Karnataka but has not visited the state since coming to power.

Harish alleged that Karnataka faced financial difficulties under Congress rule,

questioning whether the people want a Diwali of lights or a bankrupt state. He urged the people of Telangana to make wise decisions, stating that Telangana farmers are closely observing the situation in Karnataka and facing challenges against their government.

The minister highlighted the reported suicides of 350 farmers within six months due to severe power cuts in Karnataka. He credited Telangana CM KCR for bringing the state to a point where farmers can take pride.

Harish accused the Congress leaders of bringing a failed model from Karnataka to Telangana, pointing out the lack of job notifications in Karnataka in the past six months.

Ayushman Bhava Health Mela organised at Uri Camp Provided Free Consultations, Diagnostic Tests & Health Scheme Awareness

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 17: In a significant stride towards community healthcare, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Baramulla, alongside Block Medical Officer, inaugurated Ayushman Health Mela at the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Uri.

The Health Department organized this event under the Ayushman Bhava Campaign, aiming to extend quality healthcare services to the community. A specialized

team of doctors from GMC Baramulla, led by Prof. Abdul Majid, in collaboration with doctors from Block Uri's healthcare centers, provided free counseling and examinations across various medical disciplines, encompassing gynecology, dermatology, orthopedics, and general surgery etc. Free diagnostic tests for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) and TB screening were conducted, complemented by the provision of free medications to patients examined during the Mela.

A total of about 620



beneficiaries attended the Mela, who were extensively briefed on various health schemes and guided on the necessary steps to access these benefits. Additionally, beneficiaries were registered for Golden-cards and ABHA cards, ensuring they could avail themselves of insurance and holistic healthcare scheme benefits. Speaking during the event, the CMO highlighted the 'Ayushman Bhava' initiative as a governmental commitment to saturate healthcare services across villages and towns, in line

with the commitment to ensure reach to the last mile and enable access to health care services to everyone in the society. Dr. Parvaiz Ahmad Masoodi, Medical Superintendent of GMC Baramulla, on the occasion, underscored the pivotal contribution of GMC Baramulla in deploying specialized teams of doctors for every Ayushman Bhava program in the district ensuring doorstep access to specialized healthcare services and commitment to community well-being and accessibility.

Union Joint Secretary reviews arrangements for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 17: Union Joint Secretary and Additional Financial Advisor, Ministry of Defence, Amitabh Ranjan Sinha, today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review and strategize the arrangements for impending "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra," here at Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir, SSP, Nikhil Borkar, ADDC, ACR, CPO, SDM Kangan and all district officers were present in the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner briefed the meeting about the plan formulated and the arrangements being put in place for



smooth conduct of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. He informed that the Yatra will commence on 20th of November 2023

and continue for 20 days.

The focus of the yatra will be on reaching out to people, raising aware-

ness, and offering the advantages of welfare programs like access to LPG cylinders, electricity connections, sanitation facilities, basic financial services, food security, healthy nutrition, dependable healthcare, clean drinking water, etc.

To enhance efficiency of the campaign, IT portal has been establishment at the district level that will serve as centralized hub for event monitoring and information dissemination, informed the DC.

The DC, in anticipation of the Yatra, underscored the importance of targeting far-flung areas and extending the welfare schemes to all the eligible beneficiaries, illustrating the commitment towards comprehensive development.

Voter registration camps under SSR held across Ramban

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 17: Intensifying SVEEP activities, the Election Department Ramban conducted a series of awareness camps across the district under the aegis of District Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner), Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary on the Special Summary Revision (SSR) 2023.

The awareness camps organized under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Programme at Government Higher Secondary School Thatharka, Government Model Higher Secondary School Batote and Government Higher Secondary School Salli Dhandrath for the registration of new eligible youth as voters and Aadhar linkage of electoral.

During the camps, on-the-spot registration of eligible youth were conducted, besides distributing registration forms and filled-in forms were also received from the eligible voters.

The pledge was also administered to participants to register themselves as a voter in Electoral Rolls, besides educating them about the online portal for registration of voters' on the National Voters Service Portal (NVSP) and Mobile Voter Helpline App. Meanwhile, the faculty and students sensitized the participants about SSR through IEC activities like motivational speeches, Nukkad Natak, skits and promotional songs.

The speakers threw light on various aspects of being a voter and urged the age-specific students who have attained 18 years or to attain 18 years on 01.01.2024 to enroll themselves in the Electoral list, besides further disseminating the awareness among existing voters for modifications in the list, if any.

Special stress was laid on bridging the gender gap and mapping up of PwD voters in the electoral rolls.

DC Kulgam finalises preparations for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of Officers to finalise the action plan and preparations for smooth and successful conduct of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in the district.

The DC directed the Officers to ensure maximum public participation in Viksit Yatra, which is aimed to raise awareness about the Government's achievements and schemes among the public, across the district.

It was informed by concerned Nodal officers, entrusted with the Yatra arrangements, that all arrangements have been put in place to make the Yatra impactful.

Digital Vans, it was informed, will traverse all Panchayats of the district including urban areas, delivering the Prime Minister's message and hosting of promotional events and publicising the government schemes.

It was also informed that district administration has prepared a comprehensive schedule to cover all blocks and urban areas, with Nodal Officers assigned specific duties for a smooth



yatra passage. During the meeting, the DC stressed the importance of flagship schemes and underlined the need for effective projection of the same to maximize their impact.

He called for effective coordination among the departments for the successful conduct of Yatra while finalising the District Action Plan.

The Yatra shall start from November, 20 in the district till its culmination after covering all village of the district up to December, 10

Among others, ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rather; ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; DPO, Ab Rashid Darg; ACR, Imtiyaz Ul Aziz and other district/sectoral officers attended the meeting.

Principal SP College flags-off group of students on Education tour

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: The educational tour of Integrated MSC Environmental Science students of 5th and 6th semester of SP College Srinagar to district Rajouri and its adjoining areas commenced today.

The group of 25 students and 05 faculty and non-teaching staff was flagged-off by the Principal SP College, Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Jeelani Qureshi from the campus.

He advised the students to avail this opportunity and work with utmost dedication to learn the critical aspects of biodiversity and challenges in the area.

The tour is a requirement as prescribed in the curriculum to pursue the said course and give the students an exposure to various facilities available and enable them to study the ecological aspects of the area.

The tour in charge Dr. Gowhar Hamid Dar, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science detailed out the activities of the tour which will be carried out for the benefit of the students.

Chairman DLSA Ganderbal reviews preparations for upcoming National Lok Adalat

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 17: The Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District and Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, Ritesh Kumar Dubey, today chaired a meeting of Judicial Officers here to discuss the preparation of upcoming 4th National Lok Adalat, scheduled to be held on 9th of December 2023.

The meeting witnessed the participation of the Civil Judge (Sr. Division) /Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakak and all judicial officers of District Ganderbal.

During the meeting, all the judicial officers exchanged valuable insights, discussed crucial agendas, and formulated an action plan to execute the 4th National Lok Adalat flawlessly and successfully.

It was given out that the DLSA Ganderbal, in collaboration with the participating judicial officers, will undertake comprehensive preparatory measures to ensure a successful and impactful National Lok Adalat on 9th December 2023.

Acknowledging the importance of the event, necessary arrangements will be made to accommodate a wide range of pending cases and provide an approachable, congenial environment for litigants to obtain swift resolutions.

The 4th National Lok Adalat aims to bring justice closer to the people, fostering a culture of peaceful dispute resolution and legal awareness.

The event is expected to witness a substantial turnout, facilitating the resolution of various disputes across diverse domains.

PD&SJ's of Pulwama & Kupwara condole demise of father of Justice Sanjeev Kumar

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SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 15: The Principal District and Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) Pulwama, Naseer Ahmad Dar and PD&SJ Kupwara, Shazia Tabasum today condoled the demise of Shri Utam Chand Shukla, the father of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

In this connection, two separate condolence meetings were held at District Court Complex (DCC) Pulwama and DCC Kupwara chaired by PD&SJ Pulwama and PD&SJ Kupwara respectively.

In the condolence meeting held at DCC Pulwama, the PD&SJ Pulwama, Naseer Ahmad Dar extended condolences and expressed deep sympathies on behalf of all the participants to the bereaved family particularly to Justice Sanjeev Kumar.

The Condolence meeting, attended by all the Judicial Officers of the District and other staff members, emphasized the solidarity and support of the legal fraternity of District Pulwama with the bereaved family at this difficult time.

Judicial officers from mufassil courts of District Pulwama joined the meeting through virtual mode.

The PD&SJ Kupwara, Shazia Tabasum on the occasion shared words of solace, acknowledging the immense loss suffered by the bereaved family. She expressed deep sympathy for Justice Sanjeev Kumar, recognizing the profound impact of losing a beloved father.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri meets accident victims at GMC & AH

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal immediately rushed to GMC&AH to check the patients who had endured a dreadful Sumo accident in Hasplote area of Thanamandi tehsil in Rajouri district today. These individuals had been transferred to the hospital for specialized care. Deputy Commissioner engaged with injured and assured financial assistance for the victims. Tragedy struck as six people were left injured, while the lives of two innocent souls were tragically cut short in a road accident that unfolded at Hasplote area. The aftermath of the accident was nothing short of chaos, with a total of six individuals bearing the brunt of the catastrophe, all left grappling with injuries of varying degrees. These brave survivors were rushed to the GMC Associated Hospital in Rajouri, where a dedicated medical team worked tirelessly to assess



and address their conditions. Deputy Commissioner inquired about their health and facilities being provided to them. He directed the medical team to provide the injured with the most comprehensive and effective treatment, minimizing the risk of complications and ensuring a smoother path to recovery. Deputy Commissioner extended a heartfelt promise to the injured and their families, assuring them that the District Administration would stand by their side, offering unwavering support and all the necessary assistance required.

ADDC finalizes action plan for rollout of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 17: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Doda, Pran Singh, serving as the Nodal Officer for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in District Doda, orchestrated the mobilization of the district administration for the upcoming Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra scheduled from November 15 to January 26, 2024.

A workshop, attended by district officers, sectorial officers, and block development officers across the district, along with virtual participation from outstation block development officers and executive officers of municipal councils, was held in the Conference Hall of DC office complex, aiming to raise awareness and strive for the saturation of centrally sponsored schemes.

During the meeting, the ADDC emphasized the importance of flagship schemes, directing all district officers to create videos regarding government-sponsored schemes within the stipulated time.



The Yatra, designed to reaffirm a commitment to a developed India by 2047, focuses on reaching vulnerable populations to maximize the impact of various centrally sponsored schemes. The government is providing 107 mobile Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) vans to cover 4291 Panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir in 20 days. The ADDC stressed the need for effective projection of schemes and urged officers to stay informed about the latest data on beneficiaries and scheme coverage. As part of the Yatra, a Digital Van will traverse panchayats and municipal wards, delivering the Prime Minister's message and hosting promotional events.

India's Path To The World Cup Final

AHMEDABAD, NOV 17: As India head into the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 Final unbeaten, we take a look back at how the hosts have bossed the tournament.

Come 19 November, India will take on Australia in the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Final. A host nation will feature in the event's final for the fourth time in a row, starting with India themselves in 2011.

And their current run sees them well-placed to add a third World Cup to their trophy cabinet. Led by Rohit Sharma's belligerence and Virat Kohli's assurance, the batting unit has clicked in all their games so far.

Mohammed Shami's excellence has led their bowling effort, which has seen both the pacers and spinners thrive.

Before the World Cup final, let's take a look at their run in the tournament so far:

Match 1, v Australia in Chennai: Spinners led the charge, as India made the most of a helpful surface. Useful knocks from David Warner and Steve Smith ensured that Australia reached 199, a sub-par total on the wicket.

However, a target of 200 seemed akin to 300 when Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc struck in style to reduce India to 2/3. A solid partnership between Kohli and KL Rahul stabilised the innings and helped India clinch the contest by six wickets.

Match 2, v Afghanistan in Delhi: Afghanistan overcame early struggles to stitch important partnerships before Jasprit Bumrah struck late to hold the side from charging towards 300. Rohit's attacking ton then led India's chase, as the target was chased down in merely 35 overs.

Match 3, v Pakistan in Ahmedabad: Bumrah stood out once again as India excelled with the ball on a good batting wicket. In a collapse of epic proportions, Pakistan were reduced from 155/2 to 191 all out. Another attacking start from the top helped India win the contest by seven wickets.

Match 4, v Bangladesh in Pune: Kohli's exceptional century helped India chase down Bangladesh's first innings total with ease. The Men in Blue produced a clinical performance with the ball in the first innings, although they suffered the loss of Hardik Pandya who injured himself in this game. The all-rounder was subsequently ruled out of the tournament.

Match 5, v New Zealand in Dharamsala: India's first non-Asian opponent in three games also proved to be their most challenging competitor thus far. Daryl Mitchell and Rachin Ravindra seemed to be running away with the game at one stage, having blunted India's spin attack.

However, Shami, the man who had replaced Pandya in the India lineup, stood up and delivered with



a scintillating five-for. From 178/2, New Zealand slipped to 273 all out. Led by Kohli, India went on to register a comfortable win with two overs to spare.

Match 6, v England in Lucknow: After being asked to bat first for the first time in the tournament, India

stumbled on a tough wicket. However, it was Rohit's excellence that saw them get to 229/9. The ask was always going to be tough for England, given their form in the tournament.

Bumrah and Shami ripped through their batting order under

the lights to clean them up for 129.

Match 7, v Sri Lanka in Mumbai: Snaring India's skipper early in the innings was the only time that the Island nation seemed to be in the game. India's top and middle order dominated the proceedings in the batting innings.

After posting 357/8, Mohammed Siraj and Shami sliced through the Sri Lanka batting order like a hot knife through butter. India won by a record margin of 302 runs after bowling their opponents out for 55.

Match 8, v South Africa in Kolkata: Kohli equalled the record of his idol Sachin Tendulkar, hitting his 49th ODI hundred as India reached 326. The tweakers took charge along with Mohammed Shami and cleaned up the Proteas for 83.

Match 9, v Netherlands in Bengaluru: India accumulated their ninth win in as many league stage matches with a victory against Netherlands in Bengaluru. It was Shreyas Iyer and Rahul who came to the party, helping India post 410/4 at the back of their attacking tons.

The Netherlands put up a decent showing with the bat but were eventually overwhelmed by the big target.

Semi-final 1, v New Zealand, in Mumbai: India broke their Kiwi hoodoo in the ICC tournament knockout games and went on to secure a place in the finals. Kohli's record-breaking 50th ODI ton set the tone for India's innings, even as Iyer, with a hundred of his own, helped India finish close to 400.

Mitchell once again played an incredible knock, but New Zealand were undone by the brilliance of Shami, who finished with 7/57, the best-ever figures for an India bowler in ODIs. (UNI)

ICC board meeting: SLC's suspension, future of ODI cricket among key talking points

AHMEDABAD, NOV 17: Sri Lanka Cricket's suspension, the future of ODI cricket and a revival of a high-performance programme aimed at the top Associates and some Full Members are all set to be on the agenda at the upcoming ICC board meeting in Ahmedabad.

The quarterly meetings, the last of the year, begin on Saturday with various committees before the ICC board meeting set for Tuesday, two days after the 2023 ODI World Cup final. While some of the big-ticket items have been effectively finalised, such as the revenue distribution model for the 2024-27 cycle of events and cricket's entry into the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, there remain a number of talking points.

SLC's suspension last week is set to dominate the ICC board meeting. Possible conditions over the suspension will be debated as well as whether Sri Lanka continue to remain hosts of the men's under-19 World Cup in January and February.

The ICC's deputy chair Imran Khwaja is likely to be an influential voice having been engaged to look into potential political interference for a while. He investigated the matter in May during a fact-finding



mission to Sri Lanka. Two days after the ODI World Cup final, possible discussions around the future of the 50-overs format are on the cards. There will be at least two boards pushing for the revival of the recently-scrapped 13-team ODI Super League. With a new qualification pathway already approved for a 14-team 2027 men's ODI World Cup, the Super League, if it does return, could only do so from 2028.

Zimbabwe - co-hosts of the 2027 ODI World Cup along with South Africa and Namibia - are advocating for an analysis to be conducted over the current World Cup to gauge its global popularity. "This World Cup came at the same time as the rugby World Cup, so it would be a good opportunity to compare the audience and measure our global impact as a sport," Zimbabwe Cricket chair Tavengwa Mukuhlanzi said.

"It felt like the Rugby World Cup was more popular, especially in countries where both sports are popular. I don't think the problem is with the ODI format... there aren't enough teams in the World Cup, even 14 isn't enough. And there won't be context without the Super League."

Legends League Cricket all set to start its first leg in Ranchi today

Munaf Patel, Pravin Tambe and Hashim Amla along with Andrew Leipus and Raman Raheja unveiled the trophy of the Legends League Cricket

JAMMU, NOV 17: The cricketing world is set to witness a grand reunion as legendary cricketers, Munaf Patel, Pravin Tambe, and Hashim Amla along with Andrew Leipus and Raman Raheja took center stage to kickstart the highly anticipated season of Legends League Cricket (LLC) on Saturday at the JSCA Stadium in Ranchi. The league will see Bhilwara Kings and India Capitals, led by Irfan Pathan, clash against the other, promising fans a nostalgic journey and a spectacular display of cricketing prowess.

Speaking on the eve of tournament, former Indian cricketer Munaf Patel said, "Legends League Cricket is one of the biggest leagues of the country. And talking about starting the league in Ranchi, only one name comes to mind, my captain, M.S. Dhoni. The stadium that also has his name on the pavilion, is definitely one of the best stadiums in the country."

The Legends League Cricket, a six-team tournament will be played across five cities in India - Ranchi, Dehradun, Jammu, Vizag, and Surat and is scheduled to run from November 18 to December 9, 2023. The much-anticipated season will commence with a thrilling rematch between Bhilwara Kings and India Capitals on Saturday, a repeat of last season's final where India Capitals emerged victorious, lifting the coveted trophy.

Bhilwara Kings boast a potent lineup comprising cricketing stalwarts and emerging talents. The explosive batting duo of Irfan Pathan and Yusuf Pathan, combined with the strategic prowess of Shane Watson, adds a dynamic edge to the team. The bowling attack, featuring the likes of Ryan Sidebottom and Iqbal Abdulla, promises to keep opponents on their toes.

The India Capitals present a formidable combination of seasoned campaigners and rising stars. The team's bowling arsenal is strengthened by the presence of Pravin Tambe, the dynamic Ashley Nurse, and the experienced Fidel Edwards.

Star spinner Pravin Tambe said, "Legends League Cricket is a platform to relive the joy and passion for cricket. India Capitals is a team filled with talent, and I am honored to be part of this journey."

Raman Raheja, CEO and Co-founder, Legends League Cricket said, "We are hoping for an exciting and scintillating season starting from November 18. We would like to take the opportunity to thank our fans for the huge response and are looking forward to packed stadiums for all the matches. The matches will be reminiscent of cricketing talent that the entire country has loved over the years."

19 matches will be played across 22 days in what promises to be a mouth-watering tournament. After Ranchi, the action will shift to Dehradun on November 24, with the Bhilwara Kings clashing with the Gujarat Giants in what will be the sixth match of the season.

Six teams; India Capitals, Bhilwara Kings, Gujarat Giants, Manipal Tigers, Southern Super Stars, and Urbanrisers Hyderabad will be fighting their way to the coveted trophy.

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