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Kohli and Rohit rested for white-ball games in SA; Suryakumar to lead in T201 **Rahulin ODIs** World AIDS Day a global platform to unite in solidarity and reflect on the progress made in combating

Lt Governor attends 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' at Panchayat Dhok Waziran

PM Modi is committed towards 100% saturation of Government schemes and reaching out to the unreached: LG

JAMMU, DEC 01: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' at Panchayat Dhok Waziran, Nagrota, today.

The Lt Governor congratulated the PRI representatives and people for their enthusiastic participation. He urged them to reach out to maximum number of families, generate awareness about Government schemes and encourage enrolment of potential ben-

He emphasised the need to replicate the best practices of Panchayat Dhok Waziran to develop model villages in a holistic way for better livelihoods



options, improved quality of life and action-oriented Jan-Bhagidari for a happy, prosperous and peaceful Pan-

"Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is committed towards 100% saturation of government schemes and reaching out to the unreached. It provides a significant opportunity to rural and urban areas to ensure common man and vulnerable section is empowered," the Lt Governor said.

He urged the people to actively participate in 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', avail the on-spot services being provided and disseminate the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Weather improves after rain, snow lash J&K

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, DEC 1: Weather improved on Friday and is likely to remain dry after rains and snow lashed Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, resulting in the closure of many roads



as a precautionary measure.

Jammu and Kashmir received light to moderate rain in the plains and light snow over the middle and higher reaches during the past 24 hours.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Woman among 3 drug peddlers arrested in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, DEC 1: Three drug peddlers including a woman were arrested and contraband substances were recovered from their possession in Jammu Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday, police said.

A team from Sheeri Police Station Sheeri at a checkpoint in at Kitchama near the Service Station intercepted $two\,men\,and\,a\,wo man\,coming\,towards$ Kitchama on a scooty.

During the search, 776 grams of contraband "Heroin" like substance were recovered from their possession. The trio were identified as Riyaz

Father of 4 children found dead mysteriously in Sopore village

SOPORE, DEC 01: A man in his 40's was found dead under mysterious conditions at Zaloora village in Sopore in north Kashmir while his relatives and neighbours alleged the murder, urging the authorities to investigate

An official told the news agency— Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that on Friday morning, the family of Reyaz Ahmed Mir (48) of Zaloora village falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Bomai filed a missing report as Riyaz, according to them, had gone

A police party searched for him TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Mughal-era mosque in Kashmir in ruins

GANDERBAL, DEC 01: The ancient mosque situated in Malshahi Bagh in Ganderbal tracing its origin to Mughal rule is in ruins in absence of its upkeep by Central Waqf Board.

The Board which currently administers the historic mosque along with 360 kanals of orchard land was constructed by Dara Shikoh in the 17th century as a tribute to his mentor Mullah Akhoon Shah.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), despite the Central Waqf Board reaping substantial revenue from the surrounding gardens and shrines, no efforts or funds have been allocated towards the restoration or upkeep of this culturally TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Dulloo Joins Back As Chief Secretary Of J&K

Takes round of the Secretariat Campus; listens to employees working there

HT News Network

JAMMU, DEC 01: Atal Dulloo, a 1989 batch IAS officer having vast experience in the UT today joined back as Chief Secretary of J&K after his brief stint in Ministry of Home Affairs as a Secretary, Border Management.

Dulloo being an AGMUT cadre IAS officer has served in J&K for most part of his service. He has earlier been a key person to successfully row the UT amid the lethal Covid-19 crisis as Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education.

Before going to central deputation in June this year Dulloo was serving J&K as Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department and has been instrumental in devising of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) aiming at revolutionizing the Agri sector here and



many folds increase in farmers income.

Dulloo has also served as Deputy Commissioner of key districts in the erstwhile state and has received many honours including state award for meritorious public service on Republic Day in 2013 and silver medal for successfully conducting
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Amit Shah hails BSF on 59th Raising Day

HT News Network

JHARKHAND, DEC 1: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said "Jeevan Paryant Kartavya" (Duty Unto Death) is not just a slogan of Border Security Force (BSF) but till date over 1,900 of its personnel have justified it by making the supreme sacrifice.

"Lakhs of Seema Praharis (border guards) have spent the golden period of their lives away from TURN ON.....PAGE 02



452 drug peddlers arrested, property worth crores seized so far in Baramulla

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, DEC 1: Police have arrested 452 drug peddlers, including 70 hardcore ones, and registered 260 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act this year so far in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district

Police said as of November 2023, the police have filed 260 cases under the NDPS Act, resulting in the arrest of 452 drug peddlers, including 70 hard-core ones who have been booked under PIT NDPS PSA in Baramulla district.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

LeT militant shot dead in Pulwama gunfight

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, DEC 1: Security forces shot dead a Lashkar-e-Taiba militant in an encounter that raged in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said.

The encounter broke out during a cordon and a search operation launched by joint forces in Arihal village of Pulwama following an input about militant presence on Thursday.

"During the search operation, the TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K Raj Bhawan hosts Nagaland Statehood Day celebrations

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, DEC 01: Fostering the spirit of Ek Bharat



Shreshtha Bharat, the Nagaland Statehood Day

In Kashmir valley, over 50

Pc electricity consumers

non-metered consumers: Pr Sec PDD

The main reasons for the AT&C losses are

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: In Kashmir, more than

Power Crisis.....

without meters

Cold storages reach full capacity as Kashmiri apple get better rates

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: Following better market rates for Kashmiri apples this year, cold stor-

ages in Kashmir have reached full capacity. As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), although the production of quality apples was less in Kashmir due to the weather vagaries, Kashmiri apples this year witnessed a huge market demand across India.

Expecting the market to be even better ahead, farmers have stored their apples in cold storage

facilities in large quantities. President Parimpora Fruit Mandi Bashir

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: The cases of HIV/AIDS are increasing with each passing year in Jammu & Kashmir, as a total of 6,305 patients have tested positive in the region from 1998 until October 2023.

A top health official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that 1,452 HIVpositive patients have died since 1998 until October 2023, while 3,583 patients are living on Anti-

AIDS cases show rise in J&K

6,305 HIV cases reported since 1998, Region facing increased risk due to tourism, influx of migrant labourers: Officials



HT News Network

Retroviral Therapy (ART).

TÜRN ON.....PAGE 02

On World AIDS Day, Doctors ask people to leave stigma, talk openly about HIV

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: As the world observed AIDS Day, the health experts here on Friday said that there is a need to get rid of social stigma so that affected people .TURN ON.....PAGE 02.

CMYK

HT - NEWS

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM Modi is.....

information about schemes.

LATHERADLINES

Individual success stories must reach out to every nook and corner of UT to highlight the transformation brought about by the government's flagship schemes in their lives, he said

"Through integrated action and involvement of every individual we can turn the villages into viable, sustainable economic centres and create opportunities for youth, women, farmers and vulnerable section to accomplish the vision of Viksit Bharat," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the efforts of the J&K Government to ensure benefits of welfare measures reach the poor and weaker sections of

UT administration is providing 5 Marla land to poor landless beneficiary under PMAY (G). This will raise the living standards of poor, vulnerable landless families, remove the existing societal imbalances and lead to their economic and social prosperity, he said.

Sh Raman Wazir, Sarpanch Panchayat Dhok Waziran and beneficiaries from the Panchayat also shared their experiences and expressed gratitude to the administration for extension of benefits under various government schemes.

The Lt Governor visited the stalls put up by different departments, witnessed the demonstration of drone, and handed over the certificates of registration to the members of newly created Farmer Producers Organizations.

'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' pledge was also administered on the occasion.

Sh Bharat Bhushan, Chairman District Development Council Jammu; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary Revenue; Sh Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Sh Shakti Pathak, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, senior officers, PRI members and people in large number were

Weather improves.....

The weather is currently partly to generally cloudy at many places, with light snow over Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and its adjoining areas on Friday, the meteorological office said.

The MeT office said from Friday onwards, there will be a significant improvement in weather towards the afternoon over most places in J&K and that it is likely to remain dry thereafter.

The weather is likely to remain partly cloudy from December 2-7 and partly to generally cloudy from December 8–10, the MeT office said, adding that there is a possibility of a fall in the minimum temperature by 3-5°C from December 2 onwards.

Mughal road connecting south Kashmir's Shopian district with the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu division and strategic Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road connection Zojila pass in Ladakh remain closed for the second consecutive day on Friday for vehicular traffic due to accumulation of snow.

"The snow clearance operation is in progress, and after getting a green signal, the roads will be put through for vehicular traffic," traffic officials

Sadhna Top, Chowkibal Tangdhar, and Keran roads in north Kashmir were also closed for traffic movement after fresh snowfall during the past 24 hours.

Srinagar recorded a low of 4.5°C on Friday against the 5.3°C recorded the previous night, and it was 5.4°C above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season. Srinagar also received 16.7mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours until 0830 hours on

Pahalgam had a low of 0.5°C against 1.5°C recorded a day ago, and it was 3.9°C above normal for the tourist hot spot of south Kashmir. It also received 10.2mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours.

Qazigund, on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, recorded a minimum of 2.2°C against the 5.0°C recorded the previous night, and Kokerng had a low of 2.0°C against the 3.5°C recorded the previous night. Both places received 21.0mm and 11.8mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours, respectively.

Kupwara recorded a low of 2.6°C against the 4.2°C recorded a day ago, and it was 3.7°C above normal for the frontier north Kashmir district. It also received 11.0mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a low of -1.8°C against the -1.0°C recorded the previous night, and it was 1.3°C above normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir. It also received 3.4mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours, the MeT office said. (UNI)

Dulloo Joins.....

assembly elections in the in 1996.

Later on the Chief Secretary also took round of the Secretariat campus and interacted with the employees working there. He asked them to feel free to bring their issues either directly to his office or to the General Administration Department

He encouraged them to be forthcoming about all such issues so that these are resolved on merit. He asked them about their work and allied facilities available to them or they want to have for smooth disbursement of their official business.

He even took note of the hygiene and renovation works going on in the Secretariat campus. He directed the concerned to upkeep the premises aesthetically so that both employees and visitors have a pleasant experience.

During this visit the Chief Secretary was accompanied by Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Director Estates, Jammu besides other concerned civil and police officers.

Amit Shah.....

their families in difficult circumstances," he

At the 59th Raising Day ceremony of BSF in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh, Shah released BSF's annual magazine-'Borderman'.

"As the first line of defence of the country's borders, the way BSF has secured the inaccessible borders of the country, the entire country is proud of these brave soldiers," Shah said.

In his address, Shah said that be it the snowy areas of Jammu and Kashmir, the mountains of the North-East, the deserts of Gujarat and Rajasthan, the marshy areas of Gujarat or the dense forests of Sundarbans and Jharkhand, BSF has always remained alert and foiled the nefarious motives of the enemy, the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement.

"The BSF has set new standards of service and bravery at the international level even in United Nations peacekeeping missions," the Union Home Minister said.

"A country whose borders are not secure can never develop and prosper," he said.

He pointed out that the BSF has captured over 2500 weapons and done very good experiments with evolving technology such as anti-drone measures. The force has so far shot down more than 90 foreign drones and is also doing very good work in the field of R&D by setting up a BSF Drone and Cyber Forensic Lab in New Delhi to identify the routes of foreign drones, Shah said.

The Centre has provided 100 drones along with field formations for area domination which are being used very well by the BSF soldiers, he said.

Hailing the courage and bravery of the soldiers. Shah said those protecting the country's borders are the foundation of the country's development. The BSF soldiers not only protect the borders but also give the message of discipline to the youth of the country," the Union Minister said.

A total of 23 BSF troopers have been given bravery medals and five havereceived medals posthumously. Out of the 23 troopers, 11 have been given Police Medal For Gallantry, 1 soldier has been given Jeevan Raksha Padak and 11 soldiers have been given President's Police Medal for distinguished service, a BSF statement said.

Shah said that BSF has received many medals and awards including 1 Mahavir Chakra, 4 Kirti Chakra, 13 Vir Chakra and 13 Shaurya Chakra. UNI

452 drug.....

Additionally, properties of drug peddlers worth crores have been attached as well. The police have also made substantial seizures of contraband worth more than Rs 14 crores

Baramulla Police, under its relentless campaign against drug peddling, has achieved remarkable success, as the number of registered cases has significantly dropped in recent months, indicating a decline in drug peddling and drug abuse.

The concerted efforts of the police have yielded a notable reduction in drug-peddling cases. A visible decline in drug abuse cases is seen on the ground.

The general public of the district has shown the utmost faith and satisfaction in the action of the police against drugs, and they have expressed their total support for the police.

Police in Baramulla remain steadfast in their commitment to confront drug smugglers and to seize both movable and immovable property used for illicit trafficking within the district. (UNI)

LeT militant.....

joint team encountered indiscriminate firing from the hiding terrorist. The security forces effectively retaliated, leading to an encounter," a police spokesman said.

"In the ensuing exchange, the terrorist, identified as Kifayat Ayoub Alie, son of Mohd Ayoub Alie, a resident of Pinjoora Shopian, associated with the proscribed terror outfit LeT, was neutralised, and his body was recovered from the encounter site."

Police records indicate his involvement in several terror-related crimes in Shopian.

"Significant incriminating materials, along with arms and ammunition, including a pistol, two magazines, five RDS, and two grenades, were seized from the encounter site. All recovered items are now part of the case records for further investigation," the spokesman said.

A case under relevant provisions of law has been registered, and the investigation taken up.

Police requested the general public of the area not to approach the encounter site until the area is thoroughly sanitized and cleared of any potential explosive materials. (UNI)

J&K Raj Bhawan.....

was celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm at the Raj Bhawan. Several captivating cultural programmes based on the famous dance forms of Nagaland were presented by the Artists of Jammu

Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. While addressing the guests, the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha extended his greetings to all especially the people of Nagaland on Statehood Day.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's development initiative for North-East has truly brought historic socio-economic transformations of Nagaland after years of neglect," the Lt Governor

In the last 9 years, the state, known as the land of festivals and famous for its vibrant folk music, traditional dances, arts and crafts, delicious cuisines, enchanting rivers and rich flora and fauna, has seen significant progress on various fronts and renewed vigour in its economy, he added.

The Lt Governor paid homage to the great personalities of Nagaland and remembered their significant contribution in nation building.

Nagaland, blessed with tremendous diversity and richness is fondly called as land of warrior tribes. The Naga leader and freedom fighter, Rani Gaidinliu, also known as daughter of the hills who had joined the freedom struggle at the age of 13 years had inspired the people to rebel against the British, he said.

He said the Statehood Day is also an occasion to celebrate Nagaland's unique strengths, opportunities, tourism potential and the spirit of unity

Security personnel, students and the people of Nagaland living in J&KUT were the special invitees for the evening.

Cold storages.....

Ahmad Bashir told KNO that all the cold storages are running at full capacity in Kashmir right

"Grade 'A' apples this year got better rates. So, now the majority of the farmers have stored their apples in cold storages, expecting even better rates in the months of April to June next year," he said.

Bashir said the quantity of shipments of apples from Kashmir will now stop dropping in the coming months. "Cold storages have proved beneficial for farmers who sell their apples in off-season at good rates," he said.

Bashir said the storage of apple in cold chains would also prevent the losses of farmers due to the influx of Iranian apples. "This could be another reason that farmers store their apples in cold storage in huge quantities. They know that it will be the only Kashmiri apple hitting the market in the off-season next year," he added.

A cold storage owner told KNO that the majority of the cold storages in Kashmir reached full capacity in the beginning of November month.

"Usually cold storage reaches full capacity in the month of December. This year the majority of the farmers preferred to store their crop in cold storages," he said.

Ghulam Mohammad Dar, a grower from Baramulla said that cold storages have emerged as a ray of hope for farmers for better returns to their crop.

"We have witnessed that Kashmiri apples had a good demand during the last few years in the month of April to July. So cold storage have emerged as a good option for farmers to get better rates to apple during off-season," he said.

AIDS cases.....

He added that 521 patients have left follow-up. He said that 5,154 cases of HIV have been reported at GMC Jammu, and among them, 1,274 have died, 470 have left follow-up, and 2,782 are living

Similarly, at SKIMS Srinagar, the number of patients registered in HIV care till October 2023 is 776, with 152 deaths, 35 leaving follow-up, and 473 living on ART, he added.

In ART Kathua, the number of patients registered in HIV care is 375, with 26 deaths, 16 leaving followup, and 328 living on ART.

The officials highlighted that due to social stigma, many people aren't coming forward for HIV tests, and over the years, the number of patients infected has shown a rising trend.

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a chronic, potentially life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). By damaging the immune system, HIV interferes with the body's ability to fight infection

and disease. HIV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) and can also be spread through contact with infected blood or from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding, as well as multiperson usage of needles. Without medication, it may take years before HIV weakens the immune system to the point of developing AIDS.

Officials said that a person suffering from AIDS is unfortunately often regarded as a stigma in society, and such individuals become victims of ostracism, rejection, and discrimination.

They also noted that J&K is at a greater risk of HIV/AIDS due to its status as a tourist destination, along with the presence of long-distance truck drivers, considered a vulnerable bridge population for HIV transmission, the heavy influx of migrant labourers, and the high concentration of security forces.

Most patients testing positive for HIV/AIDS in J&K have contracted the disease from outside the UT. "Drug addicts are at a higher risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and if they are married or sexually active, they can transmit the virus to their partners as well," they said.

The AIDS Project Cell was reconstituted as the **JAMMU & KASHMIR AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY** (JKSACS), registered under the Jammu & Kashmir Societies Registration Act, with effect from 14TH December 1998, to address the problem of AIDS more effectively.

On World AIDS.....

may come forward for treatment and talk openly about HIV to educate people.

World AIDS Day is observed across the globe on December 1 with a new theme every year and in 2023, the theme is "Let communities lead".

Doctors while talking to the news agency— Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the social stigma has been a formidable barrier in the fight against HIV, thereby hindering prevention efforts and perpetuating the spread of the virus.

Dr Fozia, Head of Department Community Medicine at GMC Anantnag, said that stigmatizing attitudes surrounding HIV contribute to fear, misinformation and discrimination creating an environment where individuals are hesitant to

seek testing, treatment and support.

She said by challenging and changing societal perceptions, we can definitely create an environment that promotes open dialogue, open dialogue education and understanding.

Dr Showkat, another doctor at GMC said that people who have already been affected by this virus must come forward and lead the fight to get rid of it and avoid its spread. He said fear of judgement often leads

people to avoid HIV testing that allows the virus to go undetected and untreated and destigmatizing will definitely help in improving individual health outcomes but also helps in preventing further transmission of the

Dr Ifra from GMC Anantnag said that people can easily come for treatment of HIV as their identities aren't being disclosed besides they are being sanitised to adhere to treatment plans, ultimately reducing the overall burden of the virus in the communi-

Doctors said that talking openly about HIV will help in addressing misconceptions and can help in dispelling myths, reduce fear and foster empathy.

They said by engaging communities in discussion, awareness and support networks, an environment can be created that can encourage empathy, understanding and solidarity and that will in turn contribute to a more effective HIV prevention.

They said there is complete treatment available for HIV and it can be cured fully, however, preventions are better so as to avoid contraction of this virus.

They said that people can get or transmit HIV only through specific activities, such as sex or injection drug use. HIV can be transmitted only in certain body fluids from a person who has HIV. These fluids are blood, semen, pre-seminal fluids, rectal fluids, vaginal fluids, and breast milk.

"To reduce your risk of HIV, use condoms properly. Do not inject drugs. If you do, use only sterile injection equipment and water, and never share your equipment with others," they added.

In Kashmir.....

half of the electricity consumers are without meters—giving a space to push up the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses further.

Principal Secretary, Power Development Department H Rajesh Prasad told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that it has already invested over Rs 5,000 Crores to overcome the losses.

"I think there is a need to invest more in the Power Development Sector because there are outdated cables, poles and transformers. It will take a lot of time and more investment is required. By that way we can reduce one of the components for AT&C losses," he said.

Prasad further said, "The main reasons for the AT&C losses are non-metered consumers. Under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), the focus is on consumer smart metering. We already have less traditional metered consumers and ironically 50 percent of the consumers do not have the meters at all.'

He further said that there was a dire need to make every consumer metered. "Besides, we have to make sure that every unit of energy is accounted for, and then only the count of losses will be reduced. People will have to stop power theft and hooking on power lines."

The Principal Secretary said there were more possible reforms and investments required to replace the entire outdated and obsolete infrastructure in PDD.

"Whooping amounts of electricity bill of hundreds of Crores are lying pending with the domestic consumers. However, the government has almost cleared all the pending dues," Prasad said.

He said that in the past 'billing was not happening'. "Last year only we collected more than Rs 135 Crores from the domestic consumers and I think that as of now it will be still hundreds of Crores of Rupees that are

lying pending with them." On asking about the lack of skilled manpower in the department, the Principal Secretary said, "In order to manage the efficient sector, we of course need skilled manpower. We are already recruiting more technical staff to stop being dependent on non-technical staff."

Pertinently, KNO in previous week reported that the Power Development Department (PDD) was continuing its 'old and obsolete infrastructure' that is posing a major hindrance in providing uninterrupted power supply to the citizens.

"The power demand in J&K is primarily met through hydel power, which, however, varies with seasonal variations, thereby causing power deficit mainly during winters when power demand surges high," reads the

official documents. About the continuance of old and obsolete infrastructure, the document reveals, "The replacement of existing old and out-dated elements of distribution network has never been given due consideration and many of which are therefore continuing in the system from more than 40 years after repeated repairs."

"It was posing a major hindrance in provid-

ing uninterrupted power supply mainly due to frequent snapping of conductors and damage to the transformers," it reads.

In another event of stories, KNO further reported that in Jammu and Kashmir, the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss of Power Development Department is one of the highest in India—causing a gap between power purchase cost.

Currently, the AT&C losses are of the order of 50 percent against the national average of 19.73 percent.

On the basis of official documents available, it reads, "The AT&C losses of the J & K Power Development Department are one of the highest in the country."

"The present AT&C losses are of the order of 50 percent against the national average of 19.73 percent. Due to these losses, the gap between power purchase cost and revenue realisation is huge," it reads.

Woman among.....

Ahmad Ganie and Shokeen Ahmad Ganie - both residents of Batangi Boniyar - and Saleema Begum, who resides at Mother Sheeri. They have been arrested and shifted to Police Station Sheeri where they remain in custody.

A case under relevant sections of the law has been registered. Investigation was on, police added.

The lawkeepers have also urged people to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112 if they witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere. "People are requested to cooperate with the police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law", an officer said. UNI

Father of 4.....

following which his body was found under mysterious circumstances near his house, the official said, adding that the body was taken to the Sub District Hospital Sopore for the necessary medical procedures. Later, it was handed over to the family for conducting last rites, officials said.

Reyaz's dead body was recovered from a small water-filled trench, they said.

However, relatives of Mir said Riyaz went out of his house at around 12 O'clock, while they tried hard to search for him but he couldn't be traced.

The relatives as well as the locals at his residence claimed that Reyaz, a father of four children- three daughters and a son was so humble, pious and religious.

"Riyaz would have never taken the extreme step (Suicide). It seems like a case of murder, which needs to be investigated thoroughly,"

"Despite his family tensions (Altercations with her wife), Reyaz was very much concerned about his daughters, a son and would go to any extent for their safety and concerns. He was a pious, religious man, whenever he used to give Adhan (call for a prayer) the neighbours used to cry," the wailing neigh-

The locals, however, stated that Riyaz was attacked by his in-laws a few days ago. They

were having family issues, they said. The matter should be investigated and involved must be taken to task, they added. "There were visible marks on his neck as

well," they alleged. The wailing relatives as well as neighbours of Reyaz urged the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and SSP Sopore to personally intervene into the matter and take strict

Meanwhile, an official from the Police department told KNO that a case in this regard has been registered and investigations have been taken up.

action against the involved persons.

Officials said that they are close to cracking the case. The details will be shared later, he added.

Mughal-era.....

significant mosque.

Locals said the centuries-old mosque can be transformed into a potential tourist destination.

During the Mughal era, the place served

as a pivotal site for prayers and congregational gatherings. Locals said the revenue extracted from the orchards go into the kitty of Waqf but the

governments have done little for its preser-Furthermore, it's been disclosed that various international organizations had expressed interest in restoring the mosque

to its former glory in the past, demonstrating

a willingness to oversee its maintenance and preservation. A concerned officer from Waqf Board told Kashmir News Observer-KNO he inspected the site with the Archaeological department and they can handover the NOC to the department so they can go ahead

with the project. An official from the Archaeological Department told Kashmir News Observer-KNO that the authorities are not providing them NOC and it is the reason the work is on hold.

"Once we receive the NOC, we will start the work," he said.

He added that the DPR with a budget of Rs 3 crore and project assignment is ready.





World AIDS Day a global platform to unite in solidarity and reflect on the progress made in combating the **HIV/AIDS** epidemic: Advisor Bhatnagar

Addresses World AIDS Day celebrations of JKACS at Jammu

JAMMU, DEC 01: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today remarked that World AIDS Day is a global platform to unite in solidarity and reflect on the progress made in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The Advisor made these remarks while addressing the remarkable event organised by Jammu and Kashmir AIDS control society (JKACS) in the backdrop of World AIDS Day celebrations at Convention Centre here.

Principal GMC Jammu, MD NHM, Director Health Services Jammu/ Kashmir, Director AYUSH, Additional Director, JKACS, Director Family Welfare and Immunisation J&K, Principals of different colleges, officers of health department, Red Ribbon Club members of Jammu University and medical colleges, paramedical institutes, huge gathering of school and college students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Advisor Bhatnagar commended the collective efforts that have contributed to advancements in treatment and prevention. He also stressed on the

 $importance \, of \, collaborative \, initiatives \,$ between government bodies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector to ensure a comprehensive and sustained approach to combatting HIV/AIDS.

The Advisor highlighted that we as a society need to take ownership of those affected by AIDS or other problems like drug addiction and take proper measures for their well being and take lead in addressing their problems, taking it as our prime responsibility. He added that the theme of this years World AIDS Day 'Let Communities Lead' also reflects on the responsibilities we as a society have to address the issues related to AIDS or any issue in the society. He underscored the need for continued efforts to eliminate stigma, enhance education and provide accessible healthcare for those affected.

The Advisor further said that present LG led Administration is committed to establish state of art medical ecosystem in the UT so that no person of J&K need to go outside for any kind of medical care.

Advisor Bhatnagar on the occasion



also lauded various initiatives of JKACS and their dedication and commitment towards creating a society free from the stigma of HIV/AIDS as well as giving proper facilities to the affected persons.

In his address, the Advisor also praised the affected persons for coming out in the open to speak and share achievements and initiatives of JKACS their experiences. He remarked that sharing their struggle and experiences on this platform will give a positive message to the society.

While speaking on the occasion, Additional Director, JKACS, Dr. Manu Bhatnagar reflected on the various

to control the spread of AIDS as well as create awareness among the society about this virus. She highlighted that this years theme 'Let Communities Lead' is a testament towards role

of communities in AIDS control. The Additional Director further $said\,that\,the\,JKACS\,has\,amplified\,the$ facilities for the affected persons and recently MoU was signed with GMC Jammu and SKIMS Soura for testing, faster reporting and better treatment of the affected persons.

During the event, Deputy Director, JKACS Dr. Tabassum Ganai presented welcome address highlighting the main motive of organising this programme while as Dr. Monica Dulloo rendered vote of thanks

 $On the \, occasion, Advisor \, Bhatnagar \,$ also felicitated winners of different competitions associated with celebrations of World AIDS day.

Earlier, Advisor Bhatnagar flagged of E-autorally for creating awareness about AIDS and also released balloons in air to mark the occasion. He also visited various awareness booths installed by different wings of Health Department on creating awareness regarding HIV/AIDS, Free HIV Testing, TB Awareness, Ayush Medicines, among others.

During the programme, students of different institutions as well as members of Red Ribbon Clubs presented colourful cultural performances.

Winged Wonders: Kashmir's Youth Embrace Birdwatching, Scores Join Clubs

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: Since his childhood, 20-yearold Farhan Ahmad Lone would take interest in learning about various bird species of Kashmir.

Apart from his regular academic studies, he would often visit various wetlands and forests to explore

region's diverse avian population. A resident of Babagail Boniyar area of Baramulla district, Lone formed a group-Kaziranga Wildlife defenders, which works to explore and document different bird species of Kashmir.



"Since my childhood, I would spend time watching birds in Limber wildlife sanctuary and Dachipora wildlife sanctuary. After my class 10th, my interest in wild life grew more and we went to different wetlands including Hygam to witness and document various bird species," he told news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Like Lone, scores of the youth have joined bird watching clubs which work to document the avian population of Kashmir.

Over the past few years, the popularity of birdwatching has soared in Kashmir, giving rise to the establishment of several new clubs dedicated to the art of observing and appreciating the feathered wonders of the valley.

From the iconic Himalayan monal to the elusive bar-headed goose, the region boasts an impressive variety of birdlife, making it a paradise for those eager to explore the world of ornithology.

As per Parvaiz Yousuf, Director Wetland Research Centre, Wildlife Conservation Fund, who is also a member of Salim Ali Bird Watchers Network, Kashmir is a heaven for bird watchers especially during winters when scores of bird species migrate to various wetland of the valley.

"Kashmir has 555 bird species. During winters scores of the bird species throng Kashmir from various parts of the world, so it proves to be a heaven for bird watchers. Bird watchers from the rest of India and abroad visit Kashmir to watch them," he said.

Parvaiz, who is a part of a 90-member bird watching group said while few take bird watching as a hobby, some work extensively to document bird species. "Most of the people join bird watching clubs since it is their hobby to watch birds. Few are photographers who click pictures of beautiful birds visiting Kashmir wetlands. Bird watchers have played an important role in documenting some species which visited Kashmir wetland either for the first time or after a long time," he said.

Jammu University led 'College on Wheels' academic odyssey comes to end

JAMMU, NOV 30: Amid a profound visit to Sewagram at Paunar in Wardha—the final destination of the transformative journey of the Jammu and Kashmir College on Wheels—with female students from various universities and affiliated colleges of the Union Territory taking part in it on Thursday—it came to an end.

The College on Wheels was an initiative of Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor J&KUT and Chancellor University of Jammu.

Under the visionary guidance of Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, Higher Education Council, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the idea behind this visit was to acquaint students with the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. As per an official communiqué

Ashram provided the students with an insight into its history, enhancing their understanding of this significant institution.

issued here, officials at Sewagram

"The contingent delved into Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence, simplicity, and communal harmony during their visit to Sewagram. Exploring the historical significance of Sewagram, a pivotal site in India's freedom struggle, provided the students with a deeper understanding of the Father of the Nation's vision, ideals, and principles," it read.

The handout further read that a key highlight of the educational sojourn was the continent's visit to the workshop at Sewagram, witnessing the meticulous process of crafting Khadi clothes. Vice Chancellor, University of

The College on Wheels initiative aims to broaden students' horizons through immersive experiences beyond the classroom. The Sewagram visit emphasized the program's commitment to fostering cultural understanding, social responsibility, and a holistic

approach to education. "As the contingent returns to Jammu and Kashmir, they carry not only memories of a meaningful journey but also a profound understanding of the principles espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. The College on Wheels initiative remains dedicated to shaping future leaders embodying values of inclusivity, peace, and sustain-

able progress," it read. In his message, Prof Umesh Rai, Jammu, the nodal varsity of the journey, expressed hope that the students had an enriching experience during their journey, which will go a long way in enriching their knowledge and wisdom. He hoped the students would go back home with cherished memories of their two-long journey that enabled them to visit various reputed institutions of the country, in addition to historic and iconic places.

"Such visits play a pivotal role in strengthening the bonds of unity and a sense of camaraderie among the students," Prof Rai said, and he wished the participating students all the best in all their endeavors in pursuit of aca-

Later in the day, the students

participated in the second phase of the preliminary Charkha competition. The final competition among the two best students of all institutions shall be held on December 1.

Envisioned by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the College on Wheels, a special train exclusively earmarked for the two-week trip of girl students from Jammu and Kashmir to premiere institutions and places in the country, was flagged offfrom Mata Vaishno Devi University Railway Station Katra on November 19.

The contingent, which comprises 780 students along with their mentors and administrative staff from various universities, participated in the first-of-its kind initiative. (UNI)

From tragedy to triumph: Armless cricketer from Anantnag inspires nation on 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' stage

Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal aspires to portray Aamir's life in a movie

ANANTNAG, DEC 01: Aamir Hussain Lone, a resilient armless cricketer from Waghama village of Bijbehara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, graced the stage of the popular singing reality show "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa" in Mumbai, leaving a lasting impression on the audience and judges alike, with his remarkable journey as a cricketer.

He received a special invitation from Anu Malik to attend a "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa" episode. Accompanied by his father, Aamir expressed immense happiness at sharing the stage with renowned Indian stars such as Anu Malik, Vicky Kaushal, Himesh Reshammiya and others.

While sharing his tragic story on the show, Lone recalled that when he was eight years old, his mother asked him to deliver meals to his brother at their family-owned sawmill. "The sawmill was left operational as my family and other workers had lunch. My jacket got caught in the machinery, which resulted in me being armless," he told the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

After the tragic incident, Lone's father, Bashir Ahmad Lone, disposed of the sawmill. Despite his personal tragedy, Lone harboured a deep love for cricket. After completing his first year at Government Degree College Bijbehara, Anantnag, a teacher recognised his cricketing talent and guided him towards para cricket.



"During my childhood, I aspired to be a cricketer like Sachin Tendulkar, with dreams of representing my country. However, the tragic incident shattered my dreams. Yet, my grandmother urged me not to lose hope," Aamir said, adding that one day, he asked his grandmother to roll a ball towards him, and a smile lit up her face. "Wherever she dropped the ball, I moved to hit it. With time, I learned and perfected the techniques of cricket."

Once he joined college, a para cricketer's camp was underway, providing him with an opportunity to play for the para cricket team. "During my turn to bat, I scored 30 runs. This accomplishment led to my selection as the captain of the Jammu and Kashmir para cricket team," Lone said. "In 2015, I played at Wankhede Stadium for my second national appearance, and by 2017, I had the honour of representing my country in Para International Cricket in Bangladesh."

After hearing Lone's story on the "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa" show, Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal expressed that he had resolved the biggest problem for him. The actor said he would feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to portray Aamir's life in a movie.

"I am glad I met Aamir Bhai today. The term 'Bahadur' isn't thrown around casually, but it truly fits him. He's a true hero, and I salute his brav-

ery," Vicky shared. Lone attributed his success to his grandmother, who "played an important role in my achievements". "Until my Grandmother's demise, she dedicated her whole life to me. After that, I had to adapt, managing tasks independently with my feet and chin,"

Fraudulent sanctioning of Rs 250 cr: ED arrests 2 persons in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said to have arrested two persons including former Chairman of JKSTCB and Chairman of River Jhelum Co-operative House Building Society, besides conducted searches at eight locations in a case related to the fraudulent sanctioning of loan to the tune of Rs 250 crores in 2019.

As per a statement issued to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the spokesman said that the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has conducted search/survey operations at 8 locations in Srinagar, J&K and has arrested two persons namely Mohammad Shafi Dar (the then Chairman of JKSTCB) and Hilal Ahmad Mir (Chairman of River Jehlum Co-operative House Building Society), under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in a case related to the fraudulent sanctioning of loan by J&K State Co-operative Bank (JKSTCB) to the tune of Rs 250 Crores in 2019 to a fake cooperative society named River Jehlum Co-operative House Building Society, Shivpora, Srinagar.

"ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR and consequent chargesheets filed by LEA, Srinagar invoking various sections of Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) & Jammu & Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act (JK PC Act) Samvat 2006 (Corresponding to IPC and PCA) against 05 accused persons viz. Hilal Ahmad Mir (Chairman of River Jehlum Co-operative House Building Society), Abdul Hamid Hajam (Secretary of River Jehlum Co-operative House Building Society), Mohammad Mujeeb Ur Rehman Ghassi (the then Registrar of Cooperative Societies, J&K), Syed Ashiq Hussain (the then Dy. Registrar of Co-operative Societies, J&K) and Mohammad Shafi Dar (the then Chairman of JKSTCB)," the statement said.

02-December-2023

@headlinestodaynews

DC Baramulla finalises arrangements for **JKSSB Panchayat Secretary Examinations**

HT News Network

BARAMULLA. DECEMBER 01: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today convened a meeting of concerned officers to finalise arrangements for the Panchayat Secretary Examination scheduled to be held on 10th of December in the district.

During the meeting, it was informed that 16144 candidates are expected to appear in the Panchayat Secretary examination at 44 centers across the District. For the smooth, free and fair conduct of the examination.

46 Magistrates, 44 Superintendents, 44 Observers and 620 invigilators are being deployed across the district.

Dr. Sehrish, during the meeting, directed concerned officers to meticulously inspect all examination centers and ensure essential facilities such as heating, drinking water, sanitation, proper lighting, and other amenities are in place for the seamless conduct of the Panchayat Secretary Examination.

The DC further issued directives to the concerned departments during the meeting to work in a coordinated and cohesive manner. The Assistant



Regional Transport Officer mulate a comprehensive route dination. Additionally, the Dis-(ARTO) has been directed to for-

plan, enhancing logistical coor-

trict Treasury Officer (DTO) has

been instructed to install CCTV cameras at the Strong Room.

Moreover, the DC emphasized the importance of videography of examination material during the opening and closing procedures, reinforcing transparency and security measures for the Panchayat Secretary Examination. She also said that CrPC 144 will be imposed around the 200 Meters radius of every examination center on Exam day.

Meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina; Additional SP Baramulla, Divya Dev; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; Sub Divisional Magistrate Pattan, Syed Faheem; Sub Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg, Syed Altaf; Chief Education officer, Balbir Singh Raina; Assistant Regional Transport Officer Baramulla, Muzzam Ali; District Treasury officer Baramulla. Shaziya Rasool and DSP HQ Sopore. Moreover, the DC emphasized the importance of videography of examination material during the opening and closing procedures, reinforcing transparency and security measures for the Panchayat Secretary Examination. She also said that CrPC 144 will be imposed around the 200 Meters radius.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra organised in Ramnagri Block of Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 01: As part of ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) and Prime Ministers scheduled interaction with beneficiaries of VBSY, a programme was organised today at Block Ramnagri of district Shopian.

The ongoing VBSY has marked its vibrant presence in Block Ramnagri and embarked on an impactful journey through various panchayats of Ramnagri including Ramnagri- B, schemes. Saidapora-A, Saidapora-B, Sedow-A and Sedow-B.

The programme was attended by BDO concerned officers of all line departments besides PRIs and local populations.

On the occasion, after interaction, the officers reached out to the citizens eligible under various welfare schemes, disseminating information and fostering awareness about the Government sponsored public centric ment.

Meanwhile, people are being given awareness regarding welfare scheme benefits under Ayushman Bharat-PMIAY, PM Garib Kalyan, PM Awas Yojna, PM Ujjwala Yojna, PM Kisan Samman Jan Dhan Yojna etc. to reach to the vulnerable population with the aim to generate awareness regarding the Central Government's welfare schemes and achieve 100% saturation of flagship schemes of the Govern-

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION URI

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER FOR NABARD WORKS

eNITNo:-94/5621-27/2023-24/RnB/UriDated01.12.2023

Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Uri on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, invites e-tender (In Single cover System) on percentage rate oidsin electronic tendering system for the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approve contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of schedule of dates given below:-

S. No	Name of Work	Tendered Cost (Rs in lacs.)			ı Lacs)	Security)	For k		ening of tenders		
		Construction Part	Maintenance Part	Total cost of work	Cost of document (Rs in	Earnest Money (Bid Sec (Rs in lacs.)	Time of completion For Construction work	Tender Cal	Time and Date of opening of tenders	Class of contractor	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1	Construction of Mughal Road to Wapalhaqmarg to Azadpora by way of Providing & laying of GSB, providing & Laying of WBM Grade-II, 75mm Thick Wet Mix, 50mm Thick Macadam, 25mm Thick Semidence, Construction of R-E/B-Wall, Nallah Muck, khakBajree, Construction of Pipe Culvert and Laying of RCC Pipes at Required spots.(NABARD RIDF XXIX)	215.75Lac s	21.57 Lacs	237.32 Lacs	0.055	4.75	02 Years	1st	23.12. 2023	AAY Class Only	

M H Account = NABARD RIDE-XXIX

Position of AAA = Accorded Vide Govt Order No. CE(R&B)K/AA/52 of 2023-24, Dated 06/10/2023. Position of TS = Accorded Vide Govt Order No. CE(R&B)North/K/TS 35 of 2023, Dated 22/11/2023,

Project Authority: Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department North Kashmir

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01/12/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02/12/2023 from 11.00 AM.
3	Date, Time and Place of Pre Bid meeting	NA
4	Bid submission Start Date	02/12/2023 from 11.00 AM.
5	Bid Submission End Date	22/12/2023 upto 4.00 PM.
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23/12/2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Baramulla

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan only (Under MH-0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri(tender inviting authority) (NIT No, Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid $Submission\ End\ Date)\ and\ EMD\ (2\%\ of\ advertised\ Cost)\ in\ the\ shape\ of\ CDR/FDR/BG\ pledged\ to\ Superintending\ Engineer(R\&B)\ Circle$ Baramulla (Tender receiving Authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission

of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
4. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Superintending Engineer(R&B) Circle Baramulla (Tender Receiving Authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher

5. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.

6. 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 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 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 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 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 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 the date and the date anan e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Superin-

tending Engineer (R&B) Circle Baramulla (tender receiving authority). 7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids8. The earnest money/Performance security shall be forfeited, If:

 $a. Any \ biddet/\ tenderer \ withdraws \ his \ bid/\ tender \ during \ the \ period \ of \ bid\ validity \ or \ makes \ any \ modifications \ in \ the \ terms \ and \ conditions \ or \ during \ the \ period \ of \ bid\ validity \ or \ makes \ any \ modifications \ in \ the \ terms \ and \ conditions \ or \ during \ the \ period \ of \ bid\ validity \ or \ makes \ any \ modifications \ in \ the \ terms \ and \ conditions \ or \ during \ the \ period \ of \ bid\ validity \ or \ makes \ any \ modifications \ in \ the \ terms \ and \ conditions \ or \ during \ the \ period \ of \ bid\ validity \ or \ makes \ any \ modifications \ in \ the \ terms \ and \ conditions \ or \ during \ the \ period \ or \ during \ the \ period \ of \ bid\ validity \ or \ period \ or \ during \ the \ period \ or \ period \ or \ during \ the \ period \ or \ pe$

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit. c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract. d. If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security as well as work done claim will be forfeited 9. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

9.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.into acquaint bid submission process.
9.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000.

Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

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

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

 $9.5.\,Bidders\,must\,ensure\,to\,upload\,scanned\,copy\,of\,all\,necessary\,documents\,with\,the\,bid.$ 9.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid. Note:

DIPK-13119/23 Date: Dec 1 2023

Sd/ **Executive Engineer** PWD(R&B) Division Uri

Arrangements for ensuing JKSSB Examinations finalized at Budgam

HT News Network

DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo today convened a meeting to finalize arrangements for the ensuing JKSSB OMR based examination of Panchayat Secretaries.

The meeting held at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, Budgam was also attended by SSP Budgam, Al-Tahir Gillani, Member/ Observer JKSSB, Yar Ali Khan and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah.

Stressing on making adequate arrangements for free, fair and transparent conduct of examination at all examination centres, the DC sensitized all the officers about their roles and responsibilities to ensure smooth conduct of the examination. At the outset, ADC Budgam was designated as Chief Inspector for



sub-division areas. Exhorting officers to work in close coordination, the DC emphasized on making foolproof arrangements at all centres and instructed concerned to ensure there

is no lacunae at any centre. CEO Budgam was instructed that training of all concerned including superintendents, deputy

superintendents and invig-

ilators is conducted well in

The arrangements for drinking water, heating, electricity, transport; manpower, videography, CCTV officers and o

etc at all centres of the district were also discussed in the meeting.

The District Treasury Officer was directed to ensure safe custody of examination material at a strong room facility, besides proper scrutiny and timely receipt and dispatch of examination material.

ARTO and DYSP Traffic Rural were instructed to ensure required transport arrangements besides smooth traffic movement particularly on the examination day.

During the meeting, SSP Budgam said that adequate security arrangements shall be made at all examination centres in the District.

Among others, the meeting was also attended by SDMs, CEO, CMO, ARTO, DTO, Tehsildars, DYSP Traffic and other concerned

Gandhi Memorial College, J&K Aids Control Society observe 'World AIDS Day'

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: The Red Ribbon club of Gandhi Memorial College in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society marked World Aids Day.

The event was inaugurated by the Principal, Prof (Dr) G M Lone.

In his introductory remarks, Prof (Dr) G M Lone underscored the importance of observing World Aids Day by laying stress on dispelling myths surrounding Aids.

Prof Syed Ghulam Jeelani, Convener College Red Ribbon Club, delved on the theme -Let Communities Lead, chosen for 2023. He further shed light on various facets of AIDS.

On this occasion different competitions- Face Painting, Painting and Rangoli, were held as proposed by J&K Aids Control Society. The best three students in each category were presented certificates and trophies.

JK Munificent Angel, SKIMS Soura unite to combat HIV Stigma on World AIDS Day

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: In a powerful collaboration, JK Munificent Angels, alongside SKIMS Soura's ART Centre, orchestrated a significant event on World AIDS Day to impact the lives of people living with HIV (PLHIV).

Sponsored by the J&K AIDS Control Society, this initiative not only heightened awareness about HIV but also provided crucial support to PLHIV.

The event fostered a safe and inclusive space for PLHIV, implementing targeted interventions for high-risk groups. The dedicated efforts of the TI staff played a crucial role in its success, showcasing the community's collective commitment to making a positive impact.

Such events go beyond awareness, offering vital support and resources to those affected by HIV. They underscore the importance of compassion, understanding, and unity in the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS.

By actively supporting those living with HIV, the community works towards freeing them from the associated stigma and discrimination. This collaborative effort signifies a remarkable step forward in the battle against HIV/ AIDS, emphasizing the transformative power of community-driven initiatives. Such events go beyond awareness, offering vital support and resources to those affected by HIV. They underscore the importance of compassion, understanding, and unity in the ongoing fight against HIV/ AIDS.By actively supporting those living with HIV, the community works towards freeing them from the associated stigma and discrimination.

Director Agriculture visits SMF Sumbal, Bandipora

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited Seed Multiplication Farm (SMF) Sumbal Bandipora and took stock of the different agriculture activities there.

He also inspected different blocks of the farm where he was briefed by the concerned technical experts.

Speaking on the occasion. Director Agriculture reiterated the department's commitment to the complete transformation of departmental farms. He said that the department is working on a long term plan to make departmental farms the centers of excellence with respect to different crops and agriculture activities.

He impressed upon the concerned officers to add more and more crops/varieties to the cultivation, production menu of concerned farms. The main objective is to ensure the availability of quality and sufficient quantity of seeds of different agricultural crops to the farming community of the region, he added.

Igbal exhorted upon the concerned officers and farm managers to invite farmers and agri-preneurs to the concerned farms and hold demonstration sessions with them so that the modern scientific technologies could be transmitted to the grassroots level in a comprehensive manner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that my $\,$ Date of birth (DOB) is 03/05/1983. I was born at Waripora Bala. Now I am applying for my date of birth Certificate (DOB). If anybody have any objection in this regard, He/She nay 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:- RAZIA MAJEED D/O:-ABDUL MAJEED SHEIKH R/O:-WARIPORA BALA



Kathua: VBSY reaches remote blocks of Dhar-Mahanpur & Baggan, panchayats of Kandi block Dinga-Amb

Vice chairperson DDC urges people to take maximum benefit of welfare programmes and schemes of govt

HT News Network

HEADLINES

ΓODAY

KATHUA, DECEMBER 01: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra kicked off in the seven Panchayats of Block Dhar-Mahanpur, Baggan and Dinga-Amb of district Kathua, today.

The event witnessed enthusiastic response from PRI members and locals who gathered around the Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

At Panchayat Chilakh-West, Vice-Chairperson District Development Council, Kathua Raghunandan Singh, ACD Kathua Kishore Singh Katoch, PRIs and numerous other prominent people attended the campaign. The programme started with the National Anthem followed Viksit Bharat Sankalp

(pledge) to participants. The Vice Chairperson, ACD along with other participants took part in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp camp to sensitize the people about the benefits of welfare and developmental schemes launched for their wel-

The Vice Chairman DDC, in his address, appealed to people to take maximum benefit of the opportunity and enroll for the welfare programmes and schemes of the government targeting last mile potential beneficiaries as envisaged by Prime



Minister Narendra Modi.

People listened keenly to the recorded message from the Prime Minister of India, emphasizing the campaign's significance. Simultaneously, the festivities featured a vibrant display of cultural events presented by local artists.

The yatra showcased different flagship schemes, including the Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Awas Yojana and PM PRANAM Yojana.

It was informed that the IEC Van will traverse through the district according to a predefined schedule. A combo of

Information, Education, and Communication(IEC) materials, the van aims to create public awareness about a myriad of Central Government schemes. The initiative aims to bring these transformative schemes closer to the people and foster a spirit of development and progress. The yatra showcased different flagship schemes, including the Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Awas Yojana and PM PRANAM Yojana.

It was informed that the IEC Van will traverse through the district according to a predefined schedule.

Dir Agri launches awareness campaign to mark celebration of 6th Crop **Insurance Week**

Publicity Van flagged off for spreading mass awareness

HT News Network



JAMMU, DECEMBER 01: To mark the celebration of 6th Crop Insurance / PMFBY Week, a function was held at Krishi Bhawan, Jammu, where Fasal Bima Yojna Awareness Van was flagged off by Director Agriculture Production Department, Ram Savak.

Joint Director of Extension, Input and SLUB, representatives from Reliance General Insurance and Iffco Tokio General Insurance Companies, as well as officers and staff of Agriculture department were present on the

The initiative aims to raise awareness among farmers in the Jammu division through workshops, bank visits, and CSC centers. Throughout the campaign, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials will be distributed to maximize coverage during the Rabi season 2023-24.

The van campaign is being organized by IFFCO TOKIO Insurance Company in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Jammu under Pardhan Mantri Fasal BhimaYojna (PMFBY).

Speaking on the occasion, the Director Agriculture said that the purpose of celebrating Crop Insurance Week is to conduct a massive awareness campaign and ensure maximum enrolment of the farmers under the Crop Insurance scheme during Rabi 2023-24. He emphasized that the Fasal Bima Yojna will go a long way in mitigating the financial risk of the farmer suffering from the crop losses and aid in stabilizing the farmer's income. This will also ensure flow of credit in the Agriculture

Director Agriculture informed that this Van will cover all the panchayats of Jammu District to promote Pardhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) and its coverage among the farming community.

He urged farmers to enrol under the scheme to avail the benefits against weather-vagaries for the notified crops, including Paddy and Maize in the Kharif season and Wheat in the Rabi season with a minimal premium of 2%(Kh)/ 1.5%(Rabi season) as per the Scale of Finance.

YUVA VANI -One Day orientation program held for unemployed youth of Kishtwar District

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 01: The Career counselling and Guidance Cell (CCGC) of Government Degree College Kishtwar, in collaboration with Agriculture Production & Farmers welfare Department, organised a one day Orientation Programme -YUVA VANI to encourage the unemployed youth of the District to avail benefits of Agriculture and allied sectors schemes being provided under Holistic Agriculture Development Plan(today under HADP) . The programme was organised under the patronage of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Jyoti Parihar in conve-

norship of Prof. Asma Javaid. Amjad Hussain Malik, Chief Agriculture Officer

Kishtwar & District Nodal Officer HADP was the Chief guest of the event, while Sahil Gandotra, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Padder was the guest speaker.Earlier, the coordinator of event and convenor CCGC GDC Kishtwar, Prof. Asma Javaid welcomed the Chief Guest, Guest Speaker, officers from Animal Husbandry and Agriculture Department and other participants.

Speaking at the event, Sahil Gandotra highlighted a range of entrepreneurship opportunities for youth under HADP in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Fisheries, Sericulture, Apiculture, Extension Marketing and Floriculture.

In his address, Chief Guest Amjad Hussain Malik encouraged the students to

JKSSB exam: Training program for supervisory staff held in Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 01: To facilitate smooth conduct of the upcoming JKSSB exam for Panchayat Secretary Recruitment, the District Administration Udhampur today organized a training program for supervisory staff under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex. Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia, JKSSB Member Dr Pritam Lal Thapa, District Coordinator JKSSB and Deputy Director Estates, Ajay Bharti and other JKSSB members alongside supervisory staff attended the meeting. At the outset, Dr Pritam Lal Thapa. Member JKSSB, delivered an informative PowerPoint presentation, enlightening the staff about their roles and responsibilities in ensuring a smooth and transparent examination process scheduled for December 10,



2023, at various identified centers across the district.

While addressing the participants, the ADC highlighted the substantial deployment of Center Observer Magistrates, Center Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, and Invigilation Staff, emphasizing that all necessary arrangements have been meticulously put in place for the examination's seamless conduct. ADC urged the trainees to strictly adhere

to procedures for a transparent examination in their respective centers.

ADC revealed that the District Administration has established 23 examination centers across the district, emphasizing the active cooperation and support from Police, Education, and other related departments for the OMR examination test. The examination is slated for December 10, 2023, from 12 noon to 2 pm at designated examination centers.

DDC Chairperson Ramban kick starts work on Tractor Link road in Sub-Division Gool

HT News Network

RAMBAN, DECEMBER 01: Chairperson, District Development Council, Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan today kick started construction work on tractor link road here in the Sub-Division Gool.

The Chairperson kick started construction work on 0.4 km Gagersullah to Peer Nalla tractor link road being constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.45 lakh under Area Development Fund of DDC. Addressing the gathering, the Chairperson said that with the completion of the project, a long pending demand of the area will be fulfilled which will go a long way in easing the life of



The Chairperson directed the Engineers of the Rural **Development Department** (RDD) to ensure quality and timely completion of construction work which will benefit thousands of souls of the area.

The Chairperson also asked the PRIs to personally monitor the execution of work to ensure quality and timely completion of

developmental works and implementation of all youth and beneficiary oriented schemes in their respective areas. The Chairperson also interacted with the people and listened to their issues of developmental needs.

Among others, PRIs, JE Ravi Kumar from RDD and a large number of the general public present on the

Chairperson DDC Udhampur inaugurates work on 2 vital Road Projects

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR. DECEMBER 01: District Development Council Chairperson, Udhampur Lal Chand today inaugurated two projects viz Upgradation of road from T16-Choprashop to Sunari, Kambal Danga via Chak and construction work of 9.50 KM road from Tikri to Chirayi via Sukka Talab.

Former MoS, Pawan Kumar Gupta; BDC Chairperson of Block Udhampur, Balwan Singh and District Development Councillor Udhampur-I, Puran Chand were also present.

Sarpanch, Panchayat Chopra Shop, Sarpanch Panchayat Halqa Sunari, Hartaryan, and officials of PMGSY, including the superintending engineer, executive engineer, and junior engineer concerned were also present. The road from Tikri to Chirayi via Sukka Talab is being constructed at a cost of Rs 9 crore. BDC Chairperson Block Tikri, Nisha Sharma and District Development Councillor Tikri Ashu and other PRI members of the

The total length of the



road from T16-Choprashop to Sunari, Kambal Danga via Chak is 12.925 KM. The road will be upgraded at an allotted cost of Rs. 1243.83 lakh for the construction part and Rs. 209.90 Lakh for the maintenance part, totaling Rs. 1453.73 lakh. The department has to complete the up-gradation work within the stipulated period of 18 months.

After the inauguration of the work, the chairperson congratulated the public of the area and informed them that road connectivity is a prerequisite for overall development and is the first priority of the government. He added that the road will provide better commutation facilities to the surrounding 15-20 panchayats. After the completion of the project, the logistics facilities and economic development in the area will be enhanced. The chairperson specially thanked MoS PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh for sanctioning important projects which are the long pending demands of public of the area.

Ex-MoS, Pawan Kumar Gupta, BDC Chairperson, Balwan Singh and DDC Councillors Udhampur-I, Suran Chand also congratulated the public of the area for the development and urged the officials of the department to work with full zeal and honesty in order to maintain the quality of the work. The people of the area thanked the DDC Chairperson and other prominent people present there for their continuous efforts for the development of the area.

Shrine Board's Gurukul excels at North Zone Youth Festival held at Himachal Pradesh

HT News Network

Katra, December 1: Students of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul have brought laurels to the Shrine Board by winning haul of 11 medals in 08 events during 3-day North Zone Youth Festival held from 28 – 30 November, 2023 at premises of Ved Vyas Campus of Central Sanskrit University Balahar, Himachal Pradesh under the aegis of Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi.

In the mega event around 300 students from Central Sanskrit University and Adarsh Maha Vidyalaya of Sanskrit, along with its various campuses situated in J-K, Him-



achal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand including Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Katra participated in various com-

The events organised during the festival included Rangoli, translation competition, Sanskrit News writing, Computerized Sanskrit, Educational Short Film, Solo San-

skrit Song, Group Song & Dance Competition and various sports events like High Jump, 100 / 400 Meter Sprint, Badminton, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Chess and Wrestling.

As many as 40 students of SMVD Gurukul participated in the event and won 02 Gold medals in Group Song and Rangoli; 03 silver medals in Sanskrit News writing, Yogasana and Wrestling; besides secured 06 bronze medals in the categories of Educational Short Film making, Solo Sanskrit Song, Wrestling and High Jump events. The winning students were congratulated by CEO, SMVDSB for this spectacular performance.

World AIDS Day celebrated in GMC, other health institutions in Doda

DODA, DECEMBER 01: A series of events spreading awareness on prevention and control of AIDS were held today in Government Medical College Doda and other health institutions across the district.At Government Medical College, the programme was organised by the Department of Community Medicine under the guidance of the GMC Principal, Dr. Puja Vimesh. The event started with a pledge taking ceremony on World AIDS day. After that, HOD community medicine Dr Suresh K Kotwal initiated the event with warm words and summarized the importance of celebrating World Aids Day. Other faculty members like HOD Microbiology, HOD Forensic medicine HOD Dermatology and faculty from other Departments like Dr. Younis Saleem (Pro-





EDITORIAL

Journalism has **Become Casuality Amid inauthentic yet** powerful Social Media

Mass Communication has undergone drastic transformation amid the contemporary Social media Scenario. Journalism has become Casualty number one to the Powerful yet ill effects of Social media. The way we absorb and communicate information and news online has changed drastically since social media was born.

Social media has allowed news to be accessed in real time and Social media can also be used to identify trends and make predictions. However the non Serious but highly Powerful Social Media Scenario has somewhat tarnished the image of Professional Mass Media Practi-

As a journalist one feels ashamed to see the journalistic ethics being grounded and tarnished in the worst ever manner. Although a negligible number of professional People have carved their niche even amid this mad race however a mushroom growth of pseudo Journalists has definitely tarnished the image of the entire Media Com-

Todays Editorial is the outcome of unethical media practices which we face quite frequently after the evolution of Social media. Every Tom Dik and Harry has become Journalist and is leaving no stone unturned to bring bad name to this otherwise serious and noble profession. In a vibrant democracy Media is considered to be the fourth estate or pillar of the democratic setup which acts as a catalyst to give shape to government policies and the Socio-Political and administrative setup of the country. It acts as a critique to guide government policies towards a Positive direction. So as to contribute in the Positive growth of a democratic Nation. However the contemporary scenario is putting across a dismal picture of the otherwise sensitive profession. Mushroom growth of social media channels without any know-how of basics of media ethics and professional qualifications or expertise is proving cancerous for the noble profession.

Unaware of basic media ethics these pseudo Journalists post some heart wrenching visuals and unconfirmed information on social media. Posting and then sharing of such information/ news has become a fashion statement for these pseudojournalists and bloggers. Unaware about A B C of journalism these so-called media persons are tarnishing the image of the whole media Community across

In a mad race towards increasing the subscribers on Social media platforms they can go to any extent in unethical reportage. At times in many of these cases the Pseudo Journalists are acting as black mailers in various capacities. The height of the thing is that even the major and popular media houses have the ground staff working with them without any Remuneration/Salery. They are in a way forced or willingly managing their earnings by nefarious means.

Here the authorities have a role to play to put this all important house in order. Which they should rather start to do so, as sooner the better sense prevails.

Although Authorities have issued advisory for the unauthorized social media handlers, however Senior journalists attribute the unethical reportage to the encroachment of social media into the mainstream journalism. Mainstream media and social media has sort of amalgamated. Anyone with a Facebook page, a smart phone and a logo is reporting senselessly on any sensitive issues without any jour-

Pertinently there are set guidelines from Press Council of India (PCI) for reporting on any serious or sensitive issue.

Professionally speaking any sensitive stuff goes through many professional filters before it gets published but with the many social media platforms, they hardly know these guidelines or study them. Reason for this menace is the absence of any accountability mechanism in place for social media platform.

Impartial observers of the scene are of the opinion that the media houses should take up the issue with the DIPR and the Concerned Government Authorities not to encourage these pseudo Journalists who resort to unethical journalism, and bring a bad name to the noble profession.

According to the guidelines issued by the Press Council of India (PCI), newspapers and news agencies must not place stories about any sensitive issue prominently and unduly repeat such stories. The need of the hour is for the authorities to Act, and Act now. The concerned nodal agencies should check on the people who are not even remotely associated with the journalism profession and are misusing the social media platforms for their vested interests. As these pseudo journalists are not only defaming the noble profession but also hammering a big dent on the reputation of Journalism $as a profession which is otherwise the fourth {\tt Estate} \, of {\tt Vibrant}$ Democracy like India.

An Allegory For The

Importance Of Unity In Diversity

Aubaid Akhoon

In a mystical land, nestled between towering mountains and shimmering lakes, there existed a kingdom unlike any other—the Kingdom of the Talking Trees. In this realm, wisdom flowed as freely as the crystal-clear streams that wound through the enchanted forests and life thrived in perfect harmony.

Within this kingdom, there resided three distinct species of sentient trees: the Elder Oaks, the Wise Willows and the Nobliie Pines. Each species had unique qualities and wisdom to offer, and they coexisted peacefully for generations, sharing knowledge, stories, and laughter.

One fateful day, a new tree arrived at the outskirts of the kingdom-a towering Redwood from a distant land. Its arrival was met with great curiosity and excitement, for no one in the kingdom had ever encountered such a magnificent tree. The Redwood, however, was not like the others. It had a towering ego and believed itself to be superior to the native trees.

The Redwood began to boast about its enormous height and the grandeur of its homeland. It belittled the Elder Oaks, mocked the Wise Willows, and dismissed the Noble Pines as insignificant. The harmony that had graced the Kingdom of the Talking Trees for centuries was now threatened by arrogance and discord.

The native trees, recognizing the growing divide, sought counsel from the ancient Tree of Wisdom, a giant Sequoia known for its unparalleled insight. The Tree of Wisdom listened carefully and then shared a profound lesson: "In our diversity lies our strength, and in our unity lies our harmony. Each tree has its unique qualities, and when we embrace our differences, we become stronger together."

Inspired by this wisdom, the native trees decided to confront the Redwood with kindness and understanding. They



organized a grand festival to celebrate the Redwood's unique qualities, acknowledging its impressive height and strength. The Redwood, humbled by this gesture of unity, realized the error of its ways and apologized for its

As time passed, the Redwood grew to appreciate the wisdom of the Elder Oaks, the grace of the Wise Willows, and the resilience of the Noble Pines. It learned that true greatness lay not in towering over others but in standing tall with them.

The Kingdom of the Talking Trees was once again filled with harmony, as the trees learned to value and respect one another's strengths and differences. They flourished together, sharing their wisdom and stories, knowing that unity and diversity were the keys to their enduring happiness.

And so, the Kingdom of the Talking Trees became a beacon of wisdom for all lands, teaching a valuable lesson to society: Embrace diversity, respect one another's unique qualities and find

strength in unity. For in the tapestry of life, it is the harmony we create together that makes us truly magnifi-

"Allama Iqbal, the great poet and philosopher has it:

'Fard qaaim rabt millat se hai tanha kuch nahi, Mauj hai dariya

mein aur beroon dariya kuch nahi." **Translation:** 'An individual is nothing without a connection to the community; they are like a wave in the sea, with nothing beyond the sea.'

These profound words resonate with the essence of our story in the Kingdom of the Talking Trees. Just as the native trees found their strength in unity and diversity, so too does this verse remind us that our individual significance is deeply intertwined with our bonds to the community.

Like the waves in the vast sea, our actions and impact are part of a larger whole and it is in our collective efforts that we find true meaning and significance.'

Applications of the Story

Unity in Diversity: The Kingdom of the Talking Trees serves as an allegory for the importance of unity in diversity. This concept is not only applicable to forests but also to human society. Emphasize the significance of embracing cultural, ethnic, and ideological diversity to foster a more harmonious and prosperous world.

Educational Initiatives: Consider developing educational programs or workshops inspired by the story to teach children and adults alike about the value of unity and respect for dif-

Environmental Conservation: The story highlights the interconnectedness of nature and the importance of preserving diverse ecosystems. Connect this message to real-world environmental efforts and initiatives, encouraging readers to take action in protecting our planet.

Social Harmony: Use the story as a conversation starter on promoting harmony and understanding in society. Discuss the impact of prejudice, discrimination, and ego on human relationships and how lessons from the Kingdom of the Talking Trees can be applied in our communities.

"Enchanted Unity: Talking Trees' Tale" is a tale that resonates deeply with its readers and offers timeless wisdom. It not only entertains but also educates, making it a valuable contribution to literature with a lasting impact.

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoon is a renowned Columnist & Motivational Speaker and an **Associate Editor of the Weekly Publication 'Education Quill.' He** currently serves as the Senior EDP Head at DD Target PMT Kashmir, a reputable institute renowned for its coaching classes in the medical/ JEE/Foundation Classes. akhoon. aubaid@gmail.com

The Role Of Technology In The Future And Its Impact On Society

■ Vijay GarG

Technology has played a crucial part in developing the modern world, from the development of the wheel to the most recent advances in artificial intelligence.

Our lives have gotten simpler, more productive, and more interconnected as a result of technological advancements. Technology has brought about many good improvements that have altered the way we connect and the environment, from cell phones to virtual reality to artificial intelligence.

However, technology's effects on society have not always been beneficial. Despite its many favorable effects, it has also generated undesirable side effects that must be handled. Some of the negative effects of technology on society include technological dependency, cyberbullying, and privacy invasion. The increasing use of automation and AI has sparked worries about the loss of jobs and the widen-

The future of technology appears even more interesting in light of the constant emergence of new technologies. While these innovations may usher in welcome improvements, it is essential that we not lose sight of the risks they may pose and take measures to mitigate them. Some of the most important technological developments that will define our world in the next years will be discussed, as will the good and negative effects of technology on modern society.

Future Of Technology: 1. Artificial Intelligence

One of the most fascinating developments in modern

technology is artificial intelligence (AI). Voice recognition, picture identification, and NLP are just a few of the domains where AI has made great strides. Yet AI has many more promising applications than that. AI might significantly alter the healthcare, financial, and transportation sectors. It also has the potential to aid in the fight against climate change and extreme poverty.

2. Internet Of Things

The term "Internet of Things" (IoT) describes the global system of interconnected computing devices that can exchange data and instructions through the Internet. Many sorts of sensors, from those used in industry to those in the household, fall under this category.

There has been a lot of success with the IoT in automating homes, controlling energy usage, and improving transportation. The Internet of Things (IoT) is now pervasive, and it is anticipated that this trend will only accelerate in the years to come.

3. Augmented And Virtual Reality

Both augmented and virtual reality have seen significant growth in interest over the past several years. The goal of both virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) is to allow users to interact with digital

information superimposed over the physical world. Uses for these technologies may be found in entertainment, instruction, and medical treatment, among others. Virtual and augmented reality experiences are anticipated to be ever more realistic and immersive.

4. Blockchain

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies rely on the underlying technology known as the blockchain. Nevertheless, blockchain technology may be used for more than just cryptocurrencies. Blockchain is a distributed ledger that facilitates safe data storage and transfer. Financial services, healthcare, and supply chain management are just a few examples of sectors that might benefit great-

5. 5g Networks

The fifth-generation (5G) mobile networks will be significantly quicker and less laggy than the existing fourth-generation (4G) networks. New uses, including autonomous vehicles, smart cities, and telesurgery, may be made possible by 5G networks. In some regions of the world, however, infrastructural issues have slowed the introduction of 5G networks.

6. Quantum Computing

Computing in the quantum realm involves the application of quantum mechanical concepts to the computation process. Problems that are now intractable with classical computing may be amenable to solutions with quantum computing.

The creation of novel materials and the simulation of complicated chemical events are only two examples of how quantum computing may be put to use. But in its infancy, quantum computing faces several technological hurdles that must be conquered before it can be broadly embraced.

7. Biotechnology

Innovations in industry and medicine that make use of biological systems, cells, and creatures are called "biotechnology." Medicine, farming, and even power generation are just some of the many fields that might benefit from biotechnology. When new illness remedies and cures are discovered, biotechnology is poised to play an increasingly larger role in people's lives in the years

8. Robotics

Automatic devices that can carry out certain tasks are the focus of robotics research. Several industries could benefit from the use of robotics, including construction, medicine, and transportation. There is hope for the future of robotics in creating machines with human-like cognitive abilities.

9. Cloud Computing

Computing in the cloud involves transferring data to and storing it on remote servers. Data storage and retrieval have been completely transformed by cloud computing. As more and more programs and services are built to take use of cloud computing, its prominence is only projected to grow. Cloud computing, for instance, may run AI programs like voice assistants and picture

identification services. 10. Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is becoming increasingly crucial as the prevalence of technology grows. Cybersecurity is the practice of keeping computers and networks safe from intrusion via electronic means. The prevalence of cyber threats suggests that protecting data will only grow in significance.

Impact Of Technology On Society Positive Impact:

1. Better Communication

The advancement of communication is one of the most noticeable benefits of technology to modern civilization. Thanks to technological advancements, we can now send and receive messages instantly and with

People from all over the world can communicate with one another because of the widespread availability of social media, messaging applications, and video conferencing technology. Because of this, people can maintain relationships with their loved ones, expand their social circles, and form communities with shared interests and

2. Enhanced Information Access

With the advent of the internet, formerly inaccessible knowledge is now at everyone's grasp. The Internet has made it possible for anybody to gain exposure to new ideas, practices, and perspectives with only a few mouse clicks. Hence, people are better able to pursue knowledge on their own time and widen their perspectives. Also, this has aided in the spread of knowledge in vital areas like health, science, and politics, allowing for more wellinformed citizens.

3. Increased Education

Because of technological advancements, learning is now more convenient and productive than ever before. As e-learning platforms proliferate, students no longer need to be physically present in a classroom to benefit

As a result, students may now study whenever and wherever they like, making for a more adaptable educational system. Interactive learning technologies, such as simulations and virtual reality, have also been developed thanks to technological advancements, which make education more interesting and useful.

4. Efficiency Gains

Thanks to technological advancements, a wide variety of tasks may now be completed more quickly and with less material waste. Companies may save money and boost production by using robots for routine activities like data input and manufacturing. Because of this, businesses have been able to expand their offerings, boosting the economy and leading to the creation of new jobs.

Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout Punjab

COP28 Has Begun With First Major Milestone Generating Great Hope

FUND ON 'LOSS AND DAMAGE' TO ASSIST VULNERABLE COUNTRIES BECOMES OPERATIONAL

By Dr. Gyan Pathak

CHEADLINES

UN Climate Change Conference -United Arab Emirates (November 30 - December 12, 2023), popularly known as COP28, has begun with first major milestone on the day-one, by delivering a historic agreement that made the Fund operational, which was agreed upon during COP27 last year. The agreement was reached by parties during five transitional committee meetings. The Fund is intended to assist developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, known in the negotiations as 'loss and damage'. Though, it has generated great hope, there are miles to go before we actually put brake on climate damage and attain net-zero by 2050, or even to remain on target by reducing emissions to half by 2030.

It is indeed commendable that under the President for COP28 UAE Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, this milestone has been achieved which can potentially lead the world closer to the solution of the climate crisis by actually achieving the target set at COP21 in 2015, when the world had agreed to limit global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius to pre-industrial levels by 2050. In the welcome message Dr Al Jaber had said, "We only have another seven years to meet the goal. COP28 UAE is a prime opportunity to rethink, reboot, and refocus the climate agenda."

The present historic agreement was reached by parties following 5 transitional committee meetings. The 5th transitional meeting hosted earlier in November in Abu Dhabi was added by the COP28 Presidency following the impasse reached at the 4th meeting, where Parties reached a resolution. Not only that, the UAE also announced that it will commit



\$100 million to the Fund, paving the way for other nations to make pledges to the critically important Fund. Other countries making notable commitments included Germany, which committed \$100 million, the UK, which committed £40 million for the Fund and £20 million for other arrangements, Japan, which contributed \$10 million and the US, which

committed \$17.5 million. Dr Al Jaber also called on nations to follow the UAE's example to immediately commit resources to the Fund in an ambitious multilateral act. "What was promised in Sharm El Sheikh (COP 27), has already been delivered in Dubai," he said adding,

"the speed at which the world came together, to get this Fund operationalized within one year ... is unprecedented."

It was certainly a decisive action on Loss and Damage, and the credit goes to Dr Al Jaber led presidency, that somehow managed to clear all the roadblocks. The agreement and the Fund is likely to enable the Parties to focus on the strongest possible response to the Global Stocktake (GST), the world's report card on progress toward Paris Agreement goals. It is worth mentioning that GST was established under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement as a means of assessing collective progress towards the

Agreement's long-term goals.

"This Fund will support billions of people, lives and livelihoods that are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change," Dr Al Jaber said adding, "I want to thank my team for all their hard work to make this possible on day one of COP 28. It proves, the world can unite, can act, and can deliver.

Over the next two weeks UAE presidency has much more difficult tasks in hand and will have to successfully work with Parties to deliver the highest-ambition response to the GST. It would require working in cooperation with the UNFCCC Executive Secretary alongside the UN

Climate Change High-Level Champion and the UAE Youth Climate Champion. Though Dr Al Jaber has promised in his welcome message that he would strive to build consensus amongst parties to drive climate action, the complex task in hand would be much more difficult than achieving the historical milestone of operationalizing the Fund, since it would need prioritizing the efforts to accelerate emissions reductions through a pragmatic energy transition, reforming land use, and transforming food systems of the world.

Additionally, the participating countries will have to work to mobilize solutions for vulnerable countries.

operationalize loss and damage, and deliver the most inclusive Conference possible. It is here, India's significant role is involved in balancing ambitious climate goals with equity considerations. More so, because, the country has set its target of net-zero by 2070, and it is set to double its coal production by 2030. India has its own development requirement and the responsibility of containing its emission

The Global Stocktake (GST) synthesis report released earlier in September 2030 has already revealed that the world is far off track from its goal of holding global temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius to avoid some of the most disastrous climate crises. Participating countries, companies, financial institutions etc will have to do more in respect of GST in the next 12 days than what is achieved on the first day in the form of operationalising the Fund.

As for fossil fuels, world needs to reduced emissions by 43 per cent, ie below 2019 levels, by 2030. However, the current national climate plans as revealed in the latest NDCs submitted by the countries, if achieved, could only reduce 8 per cent at best. Subsidies for fossil fuels, which have been the largest driver of climate change, has also rose to a record \$7 trillion in 2022. It shows the challenges lying ahead in the way to a new era for green affordable energy transition that may be reliable and sustainable. Building resilience to the increasingly severe impact of climate change, climate finance gaps, and sustainable land use for food production will be among other key challenges to be addressed. World must address the issues and find proper solutions in this COP28 summit itself before it would be too late.

(IPA Service)

INDIAN ECONOMY IS ON GROWTH PATH BUT NO BREAKTHROUGH IN NEW JOB GENERATION

Centre Must Make Major Investment In Labour Intensive Sectors On A Crash Basis

■ By K R Sudhaman

A hackneyed statement is made on the economy nowadays that is -- India is in a bright or sweet spot, while many others tottering and more importantly the global economy is slowing down with geopolitics making the situation worse. It is true that Indian economy is among the fastest growing economies now and it is growing rapidly despite gloomy world, particularly Europe, middle-east and

Former chief economic advisor and world bank chief economist, Kaushik Basu, says there is nothing to doubt it and India is now justifiably in a bright spot. This meant there is potential for the economy to do well and to take advantage of the so called demographic dividend. The question therefore is that whether the policy makers are doing enough to cash-in on this advantage. The answer is a certain no. There are issues with macro-economic fundamentals. That apart not adequate jobs are being created, particularly among the youth.

Basu points out one inherent weakness in the Indian economy -- steady erosion of savings and investment rates in recent years. Basu is of the view savings and investment rates peaked to 38 to 39 per cent of gross domestic product during UPA regime led by Manmohan Singh. This gave India a high growth rate of about 9 per cent on a consistent basis in the first decade of this century. High savings rate particularly that of domestic household savings ensured that the investment too was correspondingly high resulting in lower incremental capital output ratio.

Unfortunately, both savings and investment rates have been falling particularly during the Modi era and had dropped to a low of 28 or 29 per cent during Covid years. But now there is a slight pick-up with the revival of the economy, which is welcome. However, Basu points out that it is now



hovering around 30 per cent, so also investment rate, which is not good enough for the economy. Huge investments are needed particularly in labour intensive industries to ensure that large scale employment $is\,generated\,in\,the\,country. Somehow\,that$ is not happening. Underemployment through the so called self-employment is on the rise as well. This is not good news for India with sizeable proportion of population below 35 years. CMIE data indicate unemployment, which had moderated to 5-6 per cent, is now on the rise again. Latest data shows that it is now around 10 per

What is more worrying, according to Kaushik Basu, is that unemployment in the age-group of 15-22 yrs is as high as 22 per cent. Unemployment in 15-22 yrs age group in the middle-east too had such high numbers. This should immediately ring alarm bells. As the saying goes idle mind is devils workshop. In armed forces all over the world, soldiers are never allowed to be idle and they are always provided some job right from the time they get up in the morning to ensure they remained disciplined.

Fissiparous tendencies arise when the youth are not engaged. In this context stress on job creation is very important to ensure health of the economy and society. Step up of funding in infrastructure is critical for stepping up employment and the government is doing its part by increasing public expenditure year after year. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman stepped up public expenditure in this year's budget to a little over Rs 10 lakh crore from Rs 7.5 lakh crore in 2022-23. This is a welcome development. Private investment too is picking up. But there is need to do more in

promoting labour-intensive industries like leather, textiles, food processing and so on. Also these industries have to be spread all over the country, particularly in smaller towns and cities, so that rural distress is overcome. Promoting electronics manufacture is a welcome development as it does create jobs, but these industries are usually established in and around big cities as it required skilled and highly skilled manpower. To deal with rural distress, there is also need to promote skill development. Skill mapping will help to focus on area specific skill development. These are work in progress.

Foreign direct investment flow is improving. With advanced nations adopting China plus one policy, there is a tilt towards India in foreign investment flows. But with interest rates going up especially in advanced economies like United States, there is a possibility of outflow from emerging economies. Though it is happening in some emerging economies, the outflow from India is not that significant at the moment as many industrialists from advanced economies see the Indian economy as an opportunity. But with unstable geo-political situation, this trend may get reversed in no time. So there is need to guard against it.

One step that needed to be urgently pursued in the country is increase in savings and investment rates back to 38 to 39 per cent of GDP. This will ensure that macro-economic fundamentals remain strong, besides tackling problem of unemployment through inclusive growth. India always had 5 to 6 per cent unemployment rate and that is a manageable level. What has to be taken note of is that unemployment among the youth that too around 20-22 per cent can be disturbing. Government is needed to be mindful of this problem so that India remain a vibrant economy.

(IPA Service)

PM Suggests 2028 COP In India, **Announces Green Credit Scheme**

■ HT News Network

PUBLICATIONHEADLINES

CODAVoice To The Voice

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today called on all nations to work together to cut global emissions drastically, and announced a "green credit" initiative that focuses on creating carbon skins with people's participation.

At the COP28 climate summit in Dubai, PM Modi today said India's emissions are very low compared to other nations whose population is much less.

"India's population is 17 per cent of the global population, but in global carbon emissions India is only at 4 per cent. We are moving fast in achieving the NDC targets. In fact, we reached our non-fossil fuel targets nine years before the deadline," PM Modi said, referring to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. "We do not have much time to correct the mistakes of



the last century," PM Modi said, and asked every nation to work sincerely to meet their NDC targets.

The Conference of Parties (COP) is a decision-making body that reviews the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Environment Ministry has introduced two initiatives that indicate India's proactive approach to tackling climate change, and sustainability take forward 'LiFE' - 'Lifestyle

for Environment' movement announced by PM Modi in 2021. The "green credit" initiative seeks to encourage environmentally friendly practices rooted in tradition and conservation reflecting the ideas of the 'LiFE' concept.

India is among a few countries on track to achieve its NDCs to limit global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius. PM Modi was the only leader to join

the opening plenary along with COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber and UN Climate Change president Simon Steill.

PM Modi called for maintaining a balance between mitigation and adaptation, and said energy transition across the world must be "just and inclusive".

He called for rich countries to transfer technology to help emerging economies fight climate change. COP28 Dubai: "India's population is 17 per cent of the global population, but in global carbon emissions India is only at 4 per cent," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said



India On Verge Of Completely Eliminating Maoist Extremism: Amit Shah

■ HT News Network

Hazaribag, Jharkhand: India is "on the verge of" completely eliminating Maoist extremism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said today and asserted that the Narendra Modi government is "determined" to win this battle.

He was addressing troopers of the Border Security Force (BSF) on the paramilitary force's 59th Raising Day celebrations. The about 2.65-lakh personnel strong force was raised on this day in 1965.

In the last 10 years, Amit Shah said, incidents of Maoist violence have gone down by 52 per cent, deaths in these incidents declined by 70 per cent and the number of affected districts have come down from 96 to 45. The number of "LWE-hit police stations have come down from 495 to 176", he said. The last strike against LWE(left-wingextremism) by forces such as the BSF, the CRPF and the ITBP is in the process. We are determined to end Maoist Extremism in the country," the home minister said.

Mr Shah said his government was "on the verge of"

eliminating the violent leftwing extremism of armed Maoist cadre in various states, including Iharkhand. He also counted the recent operations undertaken by security forces in the hills

of Maoists. "I am sure we will win this battle," Mr Shah said and added that as many as 199 new security forces' camps have been established in LWE-affected areas since 2019.

and forests of 'Burapahar'

and 'Chakarbandha' in the

state that freed vast tracts

of areas from the clutches

In the last 10 years of the Modi government, "we have been able to win the battle in hotspots of Jammu and Kashmir, LWE (areas)

and (against) insurgency in the Northeast, and security forces have been able to establish their domination in Jammu and Kashmir", he said. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said India's two major borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh will be completely secured in the next two years, with work underway to plug gaps in about 60 km stretch along these two fronts. Shah was speaking after taking salute from a ceremonial parade of the

here. The minister said the Narendra Modi government has fenced and

Border Security Force (BSF)

on the occasion of its 59th

Raising Day celebrations

plugged gaps in about 560 km of the India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders in the last nine years since it came to power at the Centre.

He said all the gaps in these two borders on India's western and eastern flank respectively are being plugged and work in only about 60 km is continuing.

In the next two years we will entirely secure these two borders, Shah said.

The two borders--2,290 km of the India-Pakistan International Border and 4,096 km of the India-Bangladesh border-- are marked by long riverine. mountainous and marshy areas where it is very difficult to erect fences and hence the BSF and other agencies use technical gadgets to check infiltration.

"I firmly believe that a country cannot develop and prosper if its borders are not secure...the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led the country to the moon with the Chandrayaan mission, G20 Summit and brought the economy from the 11th to the fifth spot, and this was all possible due to our forces deployed for securing the borders like the BSF.

PM Modi Meets UAE **Vice President, Other World Leaders During** COP28

Dubai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with the UAE Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and other world leaders on Friday on the side-

Odisha: 8 pilgrims

accident near Maa

Tarini temple

early hours on Friday.

pital in Cuttack.

of kin of the deceased.

prayed for their speedy recovery.

Bengaluru: Several

from the Maa Tarini temple.

die, 12 injured in road

■ HT News Network

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1 (UNI) In a tragic accident, eight

pilgrims died and twelve injured when the vehicle they

were on their way to have darshan of Maa Tarini in

Odisha's Keonjhar district hit a stranded truck in the

Police said the accident took place on National High-

While seven pilgrims died on the spot, one child

Sources said the deceased belonged to Podamari from

The injured were first admitted to the nearby Ghatag-

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed his profound

Patnaik directed the administration to provide free

medical treatment to all the twelve injured persons and

premises of at least 15 schools in different parts of the

city after they received bomb threats through anony-

grief to the bereaved family members in the mishap

and announced an ex-gratia of Rs three lakh to the next

aon but later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hos-

succumbed to the injuries in the hospital.

Digapahandi block in Ganjam district.

way number 20 near Ghatagaon, just a few kms away



lines of the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC (COP28) Summit.

PM Modi praised the UAE Vice President for his "visionary leadership"

RBI Says RS 2,000 Notes, Now Withdrawn, Worth RS 9,760 Crore Yet To Return

■ HT News Network

of Tajikistan.

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today said nearly 97.26 per cent of the 2,000 bank notes have been returned to the banking system, and only about 9,760 crore worth of the notes are still with the public.On May 19, the RBI announced the withdrawal of 2,000 denomination bank notes from circulation.

"The total value of 2,000 bank notes in circulation, which amounted to 3.56 lakh crore as at the close of business on May 19, 2023 when the withdrawal of 2,000 bank notes was announced, has declined to 9,760 crore as at the close of business on November 30, 2023," the RBI said in a statement.

Thus, 97.26 per cent of the high-value currency in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned to the banking system, it added."The 2,000 bank notes continue to be legal tender," the RBI added.

People can deposit and/or exchange 2,000 bank notes at the 19 RBI offices across the country. People can also send 2,000 bank notes through India Post from any post office, to any of the RBI Issue Offices for credit to their bank accounts in India.

Public and entities holding such notes

were initially asked to either exchange or deposit them in bank accounts by September 30. The deadline was later extended to

October 7. Both deposit and exchange services at bank branches were discontinued on October 7. Starting October 8, individuals have been provided with the choice of either exchanging the currency or having the equivalent sum credited to their bank accounts at the 19 offices of the RBI. Meanwhile, queues are being witnessed during the working hours at the RBI offices for exchange/deposit of 2,000 notes. The 19 RBI offices depositing/exchanging the bank notes are in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Belapur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kanpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, New Delhi, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram.

Make arrangement for housing, treatment of the needy: Yogi Adityanath

■ HT News Network

Gorakhpur, Dec 1 (UNI) UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday directed the officials to provide accommodation and treatment facilities to every person in need as per their requirements.

The CM said that there should be no negligence in filing an FIR in criminal cases, and promptness should be shown in controlling the land grabbers and mafias.

During the Janata Darshan at Gorakhnath Temple, he personally addressed the concerns of approximately 300 individuals. He asked the officials to provide timely, highquality, and satisfactory solutions to the public's issues, emphasizing a consistent focus on public welfare.

Yogi personally reached out to the people in front of the Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan, located within the temple premises. He assured everyone that solutions would be offered for every problem.

A significant number of women were present during the Janata Darshan. During this, a woman raised a housing-related problem, to which the CM directed the officials to provide a house to the woman under PM Awas Yojana or CM Awas Yojana. Several women sought financial assis-



tance for their family members' medical treatments during the Janata Darshan. Yogi assured them that there would be no shortage of funds for their treatment.

He directed the officials that the estimate should be obtained from the concerned hospital and made available to the CM Office after completing the process. He said that the assistance amount would be released immediately from the discretionary fund.

The CM directed that the officials should ensure that Ayushman health cards are made for every needy person. He directed the officials that the estimate should be obtained from the concerned hospital and made available to the CM Office after completing the process.

schools receive bomb 2023 Shatters Climate Records, threats. **HT News Network** 2024 To Be As Bad, Concerns For India Bengaluru, Dec 1 (UNI) Confusion prevailed on the

HT News Network

Launched on the first day

of the annual climate sum-

mit COP28, the WMO pro-

visional State of the Global

Climate report said that the

data until the end of Octo-

ber shows that the year was

about 1.40 degrees Celsius

above the pre-industrial

2023, 2016 and 2020 -

which were previously

ranked as the warmest

years-is such that the final

two months are very

unlikely to affect the rank-

The difference between

1850-1900 baseline.

mous emails on Friday. The emails mentioned that bombs were planted in the schools, which caused panic among students, parents, and school authorities, resulting in Dubai: The year 2023 has shattered climate records, the school management evacuating the premises as a precautionary measure. Bengaluru police swung into accompanied by extreme action on a tip-off from the affected schools and immeweather which has left a trail of devastation and diately deployed search operation personnel to find out if the explosives were planted on school premises. despair, the World Meteo-As of now, the emails look like hoaxes, Bengaluru rological Organisation (WMO) said in a report.

Police Commissioner B Dayananda said, and appealed to parents not to panic. "Last year too, a mischiefmonger sent similar emails to many schools in the city,"

Israeli woman found dead in Kerala

■ HT News Network

Kollam, Dec 1 (UNI) An Israeli woman identified as Swatha alias Radha (36) has been found dead with her throat slit inside her rented house at Mukhathala here on Thursday evening.

Her friend Krishna Chandran (75), who allegedly attacked her and attempted to kill himself, is under treatment at the government district hospital here,

He claimed that both of them, who have been living together for the last 16 years, were planning to commit suicide due to some health problems. She stabbed herself after lunch on Thursday afternoon. Later, he also stabbed himself to commit suicide.

that north India has registered a rapid surge in mercury compared to the southern parts."As the sea surface temperatures soar, sea water tends to expand, causing the sea level to rise. Besides, with the ocean warming, glaciers or sea ice

India, glacial melt is a big concern affecting snow cover as well as the strength of glaciers. "I am afraid, persistent glacial melt could possibly trigger more events like the

the Pakistan floods in 2022

are melting at a faster pace, which is contributing much more to sea level rise than compared with sea water expansion. This poses a potential threat to all the coastal places across the world, including India," he

Putting in perspective Dr Akshay Deoras, the figures concerning Research Scientist at the India, Mrutyunjay Mohapa-National Centre for Atmotra, Director General of spheric Science & Dept. of Meteorology, India Meteo-Meteorology, University of rological Department, said Reading, UK, said that for in the near future," he said. The report noted that the past nine years, from 2015 to 2023, were the warmest

Sikkim floods in 2023 and

The warming El Nino event, which emerged during the Northern Hemisphere spring of 2023 and developed rapidly during summer, is likely to further fuel the heat in 2024 because El Nino typically has the greatest impact on global temperatures after

Noting that decreased monsoon rainfall in southeast Asia is associated with El Nino, the report said the onset of the monsoon over Kerala occurred seven days later than normal.

By the end of September, India received 94 per cent of its typical monsoon rainfall which was higher than normal rainfall totals observed along the lower course of the Indus River and in central India.

The report also showed that the rate of sea level rise from 2013-2022 is more than twice the rate of the first decade of the satellite record(1993-2002)because of continued ocean warming and melting of glaciers

and ice sheets. The report also noted that the accumulated precipitation totals for the first nine months in 2023 were above the long-term average in East Asia, parts of northern Asia, and the western Indian summer monsoon region among

"Making Efforts To...": **Navy Chief On Indians On Death Row In Qatar**

HT News Network

New Delhi: Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar on Friday said the government is putting all-out efforts to bring back eight former naval personnel from Qatar, who were handed death sentences by a Qatari court.

"We are working closely to ensure that their interests are looked after," Admiral Kumar said at a media briefing.

"The government of India is putting all-out efforts to ensure they are brought back," he said. The Indian nationals were on October 26 given death sentence by Qatar's Court of First Instance. India described the ruling as "deeply" shocking and vowed to explore all legal options in the case. An appeal has already been filed against the death sentence and a higher court in Qatar has already admitted the plea. The appeal has been filed by the legal team of the detained Indian nationals.

The Indian nationals, who worked with private company Al Dahra, were arrested in August last year reportedly in an alleged case of espionage.

Neither the Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against the Indian nationals public.

In its reaction to the ruling by the Qatari court, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) last month said that it is attaching "high importance" to this case and is explor-

ing all legal options. The charges were filed against the eight Indian navy veterans on March 25 and they were tried under Qatari law. All of the former Navy officers had "unblemished stints" of up to 20 years in the Indian Navy and had held important positions, including that of instructors in the force, former military officials had said. The Indian nationals, who worked with private company Al Dahra, were arrested in August last year reportedly in an alleged case



At COP28, UN chief says ending fossil fuel use only way to save burning planet

HT News Network

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres told world leaders on Friday that the burning of fossil fuels must be stopped outright and a reduction or abatement in their use would not be enough to stop global warming. "We cannot save a burning planet with a fire hose of

fossil fuels," Guterres said. The 28th UNFCCC Conference of Parties commenced in

 $Dubai's \, Expo\, City\, on Thursday\, with\, 52,000\, party\, delegates$ and 90,000 non-party delegates joining this year's pro-

The summit opened with good news for poor nations struggling to cope with natural disasters, as delegates adopted the "loss and damage fund" to help the developing world bear the cost of climate-driven damages.

In a speech at the opening ceremony of the summit today, the UN chief said: "The 1.5-degree limit is only possible if we ultimately stop burning all fossil fuels. Not reduce. Not abate."

He urged fossil fuel companies to invest in a transition to renewable energy sources and told governments to help by forcing that change — including through the use of windfall taxes on industry profits.

"I urge governments to help industry make the right choice by regulating, legislating, putting a fair price on carbon, ending fossil fuel subsidies, and adopting a windfall tax on profits," he said.

Addressing the world leaders, Guterres asserted that climate justice was long over due and developing countries were being devastated by disasters they did not cause. "Extortionate borrowing costs are blocking their climate action plans and support is far too little, far too late."

He went on to say that the climate challenge was not just another "issue to the inbox" but protecting the climate was the world's "greatest test of leadership".



"I urge you ... make this COP count, make this COP a game changer, make this COP the newer hope in future of modern times," the UN chief concluded.

Meanwhile, Britain's King Charles said the world was "dreadfully far off track" on addressing climate change and that the global economy would be in peril unless the environment was rapidly repaired.

He told world leaders the dangers of climate change were no longer a distant risk, and urged them to take more

"I pray with all my heart that COP28 will be another critical turning point towards genuine transformational action," he said, in reference to the 2021 summit held in

"We are seeing alarming tipping points being reached." Charles cited the impact of climate change globally, including floods in India and Pakistan and severe wildfires in the United States, Canada and Greece.

"Unless we rapidly repair and restore nature's unique economy, based on harmony and balance, which is our ultimate sustainer, our own economy and survivability will be imperiled," he said.

UAE president announces \$30bn fund to bridge climate

Separately, United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed announced the establishment of a \$30 billion climate fund for global climate solutions that it hopes will lead to \$250 billion of investment by the end of the decade.

Dubbed ALTRRA, the fund will allocate \$25 billion towards climate strategies and \$5 billion specifically to incentivise investment flows into the Global South, according to a statement by the COP28 Presidency.

In collaboration with global asset managers BlackRock, Brookfield and TPG, ALTRRA has committed \$6.5 billion to climate-dedicated funds for global investments, including the Global South, the statement said.

ALTRRA was established by Abu Dhabi-based alternate investment manager Lunate, and COP28 Director-General Majid Al Suwaidi will serve as ALTRRA's chief executive officer.PM Kakar joins world leaders at high-level summit

Earlier, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar joined world leaders at the Dubai Expo City for the highlevel segment at the summit.

According to a statement issued by the PM's Office, the premier was received by the UAE president and Guterres upon arrival at the venue.

He also had an informal conversation with King Charles ahead of the segment and held a separate meeting with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on the sidelines of the summit. A statement released by the PMO said the two leaders discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual interest, including the situation in Afghanistan.

Death toll from Israeli strikes on Gaza on Friday rises to 32: Health ministry

HT News Network

Jerusalem, Dec 1 (UNI) The death toll from Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip on Friday morning has increased to 32, the enclave's Health Ministry said.

Earlier in the day, Al Arabiya broadcaster reported, citing the Palestinian Health Ministry, that six people died and dozens were injured in Israeli strikes.

The number of victims of the massacres of the Israeli occupation within three hours after the end of the truce rose to 32; dozens sustained injuries of varying degrees; the majority [dead and wounded] were women and children," the ministry said in a statement. Earlier in the day, the Israel Defence Forces said

Hamas broke the humanitarian pause, prompting

Israel to resume combat. The Wall Street Journal reported late on Thursday that the two sides had agreed to extend a temporary

humanitarian pause for eighth day. However, no official confirmation has been made

The latest truce expired at 07:00 a.m. local time

(05:00 GMT) on Friday.

5.2-magnitude quake hits **Central Alaska- GFZ**

■ HT News Network

Beijing, Dec 1 (UNI) An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.2 jolted Central Alaska at 2023-12-01 05:50:25 GMT on Friday, the GFZ German Research Centre for

The epicenter, with a depth of 91.3 km, was initially determined to be at 63.02 degrees north latitude and 150.62 degrees west longitude.

UK govt steps in to stop Telegraph deal

■ HT News Network

LONDON: Britain's media minister said on Thursday she would intervene in the acquisition of the Telegraph Media Group by Abu Dhabi-backed RedBird IMI, on public interest grounds as it might impact the accurate presentation of news or free expression of opinion.

The right-leaning Daily Telegraph broadsheet and Spectator magazine, favourites of politicians in the leading Conservative Party, are being sold after Lloyds Banking Group in June seized control following a longrunning dispute with former owners, the Barclay

But the government told RedBird in the letter that the minister was concerned about the potential for it to influence the Telegraph's operations.

"My Department has today written to the Barclay family and RedBird IMI, the current and proposed owners of Telegraph Media Group (TMG), to inform them that I will be issuing a Public Interest Intervention Notice (PIIN)" media minister Lucy Frazer said in

"There Is No Plan B": **Democrats Have No Backup To Biden For 2024 Elections**

HT News Network

Washington: The Democratic Party has no Plan B if President Joe Biden decided for any reason to halt his 2024 re-election campaign, and a sudden need to replace him as its standard-bearer would spark a messy intraparty battle. Despite weak poll numbers and questions, including from some Democrats, about his age, Biden has stuck to his plan to seek a second term after clearing the field of serious Democratic primary challengers when he announced in April that he was running again. Even if more Democratic candidates were to jump in now, the path forward would be unclear as deadlines to get on the primary ballot in critical states such as Nevada, South Carolina and Georgia have already passed. Biden loyalists, citing his record in office, argue that the party does not need a backup plan to defeat probable Republican nominee Donald Trump, who Biden beat in the 2020 election.

Among the possible scenarios if the president, 81, did drop out: Democrats could pick another nominee next August at their convention, or even later, in line with party rules.

Russia Assumes Western Sanctions Will Last For "Many Years": Kremlin

HT News Network

Moscow: Russia is working on the assumption that sanctions against it by the United States and its allies will last for many years, but that US influence on the world economy is waning, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday.

Peskov was commenting on an interview in which US Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Geoffrey Pyatt told the Financial Times that Washington was aiming to halve Russia's oil and gas revenues by the end of the decade."We have no doubt that these sanctions will last for many years. Even without statements from the respected (US) representative, we already knew this. We assume this when formulating our line," Peskov told reporters.

Khaleda's party to boycott Bangladesh polls, calls vote 'farcical'

HT News Network

DHAKA: Bangladesh's main opposition officially boycotted upcoming general elections on Thursday, removing the only party that could have offered a realistic challenge to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's fourth consecutive term in power.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by formers premier Khaleda Zia, said since thousands of its members had been arrested in a sweeping crackdown. it had not applied to contest a single seat on the of having "rigged the previous two eleclast day of filing candidate nominations before the January 7 polls.

"We are boycotting the election," A.K.M Wahiduzzaman, a spokesman for the party, told AFP.

"We remained steadfast to our stand that we will not take part in any election with Sheikh Hasina in power".

The BNP and other parties have held mass protests calling on Hasina to quit power and let a neutral government run the polls, demands the government has said are unconstitutional.

Human Rights Watch warned on Monday of a "violent autocratic crackdown", with almost 10,000 opposition activists arrested and at least 16 people killed since protests escalated in October, including two police officers. Wahiduzzaman, accusing Hasina



tions", said the number arrested was even

"She has arrested more than 18,090 of our leaders and supporters in an unprecedented crackdown since late October 28 to rig another election," he said.

"We won't join any farcical election." Hasina has overseen massive economic growth during her 15 years in power, but there has been international alarm over democratic backsliding and thousands of extrajudicial killings.

Other key opposition parties have also said they will boycott the elections, including the Jamaat-i-Islami and the Islami Andolon Bangladesh.

Election Commission spokesman Shariful Alam said they would confirm who was participating later on Thursday.

Russia bans 'international LGBT movement'

■ HT News Network

MOSCOW: Russia on Thursday banned the "international LGBT movement," claiming it was an extremist group in a move that cements a long crackdown on the community as the Kremlin pushes ultraconservative social values.

The conservative turn promoted by President Vladimir Putin – often portrayed as an existential fight against Western liberal values – has accelerated since the offensive in Ukraine.

The supreme court handed down the ruling in Moscow on Thursday, journalists in court reported. It did not say whether certain individuals or organisations would be affected by the ruling.

Judge Oleg Nefedov ruled that "the international LGBT public movement and its subdivisions" were extremist, and issued a "ban on its activities on the territory of Russia".

The hearing took place behind closed doors and without any defence present. Fewer than 10 people



would come (to show support), but very few people came," said Ada Blakewell, a journalist. "It shows how scared

everyone is... to talk about anything related to LGBTQ people." The judge said the order should be executed immediately – though some rights NGOs said there would be bureaucratic delays."It's causing a huge panic, because it's completely unclear who will be prosecuted under this ban," Noel Shaida, the head of communication at LGBTQ rights NGO Sphere Founda-

tion, said. If applied to individuals, the "extremist" label means

gay, lesbian, transgender or queer people living in Russia could face years in jail. It also opens the way to the criminal prosecution of any group protecting the rights of these communities in Russia. Judge Oleg Nefedov ruled that "the international LGBT public movement and its subdivisions" were extremist, and issued a "ban on its activities on

the territory of Russia". The hearing took place behind closed doors and without any defence present. Fewer than 10 people had gathered outside the court. "I hoped more people would come (to show support), but very few people came," said Ada Blakewell, a journalist.

US plans lunar landing 50 years after last **Apollo mission**

■ HT News Network

WASHINGTON: More than 50 years after the last Apollo mission, the United States will try once again to land a craft on the Moon on January 25, said the head of what could be the first private company to successfully touch down on the lunar surface. The lander, named Peregrine, will have no one on board. It was developed by American company Astrobotic, whose CEO John Thornton said it will carry NASA instruments to study the lunar environment in anticipation of NASA's Artemis manned missions.

Several years ago, NASA opted to commission US companies to send scientific experiments and technologies to the Moon — a programme called CLPS. These fixed-price contracts should make it possible to develop a lunar economy, and provide transport services at a lower cost. "One of the big challenges of what we're attempting here is attempting a launch and landing on the surface Moon for a fraction of what it would otherwise cost," said Thornton on Wednesday at a press briefing at his company's base in Pittsburgh."Only about half of the missions that have gone to the surface of the Moon have been successful," he said. "So it's certainly a daunting challenge. I'm going to be terrified and thrilled all at once at every stage of this."Takeoff is scheduled for December 24 from Florida aboard the inaugural flight of the new rocket from the ULA industrial group, named Vulcan Centaur.

Gaza crisis looms over climate talks in Dubai

HT News Network

DUBAI: Israeli aggression against Gazans pushed its way to centre-stage at UN climate talks in Dubai on Thursday, with campaigners calling for a ceasefire.

More than seven weeks into the deadly bombardment, the COP28 talks opened with a moment's silence announced by Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, the COP27 president, for all civilians who have perished during the current unrest in Gaza.

The unrest also dominated the activist agenda, with chanting, keffiyehwearing climate justice defenders urging a cease fire and an end to Israel's 17-year blockade of the Gaza Strip.

-ADVERTISEMENT-"We are here to express our solidarity with the Palestinians and call for a permanent ceasefire," Lidy



Nacpil, representing a coalition of 350 climate justice organisations, told a press conference on the sidelines of the COP gathering.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who arrived in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday, met with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the summit's sidelines as part of Israel's ongoing efforts to see the release prisoners.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas is also expected to be at COP28 and will be in the same room as Herzog on Friday, as they are scheduled to give speeches just minutes apart.Some activists at the press conference chanted "Free Palestine" and other

"It's our duty as protectors of motherland and the mother Earth, and also protectors of humans, to speak up publicly and demand a ceasefire and the end of the occupation," said Rania Harrara of the MENA Feminist Taskforce.

Dozens of people also

attended a separate gathering calling for an end to the Israeli aggression.

"We see the same rich countries who say there is no money to help pay for the damage they caused to the climate, say they have no problem paying for bombs raining on innocent people," said Asad Rehman, lead spokesperson for the Climate Justice Coalition.

The activists at COP28 included Tariq Luthun from Gaza, who is a member of the Climate Action Network.The 32-year-old based in the United States said the vast majority of his family is in the narrow Palestinian territory, including extended family members who have died in the latest

attacks by Israeli forces. "If we don't take stances in moments that are so high urgency like this, we allow a precedent to be set where this kind of violence becomes normalised.

CMYK

DC Bandipora reviews arrangements for smooth conduct of JKSSB exams

■ HT News Network

13TH EADLINES

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 01: In connection with the ensuing examinations of Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) scheduled to be held on December 10, a review meeting was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad at Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, here.

At the outset, the DC discussed threadbare the arrange-

ments to be put in place for the smooth conduct of the JKSSB forthcoming examination.

It was given out that the examination is being held at 21 centers in the District.

During the meeting the police department was directed to ensure adequate deployment of Police personnel.

Similarly, the Traffic Department was directed to ensure proper traffic arrangements in and around the designated examination centres.



vided to the IKSSB for transportation of material to the exam centres through the Vehicles of RTO for transport of the material.

Likewise, PDD was asked to $ensure\,uninterrupted\,power\,supply$

During the meeting, it was decided that section 144 Crpc shall be imposed around the examination

While supervisors and duty magistrates were also deployed to ensure smooth and hassle free con-

While proper escort is pro- duct of examination. The meeting was attended by ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi, ACR Bandipora Shabir Ahmad, besides other concerned. While proper escort is provided to the JKSSB for transportation of material to the exam centres through the Vehicles of RTO for transport of the material. Likewise, PDD was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply at the Centers.

During the meeting, it was decided that section 144 Crpc shall be imposed around the examination centres.

DHEW Shopian organises

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 01: The District Hub for Empow-

erment of Women (DHEW) Shopian under Mission

Shakti today organised an awareness programme, at

Keller, Shopian under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', a step

The programme was attended by Sarpanch, Panchs,

AWWs, Asha workers, social activists, local women

DHEW officials highlighted the essence of empower-

ment of women, their role in society and encouraged

the women to fight against all the odds of the society

The speakers and community leaders shared their

insights and stories to motivate the young girls and

encouraged them to pursue their dreams in diverse

The event left a positive impact on the attendees,

The team also highlighted government initiatives

and schemes meant for women empowerment and

asked them to avail the opportunities for their overall

reinforcing the message that every girl deserves a fair

including gender-based discrimination.

chance at education and a prosperous life.

towards empowerment of girls through education.

awareness programme

under BBBP

and students.

upliftment.

DC Budgam reviews action taken on issues raised by people during Public Darbar Stresses on timely execution & redressal of actionable demands/grievances

HT News Network

BUDGAM, DECEMBER 01: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting to review action taken on issues raised by general public during a public darbar chaired by Principal Secretary Dheeraj Gupta on October-27 at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall in Budgam.

During the meeting, the DC took issue wise review of action taken.

At the outset, the DC instructed officers to ensure timely completion and redressal of all actionable demands/ grievances projected by people of Budgam during the public darbar.

He impressed upon all concerned to $ensure\,prompt\,public\,service\,delivery\,and$ redressal of genuine demands of the gen-

The DC said that the district administra-



tion is committed towards ensuring completion of developmental projects of the area in a time bound manner. He said all

the suggestions of people which were duly recorded shall be strictly pursued for taking them to the logical end.

The meeting among others was attended by ADDC Budgam, Dr Akramullah Tak, ACD, CPO, SDM, CMO, CEO, Executive Engineers from different engineering wings, BDOs, Tehsildars, EOs and other concerned officers and officials.

It is apt to mention that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has deployed the Administrative Secretaries to conduct Public Darbars in the assigned districts to hear and redress the grievances of the general public. He impressed upon all concerned to ensure prompt public service delivery and redressal of genuine demands of the general public.

The DC said that the district administration is committed towards ensuring completion of developmental projects of the area in a time bound manner. He said all the suggestions of people which were duly recorded shall be strictly pursued for taking them to the logical end.

TLSC Kangan organizes Awareness programme on **World AIDS Day**

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 01: Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Kangan today observed World HIV/ AIDS Day at Trauma Hospital Kangan.

The programme, organized under the Chairmanship of Chairman TLSC Kangan, Easar-Ul-Nabi was attended by Medical Superintendent Trauma Hospital Kangan, Dr. Salma and medical and Para Medical Staff of hospital, Resource Person Advocate Sajad Ahmad Khan, Staff Members and PLVs of Tehsil Legal Services Committee Kangan and general public.

Chairman TLSC Kangan said on the occasion that HIV AIDS can only be prevented by making society aware about proper preventive measures and how to maintain a hygienic life.

Dr. Shabir Ahmad Rather and Dr. Insha delivered lectures on the said topic and highlighted ways, methods and preventive measures to prevent the spread of HIV

Dr. Shabir Ahmad Rather speaking on the occasion said that the theme of this year's day is 'Let Communities Lead' because Change depends not on a moment but on a movement. He urged the gathering to spread awareness among common people how to prevent HIV Aids.

Resource Person Advocate Sajad Ahmad Khan threw light on the statistics of HIV AIDS in India and the World. He said as of 2020 AIDS has killed between 27.2 million people in India and 47.8 Million people worldwide and an estimated 37.7 million people are living with HIV, making it one of the most important global public health issues in recorded history. He also said in many regions of the world, the death rate from the AIDS epidemic has decreased by 64% since its peak in 2004.

DC Kulgam reviews beautification measures of Towns

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, DECEM-BER 01: In order to review the steps being taken for beautification of towns falling under municipalities of the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today convened a meeting of all the concerned officers at minisecretariat, here.

At the outset, Executive Officers of Municipalities elaborated on measures being taken by them for beautification of towns.



During the meeting, DC reviewed measures being taken for beautification wherein threadbare discussion was held on facelift of market places, creation of open and green spaces, street lighting, traffic signals, development of pavements, creation of vendor zones in all four towns of Kulgam district.

He emphasized that with the smaller and creative interventions, we can beautify our towns and give them a better aesthetic look.

The DC during the meeting also reviewed the status of works and instructed to ensure timely completion of works.

ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rather; ACR, Mir Imtivaz Ul Aziz; JDP, Zahid Sajjad; SE R&B, AEEs, EOs, Town Planner and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

organized at IUST

Program under UBA 2.0

■ HT News Network

December 1, 2023 - Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organized a two-day Health Awareness Drive targeting the girl students of High School Gooripora under University's Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) 2.0 program.

The programme organized by the office of Dean Outreach in collaboration with IUST Health Centre, was coordinated by Er. Romana Yousuf, IUST UBA Coordina tor. Focused on spreading health awareness among adolescent girls, the program emphasized on Women's Health particularly Menstrual Health and Hygiene, while advocating the significance of improved sanitary amenities for girls both at home and within educational institutions. Prof. Lily Want, Dean Outreach IUST said that this program signifies IUST's commitment to holistic education and societal welfare, reinforcing the institution's dedication towards nurturing wellinformed and healthy communities.

The IUST team including University Medical Officer Dr. Zahida Rasool and Ms. Shaiqa Nasreen, also distributed health kits among the female students.

JAKFAS welcomes Atal Dulloo on assuming charge as new CS

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, DECEMBER 01: The Jammu & Kashmir Finance and Accounts Society (JAKFAS) extended a warm welcome to Atal Dulloo, upon his assumption of the charge as new Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir.

Director General Budget, Yaqoob Itoo; Iftikhar Hussain Chauhan, President JAKFAS; Vice President (J), Sonam Singh; Joint Director Budget, Shafaat Yehya; Deputy Director Codes, Sonika Arora; Deputy Director Codes, Shafait Rehman; Deputy Director Budget, Shahnawaz Ahmed; Accounts Officer, Tariq Malik; and Accounts Officer, Vishesh Kapoor, presented a bouquet on behalf of the Society.

Expressing their happiness, the members of JAKFAS wished Dulloo all the best for his new role and offered their heartfelt wishes for his success as the Chief Secretary of the UT.KVK Kulgam organizes day long Awareness programme

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Tavera permit while travelling from Pulwama to Srinagar bearing number 'JK03B-6772'. Having permit number-2238/MC/Anantnag. Now I want to apply for it's duplicate . Anybody having any objection should contact ARTO Anantnag within 7 days from the publishing of this notice.

> Owner Name-Kaiser Ahmed Lone S/O- Ali Mohammad Lone R/O- Malikpora Pulwama. Contact no- 7006799643/ 9797135101

Training for smooth conduct of ensuing JKSSB's OMR based exams held at Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, DECEMBER 01: In order to ensure smooth conduct of

upcoming OMR based examination for the posts of Panchayat Secretaries being conducted by JKSSB, a Training session of Superintendents/ Dy Superintendents was conducted at minisecretariat Kulgam, today.The Training was imparted by Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, Member JKSSB and Vigar Ahmed Giri ADC Kulgam (Chief Inspector).This was informed that the examination has been scheduled on 10th

December 2023 in 35 Centres in District Kulgam. During the Training session, the participants were sensitized about the SOPs of the examination.

It was further reiterated that Mobile Phones/Smart watches/other gadgets shall not be allowed in the examination centres. The session ended with a question and answer session regarding the queries for the conduct of examination.

DLSA Kishtwar organises awareness event to observe World HIV AIDS Day

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 01: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare today organised a comprehensive awareness program in the District Hospital to mark observance of World HIV AIDS Day. The initiative aimed to educate, inform, and engage participants in understanding the implications of HIV AIDS in the society. Advocate Pooja Shan and Advocate Iram Sabha led the program as resource persons. Dr. Mohd. Yaqoob Mir (CMO) and Dr. Yudhveer Singh Kotwal (Medical Superintendent) provided essential insights into the prevention of spread of AIDS, emphasizing measures pivotal to its control and eradication from the country.

The event witnessed valuable contribution from the students of the nursing college, further highlighting the importance global health concern. The theme for this



year's World AIDS Day, "LET COMMUNITIES LEAD," underscores the significant role communities play in shaping the HIV response and global health at large. This day serves as a crucial platform to assess achieved progress, raise awareness about persisting challenges, and mobilize all stakeholders to redouble their efforts, ensuring the success of the HIV response. Moreover, the program stressed the critical need to eradicate AIDS from the country without of collective efforts towards combating this discrimination. Upholding the principles

Rehabilitation of street vendors in Kupwara Town being held to ensure Decongestion on roads

■ HT News Network

nificant move towards urban development vending zone, including amenities such as and inclusive growth, the Municipal Council Kupwara has undertaken shifting and rehabilitation of street vendors to approximately, 07 Kanal of State Land near Sumo

Recognizing the vital role played by street vendors in the informal economy, this initiative aims to create a more organized and sustainable urban environment in the town.

The initiative focuses on reducing congestion in crowded market roads by relocating street vendors to designated zones. This strategic move is geared towards creating a more efficient and harmonious cityscape with smooth traffic flow.

The district administration is committed towards ensuring the livelihood security of street vendors. Adequate measures are being implemented to safeguard their economic interests and provide support for a smooth shift.

The relocation will offer development KUPWARA, DECEMBER 01: In a sig- of infrastructure in the new designated proper stalls, sanitation facilities, and waste management systems to enhance the working conditions of vendors in days to come.

A robust public awareness campaign preceded to inform citizens about the rationale behind this initiative. The move has received huge support from the vast majority of people who believe that transformation will help bring positive impact on both vendors and the overall urban landscape.Municipal Council Kupwara is actively involved in ensuring a seamless transition by involving Street vendors, as key stakeholders, in the decision-making process. Their insights and feedback are considered to make the transition process more inclusive and responsive to their needs.

This initiative reflects the District Administration commitment towards balancing urban development with social



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Exercise May Help Treat and Prevent Postpartum Depression, Study Finds

ostpartum depression is a debiltating condition affecting 1 in 8 pregnanciesTrusted Source. Diagnoses are often overlooked, meaning the prevalence of postpartum depression (PPD) may be higher

than current estimates. Treatment for postpartum depression may range from antidepressants to psychotherapy and social support.

Now, a new meta-analysis found that moderate-intensity exercise was significantly effective in reducing postpartum depression compared to standard care. The findings were published November 29 in the journal PLOS ONE.

Also of note, the study authors say that exercise is also associated with preventing postpartum depression onset.

"The results of our study are intriguing," study co-author Renyi Liu, a PhD student and associate professor at the China University of Geosciences in Wuhan, told

"While we anticipated positive outcomes associated with exercise, the remarkable degree of effectiveness, especially with moderate intensity and frequency, was surprising. This reinforces the potential role of exercise in managing and preventing postpartum depression."

While there are countless benefits to exercise, experts caution it should not be considered a substitute for first-line postpartum depression treatments, particularly in severe cases. Can exercise help postpartum depression?

The new research builds on prior evidenceTrusted Source suggesting the benefits of exercise for postpartum depression. The meta-analysis includes 26 studies comprising 2,867 subjects across 11 countries and regions, including China, where the study was conducted.

Researchers compared subjects who participated in various forms of aerobic exercise to a control group receiving standard care. The types of exercise studied included:



swimming cycling, walking, running yoga other sports

The analysis shows the effectiveness of aerobic exercise in both prevention and treatment for postpartum depression is significant compared to standard care, with a stronger emphasis on prevention.

The authors found the optimal prescribed exercise regimen is 3–4 times per week at moderate intensity for 35–45

All forms of exercise studied were effective in treating and preventing postpartum depression with the exception of the yoga

"Based on our research findings, initiating an exercise program during pregnancy and continuing postpartum appears to be beneficial," Liu said.

"However, individual circumstances may vary, and it is advisable to consult healthcare providers to tailor exercise recommendations based on specific needs and conditions."The researchers noted limitations in their findings, such as potential selection bias and variations in participant exercise regimens.

The risk of bias was evident in the yoga group, Liu said, which did not show a

significant improvement in postpartum depression symptoms or onset compared to the control group. Still, Liu noted that yoga is still considered a viable option for

"The aim was to identify a more optimal aerobic exercise based on its effectiveness. After grouping, the variability in the intervention effects within the yoga group is most likely attributed to a risk of bias in the results of studies that employed yoga as an intervention," Liu said.

"This bias may arise due to various factors, such as study design, intervention type, and participant characteristics."

Other factors, such as mood enhancement from team-based and supervised exercise, may have also affected the study's

The authors wrote it's important to "exercise caution" when interpreting the findings. They say further research is needed to fully understand the effects of various forms of exercise, including yoga, on postpartum depression.

Exercise vs. antidepressants for postpartum depression

Liu explained that the standard care group in the meta-analysis involved education, psychological support, and recommendations for physical activity without prescribing structured exercise.

The standard treatment group did not, however, closely examine antidepressant

"Medication was not included in the preventive process for PPD," Liu said. "In the treatment of PPD, medication usage is generally considered based on the severity of the condition and patient preference. In this study, which primarily focuses on treatment, the reported interventions almost entirely exclude the use of antidepressant medications.'

Clinical psychologist Dr. Eynav Accortt, PhD, director of the Reproductive Psychology Program and assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, emphasized the value of psychotherapy and antidepressants for treating postpartum depression.

Accortt was not involved in the study. Severe cases of postpartum depression may interfere with an individual's ability to function and may require fast-acting antidepressants like the recently approved

postpartum depression pill, Zuranolone. According to Accortt, while research continues to show the benefits of exercise for postpartum depression, there's typi-

cally only a slight reduction in symptoms. "Exercise is not a treatment for moderate to severe postpartum depression or anxiety," she told Healthline.

"When people tout this claim as if you don't even need your antidepressants, you don't need to go to psychotherapy, all you got to do is exercise, that's really a simplified and actually dangerous approach."

Accortt noted that exercise may be a helpful adjunctive therapy for postpartum depression, but, in many cases, it is usually in combination with psychological or medical treatments.

Physical activity is often recommended during pregnancy and postpartum once your physician has cleared you for exercise.

However, a pregnant and postpartum person may experience significant physical changes that prevent them from safely engaging in certain forms of exercise.

FOOD

@headlinestodaynews

05 Warm And **Comforting Drinks You Must Have This Winter Season**



s winter wraps its chilly embrace around the world, there's nothing quite like sipping on a warm and comforting beverage to ward off the cold. Winter drinks offer a diverse palette of flavors, each contributing to the season's warmth and comfort. Whether you prefer the classic elegance of hot chocolate or you're a 'chai' fan, there's a perfect winter beverage waiting to be savored during this festive season.

From traditional classics to trendy concoctions, winter drinks offer a delightful array of flavors and aromas that evoke feelings of coziness and joy.

1. Hot Chocolate Heaven:

At the top of the list is the timeless classic - hot chocolate. Velvety, rich, and topped with a dollop of whipped cream or marshmallows, hot chocolate is the epitome of winter indulgence. Experimenting with various types of chocolate, from dark and intense to creamy milk chocolate, adds a personalized touch..

2. Comfort in a Cup:

For those seeking a caffeine boost with a winter twist, flavored lattes step up to the plate. Whether it's a spiced pumpkin latte or a gingerbread-infused creation, these aromatic brews provide the perfect balance of warmth and comfort.

3. Chai Charm:

Indulge in the aromatic embrace of chai tea, a popular winter beverage that originates from South Asia. The blend of black tea, aromatic spices, and warm milk creates a soul-soothing experience that transcends cultural boundaries. Customize the spice level to suit individual tastes for the perfect cup.

4. Cider Serenity:

Apple cider, simmered with cinnamon sticks and cloves, captures the essence of autumn and winter. Served warm, this beverage offers a delightful blend of sweetness and spice, making it a versatile choice for both family gatherings and quiet evenings at

5. Peppermint Perfection:

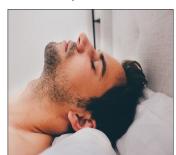
Peppermint-flavored drinks add a refreshing twist to winter sips. Whether it's a peppermint mocha or a simple peppermint hot cocoa, the cool and invigorating flavor profile provides a delightful contrast to the cold weather outside.

Improving Deep Sleep May Help Avoid Dementia: Study

ccording to one study, a 1 per cent reduction in deep sleep per year for people over the increased risk of dementia. The study also implies that improving or sustaining deep sleep, commonly known as slow-wave sleep, in later life may aid in the prevention of dementia.

The study, led by Associate Professor Matthew Pase, from

the Monash School of Psychological Sciences and the Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health in Melbourne, Australia, age of 60 results in a 27 per cent and published today in JAMA Neurology, looked at 346 participants, over 60 years of age, enrolled in the Framingham Heart Study who completed two overnight sleep studies in the time periods 1995 to 1998 and 2001 to 2003, with an average of five years between the two stud-



ies. These participants were then carefully followed for dementia

study through to 2018. The researchers found, on average, that the amount of deep sleep risk of dementia. declined between the two studies, indicating slow wave sleep loss with ageing. Over the next 17 years of follow-up, there were 52 cases of dementia. Even adjusting for age, sex, cohort, genetic factors, smoking status, sleeping medication use, antidepressant use, and anxiolytic use,

 $from \, the \, time \, of \, the \, second \, sleep \qquad each \, percentage \, decrease \, in \, deep$ sleep each year was associated with a 27 per cent increase in the

"Slow-wave sleep, or deep sleep, supports the ageing brain in many ways, and we know that sleep augments the clearance of metabolic waste from the brain, including facilitating the clearance of proteins that aggregate in Alzheimer's disease," Associate Professor Pase said.

High Blood Sugar: More Junk Food, Lack Of Exercise Is **Spiking Diabetes Risk In Young Indians, Says Experts**

¬ hifting lifestyles, with almost zero exercise and increased consumption of junk foods, are the major reasons behind the significant surge in Type 2 diabetes cases among vounger populations, both globally and particularly in India, in the last 10 years, said doctors on Thursday ahead of World Diabetes

World Diabetes Day is observed every year on November 14 to raise awareness about the blood sugar condition. India, also known as the diabetes capital of the world, has witnessed a troubling increase in Type 2 diabetes prevalence among young adults, as studies indicate a steady surge in cases among those aged 20-40. A recent Indian Council of Medical Research-INdia DIABetes (ICMR-INDIAB) study showed that a tenth of all Indians have diabetes. The country is home to 101 million diabetics and 136 million pre-diabetic people. The concerning trend poses substantial long-term health challenges involving other functions of the body



tem, kidneys, and more.

"In young individuals, potential signs of Type 2 diabetes include frequent urination, increased thirst, excessive hunger, unexplained weight loss, chronic fatigue, blurred vision, slow wound healing, and recurring infections. These symptoms may indicate elevated blood sugar levels and should prompt medical evaluation. Early detection and management are vital to prevent complications associated with diabetes." said Dr. Mohit Sharma, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, Department of Endocrinology, Amrita Hospital, Faridabad.

He called for continued monitoring as many times, the symptoms tend to go unnoticed."The number of people suffering from diabetes is continuously increasing. Previously, we used to see diabetes only in the older population but currently we are seeing increasing cases of diabetes in the younger population," Dr Tushar Tayal, Lead Consultant, Department of Internal Medicine, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram, told IANS."The main factor for developing diabetes presently is our lifestyle. Lifestyle, if we talk about it, there's a lack of exercise, and then eating junk food and food which is rich in refined flour and refined sugar, and lots of trans fat,"

Type 2 diabetes significantly also impacts the cardiovascular system, increasing the risk of heart attacks, angina, sudden cardiac death, heart failure, strokes, and peripheral arterial disease. It can also have an adverse effect on an individual's kidneys.

Younger individuals, especially women in some cases, often face a higher threat of falling prey to diabetes with a history of gestational diabetes and early puberty. In addition, ethnic and racial minorities, lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and exposure to urban environments also make for higher susceptibility rates, the doctors said. The health experts recommended following a disciplined lifestyle to help overcome the risk factors. "Exercise for 150 minutes per week, or do 30 minutes of brisk cardio activity every day which can be cycling, jogging, running, swimming, brisk walking,'

Dr Tayal said.

Iron Deficiency: Why Iron Is A Dietary **Essential For Young Girls?**

ron plays a pivotal role in meeting the dietary needs of young girls, especially during the crucial phase of adolescence. This period is marked by rapid growth and development, making sufficient iron intake of paramount importance. According to Mr. Subhadeep Dasgupta, Business Head at Gritzo, "Iron's diverse functions also encompass supporting growth, muscle development, and the maturation of vital organs during this pivotal life stage."

"Iron contributes to sustaining energy levels, cognitive function, and a robust immune system, all vital components for young girls as they venture into new environments and social settings." "The commencement of menstruation amplifies the significance of meeting their increased iron needs. Monthly blood losses necessitate the prioritization of ironrich foods, including lean meats, poultry, fish, legumes, and fortified cereals. Combining these dietary choices with sources of vitamin C, such as citrus fruits and leafy greens, is essential as it enhances iron absorption," Mr. Subhadeep further high-

In an interview with Zee News English, Dr Vijay Ramanan, Sr. Consultant Clinical Haematologist, Director Clinical Hematology, Bone Marrow & Stem Cell Transplant, Ruby Hall Clinic Pune says, "It's important for



young girls to consume iron-rich foods like lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, lentils, fortified cereals, and dark leafy greens usually cooked in iron utensils. Additionally, pairing these foods with sources of vitamin C can enhance iron absorption."

Importance of Iron in Diet

Preventing Iron-deficiency Anemia: Young girls entering puberty experience a surge shared by in their iron requirements due to menstruation, making the prevention of irondeficiency anemia a top priority. Iron is indispensable for the production of hemoglobin, a protein that carries oxygen in red blood cells. Anemia can lead to fatigue, weakness, and diminished concentration, negatively impacting their academic and daily activities. Supporting Growth and

Development: Iron plays a crucial role in cell growth and differentiation, which is vital for the growth spurt that characterizes adolescence. Ensuring an adequate iron intake supports the development of muscles, organs, and overall physical growth.

Cognitive Function: Proper brain function is reliant on iron. Inadequate iron intake can result in cognitive deficits, affecting memory, concentration, and learning abilities in young

Immune System Support: Iron is an integral part of the immune system, defending the body against infections and illnesses.

Treatment for Iron Deficiency

For effective treatment to rectify iron deficiency as shared by Dr Vijay-Sr. Consultant Clinical Haematologist, suggests:

1. Deworm with Albendazole, Ivermectin, or an appropriate deworming agent to address worm infestations.

2. Use iron supplementation with tablets, typically every alternate day to minimize the risk of constipation

or diarrhea. 3. Opt for iron utensils in cooking and reduce the consumption of black coffee, tea, and betel nut.

4. Incorporate iron-rich foods like dark jaggery, green leafy vegetables, or liver into the diet to maintain healthy iron levels.

HT-SPORTS

INDIA GO DOWN 3-4 TO GERMANY AT FIH WOMEN'S JUNIOR WORLD CUP

@HEADLINESTODA17

failed to hold on to early leads as Germany came back from behind to register a narrow 4-3 win in a thrilling FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup game here in Chile on Friday.

13TH HEADLINES

For India, Annu (11'), Ropni Kumari (14'), and Mumtaz Khan (24') were the scorers, while Sophia Schwabe (17'), Laura Pluth (21', 36'), and Carolin Seidel's (38') netted goals for Germany.

Playing their second game in the elite tourney, India quickly settled into a passing rhythm, dominating the exchanges in the opening quarter by controlling possession and continuously testing Germany's defensive line.

Despite their early efforts, India were thwarted by Germany's sturdy defence, prevent-

SANTIAGO. DEC 1: India ingthem from scoring until the closing minutes of the quarter. It was during this period of sustained pressure that the Indian team secured consecutive penalty corners, and Annu (11') capitalised on the second opportunity with a powerful shot, finally putting her team in the lead.

Shortly after breaking the deadlock, India further solidified their position as Ropni Kumari (14') elegantly found the net with a well-executed shot from another penalty corner. The first quarter concluded with India leading 2-0, marking a successful start for the team.

Germany, determined to turn the tide, approached the second quarter with renewed zeal. Their efforts bore fruit as Sophia Schwabe (17') scored an impres-



sive field goal, reducing the deficit for Germany. Building on this momentum, Laura Plu-

th (21') fired a powerful strike to level the score.

However, India swiftly responded as Mumtaz Khan (24') skillfully put the ball past the opposition's goalkeeper, shifting the momentum back in India's favour and putting them in front again as they went into the half-time break with a 3-2 lead.

Determined to maintain their lead, India prioritized ball possession in the third quarter, yet Germany managed to level the score. Laura Pluth (36') struck for the second time, equalizing the game. Motivated by their resurgence, Germany intensified their attacks, seizing the lead with Carolin Seidel's (38') goal from a penalty corner.

India, eager to retaliate, increased their frequency of attacks. But, despite their efforts, the score remained 4-3 in favour of Germany by the close of the third quarter.

The final quarter witnessed an aggressive display from both sides, with Germany coming close to extending their lead. However, Indian goalkeeper Madhuri Kindo's exceptional save in a one-on-one situation denied Germany a chance to extend their lead.

Meanwhile, India earned consecutive penalty corners in the dying minutes but failed to convert. The fourth quarter concluded without any goals, culminating in a 4-3 victory for Germany.

The Indian team will next take on Belgium in their third match of the tournament on December 2 at 18:30hrs IST. (UNI)

PRESS RELEASE

On behalf of Netball Association Of Jammu & Kashmir we are excited to announce another opportunity for trails for talented and dedicated registered netball players under NAJK at Matipora Pattan sports field on 2-12-2023 & 3-12-2023 in the under 16 (Sub-junior), under 19 (Junior) and Senior categories for upcoming UT Tournament. Aspiring athletes who are already registered members and interested to be registered (freshly) are invited to showcase their skills and passion.

The trials will provide a platform exclusively for registered players within these age brackets to demonstrate their abilities, teamwork, and commitment to the game. It is pertinent to mention here that players from this UT championship will be selected for upcoming National Championship. This initiative aims to identify and nurture the next generation of netball stars among our registered membership, fostering their growth and development within the sport.

"We are thrilled to provide this exclusive opportunity for registered netball players across different age groups to Demonstrate their potential and passion for the sport. These trials represent a vital step in our commitment to fostering talent and excellence in netball among our registered membership, and we look forward to uncovering and nurturing the future stars of the game.

For further information and registration details contact: 7006429347, 7006299285

Dominica pulls out of hosting

T20 World Cup matches

LONDON, DEC 1: Dominica will not host any matches

Dominica was one of seven countries in the Caribbean shortlisted to host the T20 World Cup, which will be co-

hosted by the West Indies and the USA from June 4 to 30

next year. This list was determined by the ICC in coordi-

nation with CWI based on the bids from local governments.

It is understood that all major cricketing destinations

across the West Indies submitted bids, barring three

According to the Dominica government's statement,

Windsor Park had been shortlisted to host one group match and two Super 8 games, subject to the venue

meeting obligations set out in a Memorandum of Under-

"Several tangible actions were taken both at the Wind-

sor Park Sports Stadium and at the Benjamin's Park

including the commencement of upgrading and enhance-

ment of the practice and match venues, various assess-

ments and the creation of additional pitches where

necessary," the Dominica government's statement read.

by the various contractors revealed that it would not be

possible to complete these works within the stipulated

timeframe before the commencement of the tournament.

As a result, a decision was taken not to host any of the

matches in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 as it would

not be prudent for the Government of Dominica to com-

international cricket, this decision is considered to be in the

best interest of all. The Government of Dominica thanks

Cricket West Indies (CWI) for its partnership over the years

and looks forward to continued collaboration in the future.

The Government of Dominica extends best wishes to the

Johnny Grave, CWI chief executive, said that the board

understood Dominica's reasons for withdrawing from the

process. In a press release, CWI added that it was working

with the ICC to confirm the T20 World Cup schedule and

organisers for a successful tournament in June 2024."

that an announcement was "expected imminently".

"In light of Dominica's sterling reputation in hosting

"However, the implementation timelines submitted

countries: Jamaica, Grenada and St Kitts & Nevis.

during the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup. The government

of Dominica took the decision stating the country's inability to complete work on practice and match venues

before the tournament commences.

standing (MOU).

mit to hosting these games.

West Indies' Shane Dowrich announces international retirement

ANTIGUA, DEC 1: West Indies' Shane Dowrich has retired from international cricket with immediate effect. The 32-year-old was named in West Indies squad for England ODIs, which begin from 3 December, but withdrew and stated his intention to retire from the game. Cricket West Indies have decided not to name a replacement for Dowrich with captain Shai Hope set to take over wicket-keeping duties.

Dowrich, who made his international debut in 2015, played one ODI in 2019, against Bangla-

desh, an ICC report said. He has been a more regular

presence in the Test side, having played 35 matches, scoring 1570 runs at an average of 29.07 with three centuries and nine fifties to his name. He also effected 90 dismissals.

"We want to thank Shane for contribution when he played for West Indies," said Miles Bascombe, CWI's Director of Cricket.

"He is a disciplined, hard-working cricketer who always gave his utmost in front and behind the stumps. He had a memorable series in 2019 when he made an outstanding Test century on home soil in Barbados to help us beat England and win the Wisden



Trophy," Bascombe said.

"We respect his decision to retire and appreciate it is not an easy one to make. We wish him all the best as he steps away from the international stage," he added.

West Indies will host England for three ODIs and five T20Is from December 3 to 21.

West Indies ODI squad: Shai Hope (c,wk), Alzarri Joseph (vc), Alick Athanaze, Yannic Cariah, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Brandon King, Gudakesh Motie, Kjorn Ottley, Sherfane Rutherford, Romario Shepherd, Oshane Thomas.

Australia's ODI World Cup champions enter 2024 IPL auction at highest base price

The ten franchises have a total of 77 slots to fill at the auction on December 19 in Dubai

DUBAI, DEC 1: Seven of Australia's ODI World Cup winning squad - Pat Cummins, Travis Head, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Steven Smith, Josh Inglis and Sean Abbott - are among 25 players to enter the 2024 IPL player auction with a base price of INR 2 crore (USD 240,000 approximately).

The auction will take place on December 19 in Dubai, the first time it has been held outside India.

New Zealand batting allrounder Rachin Ravindra, who scored 578 runs at a strike rate of 106 and took five wickets at the World Cup, has listed his base price at INR 50 lakhs (USD 60,000 approximately).

Some of the other significant players in the highest base price band are fast bowler Gerald Coetzee, who was South Africa's highest wicket-taker at the World Cup, and England batter Harry Brook, who was released by Sunrisers Hyderabad, along with Harshal Patel, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav and Kedar Jadhav.

The ten franchises have a total of 77 slots to fill, of which 30 can be overseas players. Based on skillset and performance at the recent ODI World Cup, Starc, Head and Ravindra are being tipped to spark fierce bidding among the franchises. If Starc gets bought, he will be returning to the IPL after eight years, having last played the 2015 season for RCB. He did enter the 2018 auction, where he was bought for INR 9.4 crore by KKR, but missed the season because of injury. This time, however, Starc is keen to utilise the IPL as preparation for the 2024 T20 World Cup in June.

Head was the Player of the Match in the semis and finals of the 2023 ODI World Cup last month. He hasn't played the IPL since 2017, when he was part of RCB and played tengames across two seasons, scoring 205 runs at a strike rate of 138.51.

On Friday, the IPL shared with the franchises a long list of 1166 players who had registered for the auction. The final pool, however, will be much smaller after the teams submit the names of players they are interested

F	RANCHISE	MONEY SPENT	MONEY AVAILABLE	AVAILIABLE SLOTS	OVERSEA SLOT
(a)	CSK	68.6	31.4	6	
8	DC	71.05	28.95	9	
0	GT	61.85	38.15	8	
•	KKR	67.3	32.7	12	
&	LSG	86.85	13.15	6	
<i>(3)</i>	MI	82.25	17.75	8	
©	PBKS	70.9	29.1	8	
6	RCB	76.75	23.25	6	
I	RR	85.5	14.5	8	
* !	SRH	66	34	6	1
	Total	737.05	262.95	777	3

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in to the IPL. The long list includes 45 players from Associate nations, 909 uncapped players of which 812 are Indian, and 18 capped Indian players.

Base Price INR2 crore (USD 240,000 approximately): Harshal Patel, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav, Kedar Jadhav, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Sean Abbott, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Starc, Steve Smith, Mustafizur Rahman, Tom Banton, Harry Brook, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Adil Rashid, David Willey, Chris Woakes, Lockie Ferguson, Gerald Coetzee, Rilee Rossouw, Rassie van der Dussen, Angelo Mathews

Base price INR 1.5 CR (USD 180,000 approximately): Mohammad Nabi, Moises Henriques, Chris Lynn, Kane Richardson, Daniel Sams, Daniel Worrall, Tom Curran, Marchant de Lange, Chris Jordan, Dawid Malan, Tymal Mills, Phil Salt, Corey Anderson, Colin Munro, Jimmy Neesham, Tim Southee, Colin Ingram, Wanindu Hasaranga, Jason Holder, Sherfane Rutherford

Base price INR 1 CR (USD 120,000 approximately): Ashton Agar, Riley Meredith, D'Arcy Short, Ashton Turner, Gus Atkinson, Sam Billings, Michael Bracewell, Martin Guptill, Kyle Jamieson, Adam Milne, Daryl Mitchell, Wayne Parnell, Dwaine Pretorius, Alzarri Joseph, Rovman Powell, David

Kohli and Rohit rested for whiteball games in SA; Suryakumar to lead in T20Is, Rahul in ODIs

NEW DELHI, DEC 1: Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have taken a break from the white-ball leg of the South Africa tour next month. As a result, Suryakumar Yadav will continue to lead the T20I side and KLRahul will take over the ODI captaincy once again.

Suryakumar gets to continue in the leadership role after the ongoing T20I series against Australia because Hardik Pandya, who had been leading in the format after the T20 World Cup last year, is still out with an ankle injury he picked up during the recent ODI World Cup.

Both Kohli and Rohit have not played any T20Is since the T20 World Cup last year when they lost to England in the semi-finals in Adelaide.

After taking a break from the current T20I series against Australia that started just four days after the World Cup finalagainst the same opponents, Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Siraj all returned to the T20I squad for the South Africa tour. The players who make way for them are Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Prasidh Krishnaand Avesh Khan. Axarand Aveshare, however, part of the ODI squad, and Prasidh in the Test side.

While the batting line-up mostly remains the same for the T20Is, the bowling attack will have a lot more experience with the return of Jadeja, Chahar, Kuldeep and Siraj, perhaps a hint towards how the team management and selectors arethinkingfortheT20WorldCupjustmorethansixmonths

The ODI squad sees a lot more changes with only Rahul, Shreyas Iyer and Kuldeep retained from the ODI World Cup squad. Rinku Singh and B Sai Sudharsan earned their maiden ODI call-ups whereas Rajat Patidar was recalled after he had been part of the squad earlier this year against New Zealand as a replacement for Iyer, but didn't get a game then. Also back in the ODI side were Yuzvendra Chahal, Sanju Samson, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Tilak Varma, Washington Sundar, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh, Arshdeep Singh and Deepak Chahar, who also recently returned to the T20I set-up for the Australia series.

Chahal has picked up nine wickets in the last week in four one-day games for Haryana in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, including a six-for against Uttarakhand. Samson, too, is representing Kerala in the tournament but has managed just one fifty in four innings for a total of 101 runs at an average of 25.25.

Unlike for the Test and T20I squads, the BCCI release did not name a vice-captain for the ODIs.

Rahul was the India vice-captain during the World Cup after Pandya's injury and has led the ODI side in nine games overall, the first of which was in South Africa in early 2022, when India were whitewashed 3-0. Rahul soon led India again, for a 3-0 series win in Zimbabwe later that year. He has also captained India in the absence of Rohit in three other ODIs all of which they won - one in Bangladesh in December last year and twice against Australia in the home ODIs before the recent World Cup.

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