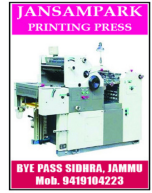




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India does not believe in conflict between ecology and economy: PM

AGENCIES
MYSURU (KATAK), APR 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India did not believe in conflict between ecology and economy but gave importance to coexistence between the two.

Protection of wildlife was a universal issue, Modi said, launching the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), which endeavours to protect and conserve big cats.

The Prime Minister was speaking after inaugurating the programme "Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger" organised at Karnataka State Open University.



Citing data about the tiger population in India, which stood at 3,167 in 2022, Modi said, "The tiger numbers that we have reached shows that

this family of ours is growing. This is a moment of pride." Calling for a standing ovation to celebrate the rise in tiger population, he added, "I'm

confident and I assure the world that in the days to come we will achieve more."

According to the data, the tiger population was 1,411 in 2006, 1,706 in 2010, 2,226 in 2014, 2,967 in 2018 and 3,167 in 2022.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav and Minister of State Ashwini Kumar Choubey were present, among others, at the event.

The Prime Minister said the success of "Project Tiger" was a matter of pride not only for India but the whole world.

Stating that India had not only saved tigers, but

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

PM's tweet gives impetus to tourism, visits to Tulip Garden Rise

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, APR 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tweets praising the beauty of Jammu and Kashmir gave momentum to the

flow of tourists visiting Kashmir valley, especially the Tulip garden on the foothills of Zabarwan in Srinagar.

"Jammu and Kashmir is beautiful, and even more so during the Tulip season", the

Prime Minister had said in a recent tweet.

"The impact of Prime Minister's tweet regarding Jammu and Kashmir and Tulip season had a good effect and tourist

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG addresses Mahavir Janm Kalyanak at Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 9

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the Bhagwan Mahavir Janm Kalyanak, organized by Shree Mahavir Jain Education Society under the aegis of S.S Jain Sabha, today at Jammu.

The Lt Governor called upon every section of the society to take inspiration from the life and teachings of Bhagwan Mahavir and dedicate their lives for the welfare of the downtrodden and rapid development of J&K UT.

"Bhagwan Mahavir's teachings of Ahimsa, Anekantwad and Aparigraha have contributed immensely to our composite culture and his vision is more relevant today than ever before," said the Lt Governor.

"Human consciousness is infinite and the journey with pure awareness will lead to building an egalitarian society and spiritual transformation. The timeless values and



He always emphasised on strong resolve, auspicious thinking and the courage to walk alone on the righteous path, the Lt Governor added.

We should strive to spread Bhagwan Mahavir's teachings to realize the dream of a society built on equity and shared prosperity, he further added.

"Human consciousness is infinite and the journey with pure awareness will lead to building an egalitarian society and spiritual transformation. The timeless values and

wisdom imparted by Bhagwan Mahavir is the greatest strength of society and ultimate source of wisdom for holistic development," observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor urged the young generation to follow the teachings of Bhagwan Mahavir and lead by the ideals espoused by him to shape India's future.

Don't wait for something to happen, rather make the proactive efforts to fulfil your's and the nation's

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

1 intruder shot dead, two others captured near LoC in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 10

Indian Army troops shot dead one intruder and captured two others alive and successfully foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Poonch Sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources on Sunday said that Army troops foiled an infiltration bid and shot dead one intruder and captured two of them out of which, one is injured.

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Leopard kills 19 Sheep, injures 15 in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 9

A leopard killed 19 sheep and injured 15 others in a nocturnal attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Officials said that a leopard entered a sheep shed in Gultha village of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch district during the intervening night of April 8 and 9.

"19 sheep were killed and 15 others injured in this leopard attack," officials said.

9% electricity share from nuclear sources by 2047: Dr Jitendra Singh



AGENCIES
MUMBAI, APR 9

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that nearly 9% electricity share is likely to be contributed from India's nuclear sources by the year 2047 when India celebrates 100 years of independence. This will be clean energy and will help India get closer to its commitment of achieving Net Zero target by 2070.

The Minister said that the other targets laid down by the Department of Atomic Energy are achieving 20 GW capacity of nuclear power generation by the year 2030 which will be a major milestone placing India as the third largest producer of atomic energy in the world after the USA and France.

Dr Jitendra Singh mentioned that the credit for

this rapid stride goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who for the first time after Independence took the decision of approving 10 reactors in fleet mode in a single order and allowed nuclear installations to be developed under joint ventures with PSUs as a result, today India is sixth largest in the world in the number of reactors that are functional and second largest in the total number of reactors including those under construction.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, one hallmark of the Modi regime is that for the first time, in a big way,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Around 2.82 lakh passport applications cleared, 805 rejected in past 3 years: J&K Police

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, APR 9

Around 2.82 lakh passport verification applications were cleared and only 805 rejected in the past three

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

PM addresses issues of Refugees, border people: Ravinder Raina

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMGARH

Addressing the Refugees Sammelan at Ramgarh, the border area of District Samba J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has continuously addressed the issues of Refugees, border people, and other communities.

Ravinder Raina was accompanied by Former Minister and BJP Vice President Surjeet Singh Salathia, BJP District President Thakur Kashmira Singh, DDC Anita Choudhary, BDC Darshan Singh, Sr leader Vijay Singh, Prem Lal, Amit Dubey, and BJP Mandal President Shiv Choudhary.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing



the Sammelan said that the BJP government is dedicated to the welfare of every section. He said that the Modi government has continuously addressed the issues of

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Work on Zojila tunnel in full swing, over 40 % drilling achieved; project to be complete by December 2026

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, APR 9

The work on the strategic Zojila tunnel - an all-weather connection between the Kashmir valley and the Ladakh region - is going on at a rapid pace and over 40% of the drilling has been completed, the construction company said on Sunday.

The company said it is hopeful of completing the project by December 2026.

The tunnel project - through the mighty Zojila Pass at an altitude of 11,578 feet on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National highway - is of strategic impor-



tance as the highway remains closed during winters due to heavy snowfall, cutting off Ladakh region from Kashmir. The single-tube Zojila tunnel

- from Baltal, in the Ganderbal district of central Kashmir, to Minimarg, in Drass town of Kargil district of Ladakh,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Consultations going on for change of rules on identifying Fake News: Kiren Rijiju

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 9

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said amendments to the rules for determining fake news, false news and misrepresentation have been put through a consultation process, but need a lot of deliberations before being enforced.

"We are looking towards making certain amendments in the entire election process. I cannot give any commitment because it is a consultation process which is going on. So the definition of fake news, false news and misrepresentation ... these are all important things



which require a lot of deliberations. We are doing it," Rijiju told reporters here after inaugurating the Legal Aid office.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

India logs 5,357 fresh infections, active covid cases in country climb to 32,814

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 9

India logged 5,357 new coronavirus cases, while the active cases rose to 32,814, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death toll has increased to 5,30,965 with 11 deaths. While three deaths were reported from Gujarat, two were from Himachal Pradesh and one each from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh besides one reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The Covid case tally was recorded at 4.47 crore

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Modi Govt's Rs 5018 cr budget for Agri, allied sectors guarantee to farmers' welfare: Jugal

Organic farming key to farmers' welfare, healthy society: Jhal



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma on Sunday said that the Rs 5018 crore budget allotted by Narendra Modi Government for Agriculture and allied sectors is a guarantee to welfare of farmers in J&K.

The Member Parliament was speaking during a programme organized in Samba by BJP Kissan Morcha to promote organic farming and improving livestock conditions.

It is pertinent to mention that BJP Kissan Morcha under the stewardship of its President Sarabjit Singh Jhal had organized several events at district and Mandal levels across the Union Territory.

The programme held in Samba was specifically designed for the promotion of organic farming. District President Samba,

Mohinder Sharma conceived and organized the event. Ex minister Chander Prakash Ganga, Kashmir Singh, District President Samba, Sunil Shastri District President Rural also attended the programme.

Addressing an impressive gathering of party workers and the local farming community, the Member Parliament Jugal asserted that it is for the first time in the history of J&K that such a big amount has been sanctioned for agriculture and allied sectors. He said that the framers of the UT should be rest assured that there is no dearth of funds as far as support to farmers, orchardists and livestock rearing is concerned.

Sarabjit Singh Jhal laid stress on organic farming and availing the benefits of schemes meant for bovine animals for areas especially falling under the kandi and

plain belts. He asked Morcha members to proactively participate in promoting the BJP's pro-farmers schemes so that the food producers get maximum benefit of such schemes.

Naming the schemes meant for tiller community and allied sectors including National Agriculture Market (eNAM), National Mission For Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Livestock Insurance Scheme, Fisheries Training and Extension, National Scheme on Welfare of Fishermen, Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF), PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) Scheme and Pradhan

Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana, Jhal said that first time in the history of the country so much has been accomplished by the government to ensure welfare of farmers. He said that people should extend wholehearted support to the BJP government at all the platforms to ensure that farmers and all mother sections of society get their due rights and facilities because no other party can guarantee all this in one go.

Prominent among those who were present include Harbans Choudhary and Rohit Verma Vice Presidents, Suresh Kumar Sharma Secretary Kissan Morcha, Asha Sharma, DDC Member and Spokesperson Kissan Morcha and Radhey Shyam, BDC Chairman and Spokesperson Kissan Morcha.

Later, Member Parliament Jugal Kishore along with Jhal addressed another programme at Bishnah which was organised under the chairmanship of Rakesh Pant, General Secretary BJP Kissan Morcha J&K.

Jugal asked people to focus on millets and consume Mota Anaj which is beneficial for health as per the experts of the field. He said that organic farming is key to farmers' welfare and a healthy society thus making it imperative to opt for the same as far as possible.

Farmers empowerment priority of Modi Government: Sat & Vibodh

J I NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, APR 09: Under the ongoing Samajik Nyay Sapthah, District Jammu Kissan Morcha President Raman Sharma and Newly Nominated Mandal President Kisan Morcha Arun Sharma organises Kissan Sammelan in which Former Minister and Ex MLA Jammu West Sat Sharma (CA) along with BJP JKUT General Secretary Vibodh Gupta, District President Jammu Pramod Kapahi and Mandal President Talab Tillo Keshav Chopra mainly addressed the Sammelan. Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that Farmer empowerment is a priority for the Modi Government. He stated that they would make sure that the farmers do not suffer for any issue. "Growth of the nation is deeply connected to the wellbeing of the farmers and the productivity of farming. A multi-pronged approach is thus being ushered in to boost farmer welfare and enhance agricultural productivity at every stage. Farmer empower-

ment is a priority for the Modi Government that intends to push our nation to greater heights," said Sat Sharma. Vibodh Gupta said that "The Modi Government has focused on doubling farmers' income, securing them their endeavours, making them tech savvy, boosting agriculture research and education, and building farm-related infrastructure are some of the major goals set and being worked upon for the farmers' welfare", said Vibodh Gupta. He also highlighted the major

schemes for the welfare of farmers launched during the Modi Government and said that BJP is always concerned about the well being of the farmers.

Pramod Kapahi and Keshav Chopra said that only BJP is concerned about the wellbeing of the farmers whereas parties like Congress who were at the helms of the country for decades never did anything for their welfare and could not even change their lifestyle whereas Modi Government has always promoted the farmers

in many ways, they added. After the Sammelan, Crop Damage situation was also reviewed by the leaders and BJP leaders also asked the Administration to compensate the Farmers as soon as possible in order to avoid any sort of distress to them.

Ex Sarpanch Raj Kumar, Ganesh Sharma, Bhushan Sharma, Bhushan Lal, Darshan, Pawan Choudhary, Chaman Lal, Garu Ram, Madan Lal, Arjun, Karan Kumar, Abhay Kumar and others were also present.

Tulip garden, film festival giving fillip to tourism in Jammu: Raman Suri

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: "Jammu is fast changing and various cultural activities besides infrastructural developments are opening up new vistas for tourists and also bringing in ample opportunities for our people. The International Film Festival going on at Jammu and the opening up of Tulip Garden at Sanasar are a couple of such activities that are attracting tourists as well as artists in a big way."

This was stated by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri, who added that Sanasar started experimenting with Tulips a couple of years ago and today more than 2.5 lakh Tulips of red, yellow, white, and purple colours, spread across 40 Kanals picturesque area of Sanasar, are attracting tourists in a big way. He said, this is the beginning of the transformation of

Jammu, where more such projects are going to be unveiled in near future. Once completed, they all will transform many lives and open up employment opportunities as well.

Criticising the previous governments for not paying any attention towards the cultural as well as infrastructural development, Raman Suri said that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's administration has touched those spheres where the precious governments didn't venture.

Even after spending millions of rupees on projects like the River View Front and Tawi Barrage, these governments abandoned the projects but the LG administration has revived them and are going to dedicate them to the public in a time-bound manner. Today, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has thrown open the beautiful Tulip Garden for public tomorrow, visitors are heading towards the picturesque

Sanasar that is offering a lifetime opportunity to be amongst the green areas and see Tulips in full bloom.

Those who cannot afford to visit Kashmir can come here to see how Tulips have added to the scenic beauty of Sanasar lake and are attracting tourists besides domestic travellers.

Raman Suri said, same is the case with Jammu Film Festival wherein short films from India, Russia, United Kingdom, Israel, Turkey, France, and United States are being screened at Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), which is attracting artists and delegates from all over India.

Over 50 feature films, short films, and documentaries from 11 countries are being screened which are also providing the artists an opportunity to showcase their talent and interact with filmmakers from other parts of the world.

Congress committed to protect democracy: Vikar Rasool

J I NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, APR 09: Pradesh Congress Committee president, Mr Vikar Rasool has criticised the Union Territory administration for being irresponsible towards resolving people's burning problems and instead adding to their woes by unleashing "tax terror" under the falsefication of UT of Jammu and Kashmir at par with rest of the country. While people are facing hardships in view of poor civic amenities, unemployment, rampant corruption and repeated destruction of crops due to vagaries of weather, the administration under Lt Governor are only indulging in self-praise merely to grab headlines.

Addressing a mass dharna held here today in connection with Congress's ongoing "Jai Bharat Satyagrah" in protest against the Narendra Modi government's inaction against unemployment, encouraging crony capitalism and repeated attempts to muzzle democratic institutions against which former party president Mr Rahul Gandhi has been raising voice, he said that nothing will deter the Congress leaders and rank and file from carrying forward the mission of Mr Gandhi to expose misdeeds of this government. The crony capitalism being encouraged by Mr Modi through backing handful of his friends is posing a serious threat to the national security as his friendly Adani-group is working in close proximity with some Chinese companies. The mass dharna which was followed

by protest march organised by AICC member and senior advocate Mr Mohinder Bhardwaj, was attended by a large number of people from neighbouring Vijaypur and Bishnah assembly constituencies. The participants raised slogans against the Modi government and the UT administration for not resolving even their routine problems. Speaking on the occasion member AICC Sh. Mohinder Kumar Bhardwaj said that the BJP Government has unleashed repressive measures including cancellation of his Lok Sabha seat followed by vacation of his official bungalow and even disconnection power and internet connections in his Lok Sabha constituency of Waynad in Kerala to silence Mr Gandhi. All such repressive moves are proving counterproductive as Mr Gandhi is determined to fight to save democracy and expose crony capitalism which has come in the form of "Modani" the combine of Modi and his friend industrialist Gautam Adani.

He said that people in Jammu and Kashmir have become more vulnera-

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Raaste Band Nahi' in Natrang's 'Sunday Theatre' series



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: Natrang presented a new Hindi play 'Raaste Band Nahi' written by Sudershan Majithia and directed by Neeraj Kant here today at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'.

The play begins with where Sanjeev, a green card holder NRI boy from America, arrives with his father

Balakram to see Narayan Babu's daughter. The story takes a new turn when the girl enters with a tray of tea as the conversation between Balakram and Narayan takes place in a convivial atmosphere. The girl 'Rekha', who is the fifth of her five sisters, starts exposing the boy and his family one by one. She tells that Sanjeev had reached America only in exchange for his elder brother's dowry. And Sanjeev's sister-in-law

was burnt for dowry only, due to which the whole family had to spend days together in jail. Rekha then says that Sanjeev had a relationship with a married woman as well, due to which she was subjected to a lot of harassment from the woman's husband.

Thus the conversation gets very heated and eventually the boy and his father walk out of Narayan Babu's house.

After this Rekha tells her parents that now they have nothing to worry about their daughter. She will find her own way, there are no closed doors for her. Rebelling against the suffocating atmosphere of society and home, Rekha leaves her home towards a new direction and on a new path on which there are hundreds, thousands of girls along with Rekha. In search of a new horizon, where liberation is liberation.

Natrag actors who acted in the play included Falshin Dutta, Vishal Sharma, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Amit Brahmi, Sheryar Sakrala, Sumit Bandar and Naina Rakawa. The lights and sound of the play were executed by Aadesh Dhar. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and the presentations were done by Mihir Gajal.

Like terrorism there must be zero tolerance for narcotics and narco-terror trade: Pawan Gupta

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: J&K Govt should address public issues in time-bound manner and speedily bring about change for all round progress. This was stated by Shiv Sena Hindustan National President Pawan Gupta while addressing public gathering at Arnia today.

Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri, SSH State Vice President Balveer Kumar, Laba Baba, Vijay Luthra, Sanjeev Sharma, Raj Kumar, Suresh, Darshana Devi, Desraj, Rakesh and Raju were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Gupta asked JK Govt for increasing anti terror operations to track down the hiding terrorists

& their modules. He stressed for identifying hidden OGWs and accomplices providing any sort of support to terror activities and demanded stringent action against each and every individual involved in anti national activities. He demanded action against Pakistan for supplying drugs to target the younger generation of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that like terrorism there must be zero tolerance for narcotics and narco-terror trade adding that both are equally dangerous for the people.

Gupta further said that Jammu and Kashmir has definitely become the hub of narco smuggling and drug abuse in a decade. Daily news of contraband seizures in UT is a routine now. But situation is seri-

ous enough for immediate attention as money derived from the narcotic trade is directly put into terrorism. Pakistan being the main international supplier and three thousand plus kilometers of Indo-Pak border is porous enough for unabated trans-border drug smuggling. The common people need to be made aware of the consequences of drug use and made to understand that drug use is a problem which can be very well dealt with. The taboo associated with drug use must also be removed to enable a healthier de-addiction process, added Gupta.

Gupta directed the party cadre to remain in public at the grass root level and get their issues addressed on priority. Gupta took stock of the problems and issues faced by people in this area. The people appraised Gupta about multiple issues confronting them. They highlighted the burning problem of water and power crisis that has become a daily routine now. They are also stressed by burning problem of unemployment. After listening patiently the woes of the people in the aforesaid constituency, Gupta rued over the unprecedented power and water crisis during the incumbent Union Territory Administration being run at the directions of the Union Government. He assured the people that he would be taking up this burning issue of power and water crisis with the concerned authorities and gets the same resolved at the earliest.

Spread message of developmental schemes launched by Modi Govt at ground level: Langeh asks party workers

Morcha committed to act as beacon of light to guide unprivileged sections: Shiv Dev



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: J&K BJP SC Morcha president and former MLA Neelam Langeh on Sunday exhorted the party workers to work relentlessly by remaining present among the people to address their issues thus further strengthening the party base. The former MLA, as the Chief Guest, was speaking while chairing a meeting of SC Morcha organized by BJP Muthi Paloura SC Morcha team under the chairmanship of Sarvejit Bhagat.

Former Legislator and senior BJP leader, Shiv Dev Singh was present as the Guest of Honour. Among others present in the meeting include District President Omi Khajuria, Corporator Mohinder

Bhagat, District President SC Morcha Manohar Lal SC Morcha State Parbhar, Jagdish Bhagat.

Speaking on the occasion, Neelam Langeh said that the BJP is not an army and all the Morchas are its wings thus the victory of the army depends upon the whole hearted support of the main commander.

Langeh said that SC Morcha is bound to uplift the marginalized sections of the society and for this, every single activist of the Morcha has the moral duty to fulfill this responsibility with due care. He said that the success of a party in winning the hearts of people and decimating the opposition in polls solely depends on the strength of the party at both level.

He categorically said that the onus of party's success

lies with the ground level workers ability to connect with the masses and once this target is achieved and the people get the picture about BJP's public-friendly policies.

The former MLA asked party workers to live up to the trust and expectations of the Party High Command and will leave no stone unturned in further expansion of the party at the grass roots level.

While speaking on the Baha Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Langeh said that Baha Saheb was India's crusader for human rights and was known as the father of the Indian Constitution. He added that we celebrate Baha Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti falling on April 14 in a big way.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Shiv Dev Singh said that the BJP SC Morcha is committed to act as a beacon of light to guide the unprivileged sections to avail all the benefits of centrally sponsored schemes and lead a life full of dignity and pride.

He also assured to work relentlessly as party's foot soldier and ensure that the policies and schemes launched by the Modi Govt for the welfare of SC community are taken to the last person standing in line right upto the grassroots level.

On the occasion BJP Muthi Paloura SC Morcha team felicitated working committee members with Mata Ki Chuni. Impressed by the policies of the Central Government led by Narendra Modi for the welfare of the SC community, a large number of youth joined the BJP SC Morcha in the presence of J&K BJP SC Morcha President.

Welcoming newly joined members into the party fold, Neelam Langeh urged them and other party workers to go on ground and spread the message of developmental schemes launched by the Central Government for welfare of the people.

He said that awareness about the schemes is the major task before the party workers so that people can take benefit.

Ambedkar-Phule Rally in Jammu before their Jayanti's

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: An impressive Ambedkar-Phule Rally was Organised in Jammu by the Bharat Rattan Baba Sahb Dr. BR Ambedkar Birthday Celebration committee, J&K before their Birthday Anniversary from Sattari Chowk Jammu to Ambedkar Chowk before the Jayantis of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule ji and Baha Sahib Ambedkar which are being celebrated on 11th and 14th of April respectively of every year. The Rally passed different parts of Jammu City, a large number of people from all the Tehsils of Jammu District, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur Rajouri Districts and all the religious, social organizations, school children etc. participated with motorcycle, cars etc and no. of Jankies were displayed in the rallies which were the Centre of attraction of the rally. This rally was welcomed at different parts of Jammu by the serving drinking water, cold drinks, fruits and other eatables and the Rally was chanting slogans on baha Sahib Ambedkar and Mahatma Phule and on their life. While addressing the media persons the members of the celebration committee put light on the teaching of the Ambedkar



Phule and tried to give the message of equality, liberty and fraternity and appealed the people to Read the Phule ji and Babasahib to better understand their message to the society.

Further it was said that Baha Saheb Dr. Ambedkar and Mahatma Jyotirao Phule were two prominent social reformers in India who dedicated their lives to fighting against social discrimination and oppression. Baha Saheb Ambedkar, also known as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, was a jurist, economist, politician, and social reformer who is considered the architect of the Indian Constitution. He was born into a family of the Dalit community, which was considered the lowest caste in the Hindu social hierarchy.

Throughout his life, Ambedkar fought against caste discrimination and worked towards the upliftment of Dalits, women,

labour and other marginalized communities. Dr. Ambedkar was also a prominent leader in the Indian independence movement and was the first Law Minister of independent India. He was Chairman of the drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution, which guaranteed equal rights and opportunities to all citizens regardless of their caste, religion, or gender.

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, on the other hand, was a social reformer, thinker, and writer who is known for his contribution towards the upliftment of the Dalit and other marginalized communities in Maharashtra. He was a firm believer in the equality of all human beings and fought against the oppressive caste system that prevailed in society. Phule is also known for his efforts towards women's education and empowerment. He established the first school

for girls in India and worked towards breaking down the barriers that prevented women from accessing education and participating in public life.

Together, Baha Saheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Jyotirao Phule played a significant role in shaping modern India and their contributions towards social justice and equality continue to inspire people to this day.

The Celebration committee served lunch to the members of the Rally at Ambedkar Chowk and Appealed and extended invitations to the People of the J&K and other parts of the country to also attend main function of Celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti Mela on 14th of April in Ambedkar chowk, Jammu where missionary singers of the J&K UT and Gurreet Lali will through light on the life of the Babasahib through their songs.

Modi Govt making concerted efforts to alleviative problems of minorities: Kavinder



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta asserted that the central government under the realms of PM Narendra Modi is making concerted efforts to alleviate the problems and issues of minority communities.

The BJP stalwart was addressing a gathering during an event organized as

part of Samajik Nyay Pakhwada (Social Justice Fortnight) in connection with fortnight celebrations of Party's Foundation Day here on Saturday.

The senior BJP leader said that the government at New Delhi led by BJP was the only dispensation to have worked for the minority welfare as all other governments befoled this section on one pretext or the other. He said that the testi-

mony to this fact is that the Modi Government never discriminated with the minorities as every scheme and bounty meant for welfare of the country was also valid for the minority communities and it never happened under the BJP regime led by PM Modi that a welfare scheme was envisaged excluding the minorities.

"The minorities in Jammu and Kashmir are not only

feeling safe under the Modi government but also enjoying the benefits of various developmental schemes, which has become reality for the first time in over 70 years," he maintained.

He said that BJP government at the Centre is working for every section of society.

Later, BJP Minority Morcha President Ranjodh Singh Nalwa gave the account of the works undertaken by the Morcha and the achievements of the BJP government for the welfare of the minorities.

He said that BJP is a disciplined political party which is people centric and never indulges in prejudice of any kind.

Others present in the programme include Rekha Mahajan District President, Vinay Gupta, Santokh Singh, Riyaz Ahmad, Neeraj Puri, Nayan Gupta, Puspinder Singh, Akash Chopra, Mohd Kafeek and Liaqat.

Dr Manohar addresses monthly meeting at Thantu, Mandli



JJ NEWS SERVICE

BILLAWAR, APR 09: Former Minister Dr Manohar Lal Sharma today addressed monthly meeting at Thantu Block Mandli in Tehsil Ramkote of District Kathua. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Smt Neelam Kumari Sarpanch, Th Bhudhi Singh, Karan Dev Singh, Ex Sarpanch, Ramesh Spolia, Ex Sarpanch, Ramesh Verma ji, Rattan Tripathi, Ashok Kumar Pjt Member, Uttam Chand Pjt Member, Makhan Lal pjt Member, Tara Chand pjt Member, Isher Dass Sangara, Kaka Ram thripathi, Raj Kumar Kumbia, Rangleel Singh Makhanu, Kewal Kumar, Lal Chand Verma, Smt Raj Naib Sarpanch, Romal Singh, Chran Dass Thangria, Parshad Sharma, Ved Parkash, Raman From jammu, Mast Ram, Gian Chand, Sangara, Sansar Chand Botti, Naresh, Chand, Tripathi, Raj Kumar, Sward-Din, Makhan Lal Verma, Ch Mahmood, Shiv Ram ji From Kandhranu, Mulkr Raj, Krishan verma, Puran parshad Tripathi, Rasal Singh, Des Raj, Rajinder Sharma (Retd) Block Insp,

Shankar Singh, Prem Chand (Retd) Master, Chran Dass (Retd) CQ.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Manohar said that treachery and deceit of the BJP is haunting Jammu people who reposed their unflinching faith and support to it with the hope that Jammu may perhaps get a better deal as during the days of its wilderness in the opposition, the BJP leaders were crying hoarse over discrimination and neglect. "Not only on the front of development but equally in terms of instilling a sense of confidence among the people, the BJP has miserably failed", Dr Manohar said and referred to uncertain political climate prevailing across J&K ever since BJP dispensation came into being. He said the BJP ditched each segment of society which fell left out with government nowhere visible on ground.

Referring to the issues confronting to his constituency, Dr Manohar said that during last nearly nine years, Billawar constituency has been made backward by adopting discriminatory approach by ruling dispensation towards this hilly constituency as most of the areas suffering from lack of road connectivity, drinking water

supply besides lack of facilities in education and health sectors. He asked the gathering whether this type of development was promised? "Still people are facing basic issues like drinking water. What has happened to the promises made with the people," he said.

Dr Manohar said "If BJP has not been able to fulfill promises in eight years then what are they going to do now. The Centre is not serious about fulfilling the commitment of early restoration of statehood and holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, and only hoodwinking people by issuing vague statements from time to time for the last three and half years." Dr Manohar said, addressing monthly meeting, "People had not voted for the BJP to divide and downgrade our historical state into Union Territory and snatch our rights over lands and jobs, guaranteed to people by the last Dogra ruler through state subject laws. BJP only betrayed and be-foled people, the situation is worse today than earlier, as he attacked the Narendra Modi-led government for its alleged failure to control unprecedented price rise and unemployment, improving the condition of farmers and addressing security issues." "Whenever elections are round the corner in any state, BJP adopts a divisive agenda of vote bank politics, which is very dangerous for the nation," he said. He said he would continue his fight against the "wrong policies" of the BJP tooth and nail and stand for the rights of each and every section of the society.

St. Peter's Catholic Church celebrates Easter in Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: St. Peter's Catholic Church, Prem Nagar along with Rev. Fr. Kuriakose, the Parish Priest, Fr. Christophe, the Asst. Parish Priest and all the faithful have joyfully celebrated Easter vigil mass on 9th April 2023 at 12:00 am. In Christian tradition, the Resurrection represents Christ's victory over death and this night was the mother of all nights. All Christians have prepared themselves for 40 days of lent for this night. In the past three days they have accompanied the Lord in His passion and death. And as one family the faithful have gathered at St. Peter's Catholic Church to celebrate His resurrection. This was the climax of the history of redemption. The liturgy of Easter vigil night has four parts: Liturgy of the Light, Liturgy of the Word,



Liturgy of Blessing of Water and Liturgy of the Eucharist in which all the faithful enthusiastically participated and received the blessing from the risen Christ. The Easter vigil service began with the blessing of a new fire, lighting of the Paschal Candle from the new fire and all the faithful went in procession carrying the candles in their hands. Rev. Fr. Kuriakose was the main

celebrant of the Holy Mass who in his sermon emphasized the readings of the day. He said that Ultimately, Jesus died and rose to give us His Spirit to comfort us in all things. We are not alone. When we experience sadness, we are invited to feel it fully, acknowledge our need, and move towards God for comfort. The gospel is good news for our sadness. As we experience this, we are

able to share the good news with others who are in need of comfort. He told the faithful to joyfully proclaim the good news that "Christ is truly risen", the priest reminded the promise of risen Christ "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). He wished all a blessed and holy Easter, finally he thanked all the well-wishers and thereafter the gathering came to an end.

Minority Morcha, ST Morcha of BJP hold meeting at Bhatindi

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: A meeting of BJP Minority Morcha and BJP ST Morcha was held at Bhatindi Jammu on Saturday under the chairmanship of Kavinder Gupta, Former Dy. CM J&K.

On this occasion, he was accompanied by President BJP Minority Morcha J&K, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, General Secretary BJP Minority Morcha J&K Santokh Singh, Riyaz Ahmad, General Secretary J&K, BJP ST Morcha, Rekha Mahajan, District President BJP, Vinay Gupta, Senior leader BJP Mubashir Azad, Vice President J&K Shakir Giri, Secretary J&K Yashpal Singh, Spokesperson J&K Mohd Naseer, Legal Coordinator J&K BJP Minority Morcha and other office bearers.

Party leadership discussed and highlighted various schemes and achievements of BJP Government



besides priority regarding minorities in the country in keeping with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Programme was organised by BJP Minority Morcha, Jammu.

"Modi government is committed to work for 1.30 crore Indians and the Prime Minister is working day and night for the uplift of poor farmers, downtrodden, dalits, backwards, women and common people," Gupta said.

The meeting urged the party activists to work at both level for

strengthening the organization further and ensure its victory at hustings in Parliamentary and Assembly elections scheduled to be held next year.

All the senior leaders urged the party men to get ready for upcoming party activities and programs. They said BJP is emerging stronger and stronger with its commitment to national cause and party will not only frame the next Government at Centre but will emerge as a strong contender for the formation of Government in J&K after the Assembly elections.

Over 2,000 rules, laws scrapped by centre in last 9 years for ease of governance: Jitendra

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, APR 9

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has said more than 2,000 rules and laws were scrapped by the Narendra Modi Government in the past nine years for ease of governance and ease of doing business, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.

The ultimate aim of good governance is to bring ease of living to the citizens, said the Minister of State for Personnel. He was speaking as the chief guest after presenting the Yashraj Bharati Samman (YBS) awards at a 'gratitude ceremony' organised by the Yashraj Research Foundation (YRF) here on Saturday night.

He said the three categories in which the awards have been presented, namely innovation in healthcare, transforming people's lives and ethical governance, have always been the priority of the Modi Government.



Union Minister Jitendra Singh said more than 2,000 rules and laws were scrapped by the Narendra Modi Government in the past nine years for ease of governance and ease of doing business, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.

He said previous Governments found "comfort in a status quoist approach", but Prime Minister Modi has demonstrated the courage and conviction to do away with such rules, many of which persisted since the time of British Raj and caused inconvenience to the citizens.

The Minister recalled that soon after the government came to power in May 2014, within two to three months, the practice of getting certificates attested by gazetted officers was done away with.

From the Front Page...

India does not...

created an ecosystem for them to flourish, he said, "India is a country where protecting nature is part of the culture."

"For wildlife to thrive, it is important for ecosystems to thrive. This has been happening in India," he said, adding that protecting wildlife was not the issue of just one country, but a global one.

Pointing out that cheetahs had become extinct in India decades ago, the Prime Minister referred to the recent initiative where the big cats were brought to India from Namibia and South Africa, and said it was the first successful transcontinental translocation of the big cat.

He also highlighted the fact that four cubs had been born to these cheetahs at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

In July 2019, the Prime Minister had called for an Alliance of Global Leaders to obliterate demand for poached articles and to firmly curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Asia. Taking that message forward, the International Big Cat Alliance was launched today, officials said.

JICA will focus on protection and conservation of seven major big cats of the world - tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah - with range countries harbouring these species being its members. The Sahayadris or Western Ghats have several tribal communities who have worked for wild life and tigers to flourish, Modi noted as he lauded their contribution in conservation efforts. (AGENCIES)

LG addresses Mahavir...

Aspiration. We must work together to create ideal condition in the society that will enable every individual to live up to her or his full potential, added the LG Governor.

Cultural programme on the life and teachings of Bhagwan Mahavir was also presented on the occasion. Sh. Justice Rajnesh Oswal; Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, CCB 16 Corps; Sh. Anand Jain, Director Anti-Corruption Bureau & Jt; Pankaj Jain and other officer bearers of SS Jain Sabha, besides students and members of the community were present in large numbers.

PM's tweet gives...

Inflow to the Tulip Garden is on high note", Shayiq Rasool, Floriculture officer of Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden said.

He said the flow of tourists is higher compared to 2022 and 2.65 lakh visitors visited the Tulip Garden in the last 20 days. On an average, 13,000-14,000 tourists visit the garden daily and on Sunday the flow crosses 20,000 to 25,000.

Shayiq Rasool said that "when a tweet on a particular purpose is being floated on the highest level it definitely has a good impact on the subject", adding "Last year the Prime Minister also tweeted and that also had a marked impact on the arrival of the tourists to the Tulip garden".

He said more than two Lakh domestic tourists from West Bengal, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and from the southern states are currently on a visit to Kashmir valley besides this a good number of foreigners also thronged to the Tulip Garden this year so far.

He expressed hope that the previous year's record of 3.60 lakh visitors will be surpassed this year if weather remains favourable.

Tourists are very happy enjoying the scenic beauty of Asia's second largest Tulip Garden on the foothills of Zabarwan near the famed Dal Lake, Shayiq Rasool said.

He said the rush of domestic tourists is satisfactory and more and more are visiting day by day as the weather continues to be pleasant.

"The Tulip Garden looks like a colorful carpet with a sea of flowers spread on the lap of the Zabarwan hills mesmerizing the visiting tourists", he said, and added "the tourists feel they have reached heaven when they enter the garden".

He said last year 159 foreign tourists visited the Tulip garden and this year so far 1400 have thronged and many more are expected to come.

"It is a Tulip festival going on like a Mela and if one sees a huge rush of visitors is visible on the road leading to the Tulip garden near Dal Lake", he added.

He said for tourists who are visiting Kashmir valley presently, Tulip Garden remains the main attraction before moving to other places.

Regarding the time frame of Tulip garden, Shayiq Rasool said that "there is no fixed calendar for how long the garden will remain open. He said it is day 21 today and if the weather remains favourable and there were rain showers in between that will allow the garden to survive for a long time. He said presently the garden is in full bloom.

He said if temperature remains favourable and weather stays good the tourist rush will continue at least till one month.

He said as long as the period of Tulip Garden continues it will have a good impact on the economy of the state. (AGENCIES)

9% electricity share...

The atomic energy is being used for applications in diverse sectors like, for example, for increasing shelf life of fruits like apple and agriculture products, for using latest technologies in treatment of Cancer and other diseases etc. He said, India has shown the world the way for using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Around 2.82 lakh passport...

years, Jammu and Kashmir Police said as it defended "deep vetting" of activities of several sections, including politicians and scribes, noting it was needed to curb "anti-India propaganda machinery".

It said the current initiatives taken by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters have yielded dividends as the misuse of passports by anti-national elements has shown a downward trend.

The police said 2.82 lakh passport applicants including a prominent businessman and a journalist have misused the facility and became part of the propaganda machinery to spread hatred against the country.

"The course correction was made from time to time to defeat the nefarious designs of anti-national elements, who are changing their trends to deceive the security forces, first by choosing the targets with clean records and later on radicalising them to resort to activities which suit them to accomplish their nefarious designs," police said in a statement here.

It said, "Deep vetting was mandatory to check the activities of religious leaders, politicians, lawyers and journalists to put curbs on anti-India propaganda machinery and to expose them. A good number of violators were put on exit control." It said that loopholes were plugged to ensure that students with a clean image who are desirous of pursuing higher education outside the country do not face any hurdle in availing of the passport facility.

"However, riders were necessary to rule out the cases having an adverse background and inclination towards terrorism or secessionism, who were clandestinely sponsored by different terrorist outfits to achieve their nefarious designs and glorify the terrorism.

"Passport verification cases are being cleared purely on the basis of field reports and CID organisation has no modus operandi to dispose of these cases on pick and choose basis, neither on the basis of religion, region or political affiliation nor there is any selective application of rules and regulations," the police said.

It said the passport cases cleared by field agencies are being sent to the RPOs concerned within the stipulated period.

CID headquarters has also issued comprehensive guidelines in the form of SOPs to plug the loopholes to avoid any misuse of passport facilities.

Giving a break-up of cases received during the past three years, the police said against a total of 2,87,715 applications, as many as 2,81,759 cases were cleared. Only 805 were not cleared and 5,151 cases were pending.

"Scrutiny of the records relating to the cases received and disposed of by the CID headquarters reveals that during last three years, a negligible/minuscule percentage of cases viz 0.28 per cent cases were 'not recommended' due to advertisements purely in view of national security concern," the police said.

In the past, it said, the CID Headquarters cleared some cases on the basis of personnel character, but later the passport facility was misused and the applicants indulged in anti-national activities by becoming part of a disinformation campaign to spread hatred against the nation.

The police said 143 passport applicants misused the facility and became part of the propaganda machinery to spread venom and hatred against the country.

Police detected as many as 54 youths who were wrongly given passport service during 2017-18 and all of them went to Pakistan and received training in arms, ammunition and explosives at terrorist training camps. Many of them were pushed back into J-K through the Line of Control and 26 of them died while either crossing or during encounters in the hinterland, the police said.

The lives of 12 of these youngsters could be saved by the CID after their return from Pakistan by bringing them under preventive custody so that terrorist separatist syndicates do not succeed in pressuring them to join terror ranks.

It said 13 passport holders did not return from Pakistan and were active in propagating violence against India.

"Apparently, there were no signs of radicalisation and later were overwhelmed by the ideology and came under the influence of enemy agents," the police said.

It referred to former Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries president Mubeen Shah of Srinagar who was provided the passport facility in 2018 and became

an important tool of propaganda machinery, leaving no platform to tarnish and malign the image of India.

The police also referred to Asif Maqbool Dar, a mouthpiece of ISI and Pakistan-based separatist leaders. Waseem Raja Malla, a journalist who went to Turkey on a valid travel document, started propagating an anti-India narrative, while Majeed Irshad Khan was cleared for issuance of a passport on October 26, 2017 and later joined the Lashkar-e-Taiba terror outfit on November 9 of the same year.

Shabir Ahmad Dar was cleared in 2013 and started uploading anti-India posts on reaching Saudi Arabia, the police said.

Refugees, border people, and other communities. He said that the benefits to the IB residents on the pattern of LoC residents have only been considered by the Modi government. He said that Modi ji has ensured the benefits of public welfare schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Primes Minister Awas Yojana, PM Ann Yojana, and others.

PM addresses...

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Raina said that for the first time in history since 1947, the Refugees are being given true benefits. Financial assistance to 1947, 1965, and 1971 PoJK, WPR refugees with the humanitarian approach and due regards and respects has been considered only with the particular attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. He insisted that all the other important issues of these communities are being considered by the Modi government and BJP leadership in Jammu & Kashmir at a war-footing level as the BJP is committed to the welfare of Border residents and Refugees.

Salathia, while addressing the gathering, said that the Modi government has taken revolutionary and unprecedented steps at the ground level to boost the development in these areas. He said that no area would be left without adequate facilities of water, roads, electricity, and other absolutely necessary infrastructure. He also said that the Modi government has given benefits to every section of society. He also spoke about the inclusion of the OBC category. He stressed that the conspiracy behind the shifting of Ramgarh College would not be successful at any cost.

Kashmiria Singh spoke on the role of BJP workers in the ground implementation of the public welfare schemes. He assured the senior party leadership that BJP workers will leave no stone unturned to reach up to every single home in the area.

Anita Choudhary spoke on the local development works related to improved roads, availability of homes under PMAY, Swachh Bharat, and other projects.

1 intruder shot...

"They were residents of PoJK and suspected to be smuggling narcotics," they added and said that no weapon was recovered from their possession but the matter is being investigated.

Earlier defence sources said that on the intervening night of April 8-9, alert troops of Indian Army on the LoC in the Poonch Sector, detected some suspicious movements of a group individuals.

"The individuals were challenged by Indian Army troops on own side of LoC, close to the fence," said the spokesman. On being intercepted, they added that in the ensuing operations, one dead body has been recovered.

"A cordon of the area has been established and search operation is still in progress," said the spokesman. (AGENCIES)

Work on Zojila tunnel...

is 13 km long with an approach road of 18 km.

"This project is a huge game changer by the government of India. The total length of the project from Sonamarg to Minimarg is 31 km. From Sonamarg to Baltal, it is 18 km, and then the main tunnel from Baltal to Minimarg which is 13 km long. The work is going on at a rapid pace on both the projects," Project Head, Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited Harpal Singh said here.

MEIL is constructing the tunnel. Singh said the work had to be stopped for two months in the winter because of back-to-back avalanches in January in which two persons were killed.

About 38 pieces of equipment of the construction company were buried under the snow which have not yet been retrieved.

"It was a temporary setback," Singh said, adding, "I am optimistic that the whole project will be completed by December 2026." Singh said out of the 13 km long tunnel, a total of 6

redressal mechanism was shifted to Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CGPGRAMS) - an online platform - as a result of which about 20 lakh grievances are received every year in comparison to just 2 lakhs every year before this government came in because this government followed a policy of time bound redressal and gained the confidence of the people.

In the field of healthcare, the minister said that use of technology and telemedicine during Covid pandemic has shown how innovation can deliver healthcare in the remote

and rural areas. This Government has not only promoted technology and innovation but also StartUps to undertake new innovations even in the health sector thereby transforming lives of citizens, Singh said.

He said that earlier priorities were misplaced and for seventy years it continued to be misplaced because "we were being governed by status quoist Governments", according to the Personnel Ministry statement.

But for the first time in 9 years, there is sought to be undone what should have been undone in all these years, it added.

km cutting has been done - three km from this side and the rest from the other end. "The remaining work will be completed in time," he said.

The project head said the company is using a modern method of tunnelling which is known as new Austrian tunnelling method.

"By this method, we have achieved three important things - the safety of the tunnel, the safety of the workforce, and the speed," he added.

By using this method, he said, the chances of accidents are very low and the quality and the speed of tunnelling are very good. This is a special technology applied in Europe and North America, he said.

Out of the total 31 km project from Z-Mohr tunnel in Sonamarg, to Baltal, the approach road is 18 km and the work is also going on their simultaneously.

"About 60% of work has been completed on this. There are four bridges on which about 80% of the work has been completed. There is five-km Nilgah tunnels which have been completed. The work is going on at an advance pace and the approach road would be operational within two years," Singh said.

He said people will not face any difficulty in coming to Baltal even in the winter when there is heavy snowfall because of the approach road to the tunnel.

Asked about the importance of the tunnel with respect to the Defence forces, Singh said after the completion of the tunnel, the forces will be able to move across round the clock.

"The road remains closed for four months due to snowfall. It is a very long time. There are so many defence forces personnel, we have a border with China which has a strong military. It is risky for our forces to face such a huge army when there is no land connection with the rest of India.

"After this tunnel is constructed, the Indian defence forces will move uninterrupted throughout the year. People of J-K and Ladakh can move throughout the year. It will be a huge advantage. What we had not been able to do in the last 75 years, you will have it in the next three to four years," he said.

He said not only will it shorten the distance, the time taken will also be very less. This distance will be covered in less than 40 minutes instead of four hours, he said. Site-incharge of MEIL, Sanjay Sharma, said the tunnel would be the longest in Asia at the highest altitude. He said there were many challenges working in the young Himalayan range.

"But, the main challenge is outside the tunnel. It is the weather. First two years, we worked in winter months also. But, last year, we had to stop for two months due to avalanches," he said.

Parliamentary consultative committee on Road Transport & Highways, led by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, is visiting the project site on Monday. (AGENCIES)

Consultations going on...

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified the Information Technology (Inter-Media) Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Amendment Rules, 2023 on Thursday.

The 2023 amendments confer the power on the ministry to notify a fact-check unit of the Centre that will identify fake, false or misleading online content with respect to any business of the Union government.

Violation of the rules can lead to the social media intermediaries losing their "safe harbour" immunity.

On National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah's call for unity in the Opposition camp for talking on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in elections, the Union minister said it only shows the strength of the ruling party.

"That shows that the BJP is very strong," he said. Asked when will the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls be held, Rishii evaded a direct reply and said he cannot make announcements on election timings.

"I cannot clear the dates here. As I am the law and justice minister, I am the administrative minister of the Election Commission. So I cannot make an announcement here. The election will be announced in due course," he added.

Asked about allegations levelled by People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter, Iltija Mufti, regarding her passport, the minister said "a passport is issued by the home ministry". (AGENCIES)

India logs 5,357...

(4,47,56,616). The active cases now comprise 0.07 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.74 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,92,837 while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive. (AGENCIES)



Ch. Zulfkar Ali demands opening of Mughal Road

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 09: Apni Party Vice President, and Former Cabinet Minister, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali has demanded the opening of Mughal Road.

In a statement issued to the press, the Former Cabinet Minister said that it was unfortunate that the concerned authorities who were responsible to keep the historic alternative road to Kashmir keep it operational have failed to do so.

"The Mughal Road, which was supposed to open in the first week of March is still closed and the people are not allowed to travel on the road which connects Pirpanjal region with Kashmir Valley," he said.

He further said that hundreds of people travel from one region to another for a health checkups, education purposes, tourism, trade and for other purposes.



"The people in Pirpanjal Region are the worst sufferers as many of them go to SKIMS Srinagar for medical checkups, and employees from Rajouri and Poonch have been posted in parts of Kashmir," he said. He further said that "Similarly many students from this region study in various educational institutions including universities of Kashmir but they face inconvenience due to closure of the road."

He said that the authorities should know that their delaying practice has affected hundreds of lives.

"As the authorities have pushed the people to unnecessary harassment due to the closure of the road, the LG J&K should personally look into the issue and concerned authorities should pull for their irresponsible approach towards the genuine demand of the people," he said.

He said that the Mughal Road should be made all weather and kept open throughout the year even during harsh weather conditions by taking all precautionary measures.

"The road was construction and opened with much pump and show to provide an alternative route to Kashmir, but also remains closed most of the time, and opened for several months only that too during summer season," he said.

He said that "A tunnel was approved for its construction on the Mughal Road. However, the construction work for the tunnel on the said road is yet to be initiated. It shows how the authorities are serious about such an important tunnel that would make it operational even during heavy snowfall."

He further said that "The Mughal Road provides opportunity for economic growth, promotion of tourism, exploration of more tourism spots since the region and the road has potential for tourism section that can also generate employment."

PM addresses the issues of Refugees, border people: Ravinder Raina

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: Addressing the Refugees Sammelan at Ramgarh, the border area of District Samba J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has continuously addressed the issues of Refugees, border people, and other communities.

Ravinder Raina was accompanied by Former Minister and BJP Vice President Surjeet Singh Salathia, BJP District President Thakur Kashmiria Singh, DDC Anita Choudhary, BDC Darshan Singh, Sr leader Vijay Singh, Prem Lal, Amit Dubey, and BJP Mandal President Shiv Choudhary.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the Sammelan said that the BJP government is dedicated to the welfare of every section. He said that the Modi government has continuously addressed the issues of Refugees, border people, and other communities. He said that the benefits to the



IB residents on the pattern of LoC residents have only been considered by the Modi government. He said that Modi ji has ensured the benefits of public welfare schemes like Ayushman Bharat, PM Ann Yojana, and others.

Raina said that for the first time in history since 1947, the Refugees are being given true benefits. Financial assistance to 1947, 1965, and 1971 PoJK, WPR refugees with the humanitarian approach

taken revolutionary and unprecedented steps at the ground level to boost the development in these areas. He said that no area would be left without adequate facilities of water, roads, electricity, and other absolutely necessary infrastructure. He also said that the Modi government has given benefits to every section of society.

He also spoke about the inclusion of the OBC category. He stressed the conspiracy behind the shifting of Ramgarh College would not be successful at any cost.

Kashmira Singh spoke on the role of BJP workers in the ground implementation of the public welfare schemes. He assured the senior party leadership that BJP workers will leave no stone unturned to reach up to every single home in the area.

Anita Choudhary spoke on the local development works related to improved roads, availability of homes under PMAY, Swachh Bharat, and other projects.

Pir Panjal region rescinded from development activities: Javed Rana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

MENDHAR, APR 09: Jammu and Kashmir national Conference Pir Panjal Zone President, Javed Ahmed Rana said National Conference has the record of equitable development of all the areas of Jammu and Kashmir during its governance but it is quite unfortunate that now a significant number of areas have been ignored in terms of development.

The NC leader expressed this while addressing a public meeting, held in the presence of party workers and activists at Panchayat Sangote in village Balakote of Pir Panjal zone here today.

While addressing the gathering, Javed Rana said, "The blatant discrimination against NC bastions got



accelerated after abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A.

Consequently the people of the aforesaid areas are living in miserable conditions with no one in Administration to listen to their woes."

He said that only National Conference will end these miseries and bring these areas back on

track of development. "We will secure a fully-fledged Administrative Unit for the Pir Panjal region as already assured by NC leadership. Moreover, National Conference will upgrade Mendhar, Kalakote, Surankote and Dharhal areas respectively to ensure ease of living and equitable development in the aforesaid areas," he said.

While appealing to the people to join and support National Conference to further strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, Javed Rana assured that NC will fight legally, politically and constitutionally for restoration of Articles 370 and 35A. We will not rest till we get our rights and identity restored, he added.

BJP OBC Morcha Continues its drive of Gaon Gaon Chalo, Ghar Ghar Chalo

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: Sunil Prajapati (State President BJP OBC Morcha), and Sanita Gupta (Coordinator) attended the Jan Sampark meeting of OBC Samaj in ward 37.

The Program was Arranged by Nitu Verma (District President Jammu North) and another Program in Udhampur was Arranged by Sagar Verma (District President OBC morcha Udhampur).

Prominent among the others who were Present are Shekhar Satti (Spokesperson OBC morcha), Subash Anand (Cashiers OBC Morcha), Ashok Kumar (Vice President obc morcha udhampur), Kuldeep Prajapati (General Secretary obc morcha Udhampur), Sanjay Bhat (Janipur Mandal General Secretary), Vikas Singh



(Mandal President obc morcha Janipur). Sunil Prajapati Said Since 2014 Modi Government started so many Schemes for the Welfare of OBC's like Post Matric Scholarship, National Fellowship for Scholars, Reservation in Public Sector Units, Reservation in Sainik Schools, Central Schools, Navodhya Vidhalya, OBC Vishkarma Yojna, Special Provision in New Education Policy, Creamy Layers increased

from 6 lakhs to 8 Lakhs, free Vaccine, Covered Under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, Venture Capital Schemes for OBC's. In the Program they visited door-to-door Villages like Tikri, Gamari, Krimchi, battal and interacted with OBC Communities and Distributed Pamphlets of Schemes among them.

He said that Modi Government doing, Great work for the Welfare of OBC's by Starting so many

welfare Schemes for the OBC's. He said Modi Government also improving our Health Sector by giving Aims and Medical Colleges to Jammu Kashmir. He said our Government believe in Sab ka Sath and Sab ka Vikas. Sunil Prajapati said main motive of BJP OBC Morcha behind this Campaign is to Spread information about Central Schemes for the OBC's at Ground level.

J&K bureaucrats enjoying authority sans accountability: Harsh Dev

JJ NEWS SERVICE



UDHAMPUR, APR 09:

While "Babu Raj" in J&K had become synonymous with corruption, the process of loot, extortion and plunder of govt resources was likely to continue in the troubled UT which showed no sign of Assembly Elections and of restoration of a democratically elected govt therein. This was stated by Mr. Harsh Dev Singh, Former Minister and State President JK NPP. With the present bureaucracy enjoying authority without accountability, a free for all kind of situation prevailed in the erstwhile state, said Mr. Singh. He said that the ECI has announced elections for other states without uttering a single word about J&K Elections which are being denied for the last five years since 2018 and which may never be held as long as BJP remained in power at the centre. "If you can manage to hold the reins of power and run the affairs of state without elections, why at all should the ruling party take the risk of seek-

ing peoples' mandate? Asserted Mr. Singh adding that the people of erstwhile state and its political leadership seemed to have reconciled to the backdoor rule imposed by the saffron regime. "What an irony! The party which catapulted itself to power on the slogans of "one nation, one constitution" had itself dismantled the age old principles of democracy and denied constitutional rights to the people of J&K for the last five years with no hope of democracy getting restored in the downgraded state under BJP regime", observed Mr. Singh. He was addressing a meeting of party workers at Kaldi, Khoon and Sattarai during his two days tour of District Udhampur.

Urging upon the party rank and file to work for ameliorating the lot of poor and downtrodden, Mr. Singh said that Panthers Party stood for safeguarding the rights and interests of common masses as against the power politics of BJP. He said the people were feeling cheated, let down and abandoned under the present

regime wherein red-tape, corruption and nepotism had become all pervasive. Throwing all norms, procedures and precedents to winds, the BJP-bureaucrat nexus was allowed to float above the fray and use the resources of the state as per their own whims and fancies. Development funds were being siphoned and extortions were being made from unemployed youth in the name of govt jobs as noticed in the selections of Sub-Inspectors, Accounts Assistants, JE's, Fire Services, J&K Bank etc. Transfers in govt depths had become an Industry and the pendency of files in offices had beaten all previous records. There was hardly any connect between the administration and common masses with the latter having lost faith in the present governance. And still the BJP govt did not want elections and was averse to handing over power to elected representatives by taking one freakish excuse after the other only to keep its backdoor proxy rule intact in J&K, rued Mr. Singh.

Calling upon the party workers to come to the rescue of people in such hard times, Mr. Singh said that the NPP has to take the challenge boldly and steer the state out of the present mess created by corrupt, opportunist politician-bureaucrat nexus.

Sunil Sharma, Arun Prabhat pay tributes to Daya Krishan Kotwal, Chander Kant Sharma

BJYM pays tributes to Daya Krishan Kotwal, Chander Kant Sharma

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: J&K Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) paid tributes to its former president and veteran leader Daya Krishan Kotwal and RSS leader Chanderkant Sharma in a function held at Party Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar today.

On the occasion State General Secretary & Former Minister Sunil Sharma, State President BJYM Arun Prabhat, and other senior leaders paid floral tributes to them.

Sunil Sharma, while paying tributes to the great souls, said that Kotwal Ji was equally respected by members of all communities in erstwhile Doda district. He said the contribu-



tion of the late leader will be always remembered. He also said that the RSS leader, Chanderkant Ji laid down his life following the path of his core values and added that we all must take

strengthening the secular democratic fabrics of the erstwhile State. He was a humble person who was accessible to all and always fought for the cause of the downtrodden. RSS leader Chanderkant Sharma fought for more than three decades against Pakistani terrorism and his heavenly departure was a great loss to the nation and society. He fought like a soldier against cowardly Pakistanis in J&K.

Arun Prabhat, said that during their life time, these great men provided their priceless services to the nation and society with their selfless deeds and even today everyone of us are being guided by their noble and incessant services for the society.

Students forced to give exams amidst rain and darkness: Badrinath Sharma

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 09: Senior politician and Sarpanch Badrinath Sharma took serious note of a viral video of an examination centre during the ongoing 12th class exams at Boys Higher Secondary School RS Pura. A number

of other Sarpanches and Panches of the RS Pura area were also present on the occasion. Sarpanch Badrinath Sharma expressed great shock and told media today that Senior authorities in school Education Department may take a note of the ironical situation in RS Pura Boys higher second-

ary as depicted in video wherein students were forced to appear in Examination in miserable conditions during rainfall. Its a gross injustice with future of students who are looking toward these examination as the base for future and towards their career. "Feeling tensed and frustrated,

all the students remain apprehensive about their wet answers sheets. It is really shameful for the overall examination incharge of the school Ajay Kumar Sharma, Principal, who is supposed to be responsible for smooth conduct of examination", he added.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere - Albert Einstein

JINDRAH IMAGES

Adopting 'wait & watch' policy

There has been a complete lull vis-a-vis ongoing agitation in Ladakh for Constitutional safeguards after the change of the guard. Ladakh groups have maintained a silence and probably wait and watch policy. The main reason for it was the formation of a High Powered Committee (HPC) by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to "ensure protection of land and employment" for Ladakh. The move failed to break the ice in the cold desert as the leaders from various social, religious and political groups, except BJP, decided to boycott all the proposed meetings of the HPC till the Centre accepts their demand for inclusion of four major demands for dialogue. On Saturday, top leaders of two representative groups of Ladakh—Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)—met in Jammu to take a call on their participation in the HPC meetings. The HPC, headed by the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, was formed on January 3 and it has representatives from both LAB and KDA. Two groups have been spearheading agitation in support of their four major demands including full-fledged statehood for Ladakh, implementation of sixth schedule to protect the interest of the tribal people of Ladakh, separate Lok Sabha seats for Kargil and Leh, and establishment of 'Ladakh Public Service Commission' with the Ladakh Resident Certificate (LRC) as a mandatory requirement for all Gazetted Posts in Ladakh. The elected Hill Development Councils (Leh and Kargil), which govern two districts politically, have already passed unanimous resolutions, though separately, in favour of a four-point agenda. The leaders are of the opinion that the Centre has come out with its own agenda in the MHA order regarding formation of HPC. The MHA, in its order, has not made mention of three major demands of Ladakhi people, including statehood status to Ladakh, inclusion of the region in Sixth Schedule and separate parliamentary constituencies for Kargil and Leh. The mandate of HPC to hold discussions on agenda set by MHA was not acceptable to the leaders of Ladakh and this is the only reason that they have unanimously decided they would participate in any meeting of HPC only if it considers their demands. Another point of contention is that the MHA has arbitrarily and unilaterally excluded and included members in the Committee. Contrary to their tough stand, the BJP leaders are out to defend the MHA decision and announced that they would attend all the meetings of HPC, as and when, called by its chairman. There is no doubt that Ladakh has faced many challenges and agitation over the period of time but no government, according to BJP, has constituted such an inclusive and high powered committee. So, this is the high and right time for all the members of the HPC to realize its importance, discuss and deliberate the common issues of Ladakh keeping the national interests as well as the larger interest of the future of Ladakh ahead as aspired by the Ladakh. The UT without legislative assembly is surely going to witness interesting political developments in the days to come. The biggest challenge for the Government of India is to initiate result-oriented dialogue with the agitating groups.

More funds needed to tackle security challenges

The fiscal constraints under which the Indian military is functioning came into focus when the 35th Report of the 17th Lok Sabha's Standing Committee on Defence was tabled before Parliament on March 21. The most important takeaway from this report is the trend line, wherein successive defence budgets over the last three years have ostensibly increased in rupee terms, but have decreased as a percentage of the GDP.

C UDAY BHASKAR

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi recently addressed the Combined Commanders' Conference in Bhopal. This annual event acquired considerable significance since deliberations were being held against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine that had just crossed the 400-day mark and the simmering tension with China across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), from Galwan in eastern Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. However, the official press release on this critical meeting was terse — a mere 136 words. Later, PM Modi tweeted, "Took part in the Combined Commanders' Conference in Bhopal. We had extensive discussions on ways to augment India's security apparatus."

This was disappointing, for the national security edifice is facing multiple challenges, and absent any meaningful deliberations in Parliament, the nation is perplexed about the broad contours of India's military preparedness when there is so much geopolitical animation across many interconnected tracks — domestic, regional and global.

The most urgent challenge which appears intractable is the material status of India's military inventory, which is largely dependent on equipment/spares and major platforms sourced from Moscow. Informed assessment indicates that there have been disruptions in the supply cycles and it is evident that Russia is not in a position to meet its export commitments in a satisfactory manner given its own parlous military inventory status and steady depletion due to the war in Ukraine.

Hence, the degree to which this geopolitical exigency has degraded India's security apparatus warranted objective, factual and informed deliberations among the top civil and military leaderships and one can only hope that the Bhopal conference enabled such interaction in an effective manner for adequate 'augmentation'.

The larger politico-diplomatic context with strategic implications for India's major power engagement was also provided in the run-up to the Bhopal conference.



Chinese President Xi Jinping made his first foreign visit to the Kremlin after being re-elected for the third term and in Moscow, he and his host Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a document — titled 'Deepening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Coordination for the New Era' — in which the two leaders stated, "We share the view that this relationship has gone far beyond the bilateral scope and acquired critical importance for the global landscape and the future of humanity."

It was amply evident during the Xi visit that the Beijing-Moscow relationship was being framed in a distinctive template, wherein the two leaders saw their bilateral relationship as one that had acquired palpable urgency and relevance to resist 'hegemony, despotism and bullying'. The unstated reference to the US needs little amplification.

India, which figures among the world's top importers of military inventory, is in a difficult position, for its traditional and preferred arms supplier has been Moscow, going back to the Cold War period when the former USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was an empathetic benefactor. After the end of the Cold War, India sought to diversify its supplier base and since 2009, the US has emerged as a significant supplier.

Yet, the Indian military inventory dependence on Russia continues

and it is unlikely that Beijing will remain non-committal in the years ahead about the Moscow-Delhi relationship — more so the strategic strand related to India's sea-based deterrent.

The fiscal constraints under which the Indian military is functioning also came into focus when the 35th Report of the 17th Lok Sabha's Standing Committee on Defence was tabled before Parliament on March 21.

The most important takeaway from this report is the trend line, wherein successive defence budgets over the last three years have ostensibly increased in rupee terms, but have decreased as a percentage of the GDP (gross domestic product).

In 2023-24, the total allocation for defence is Rs 5,93,537 crore and this is estimated to be 1.97 per cent of the GDP; the corresponding figure for 2020-21 was 2.4 per cent of the GDP. This is the first time that the defence budget has fallen below 2 per cent since the late 1950s. Furthermore, in the same period, the dollar has moved from Rs 76.5 (April 1, 2020) to Rs 82.1 (April 1, 2023), thereby reducing the value of the foreign exchange component available for capital and technology acquisition from external sources.

While belt-tightening has become the default position for the Indian military, the Standing

Committee report had an intriguing formulation, wherein the Defence Secretary, queried about this decline in relation to the GDP, averred that "while 3 per cent for defence is the accepted norm, it is not necessary for India".

He informed the parliamentarians, "Three per cent of the GDP will be around Rs 10 lakh crore, if we take our next year's GDP to be around \$3,200 billion. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) may not be able to absorb 3 per cent of the GDP. We may not require that much. What is required for the MoD has (already) been allocated."

This is an incongruous statement by the Defence Secretary if the institutional record of the ministry is reviewed. It merits recall that a former Cabinet Minister during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee years and an illustrious Army officer, Maj Gen BC Khanduri (ret'd), had served as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence in 2014-18 and his reports were candid in drawing attention to the increasing obsolescence of the material state of the Indian army and the need for increasing fiscal allocation in a sustained manner.

Given the current monetary trend, it is hard to make out how the national security apparatus will be 'augmented' with shrinking budgetary support.

C Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society for Policy Studies

Power and joy contained within women-only spaces

NATASHA BADHWAR

In solidarity with the students of my alma mater, Indraprastha College for Women Studying in Delhi University's Indraprastha College for Women (IPCW), or what is popularly called IP College, is one of the most important stories of my life. It took decades for me to find the words to begin to describe the ways in which I have been shaped by the safe space that the college was for me. My generation had grown up with the idea that gender segregation in schools and college is an archaic and conservative idea and mixed-gender schools is the progressive idea worth engaging with. I had spent my school years in one of Delhi's largest, loudest and most prestigious schools. When I chose to go to IP College because I wanted to study Psychology Honours and IP was reputed to have the best department for the subject, friends and family warned me that I may be disappointed to land in what was famously called a 'berhaji' college. Something drew me to the campus, even though it would mean commuting for nearly three hours every day in harsh and overcrowded DTC buses. What of us did not know growing up is the power and joy contained within women-only spaces. Young men who went to all-boys academic institutions and hostels boasted far more comfortably about their

LESSONS OF FREEDOM, FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY THAT I IMBIBED IN IPCW HAVE STAYED WITH ME. I MUST RECIPROCATÉ WITH PROTECTIVE CARE TO AN INSTITUTION THAT OFFERED THE SAME TO ME



bonding with each other and their collective exploits than women did. Yet, all of us who spent time in all-girls spaces experienced something special, even if many like me struggled to articulate it. I may be slow at processing complexities at times, but I am compulsive about things that move me. Over the years, I realised that my dissonance stemmed from the wide difference between what my lived experience as a young woman made me feel and what I was supposed to feel. On the campus of IP College, I met

the sassiest, most confident women I have ever known. My best friendships were born there and continue to nurture me. I experienced the complete liberation of spending hours without anyone interrupting my consciousness with the male gaze. Free from the expectations and judgement of others, we began to discover our voice. Our walk. Our interests. Our own gaze. Being on the campus rejuvenated me every day. I dared to dream. I got permission to just be. To hang out. To belong. To be a vagabond. A lazy rebel in the class-

room. A luminous person immersed in the riches of the books and journals in the library. IPCW and the well-being of its students burst back into my consciousness when news broke on March 28 that a mob of unruly men had climbed the boundary wall and forced their way through the main gate to create havoc during the concert organised for Shruuti, the annual college festival. My social media feed was full of photos and videos shared by students that were horrifying in the violence and lawlessness they depicted.

A press statement by students, alumni and teachers of the college states that several students were physically injured in the stampede and one required surgery for a broken femur. "The large-scale sexual violence that ensued is unlikely to be quite as easily repaired. Students were flung to the ground and groped and mauled, attempts were made to untie the clothes of a few; they were catcalled with vile words and stalked for hours on their own campus." I followed the news with shock and rage. How could this be allowed to happen? Students who began to agitate for a proper enquiry into the security lapses and bringing the culprits to book, found themselves being stonewalled.

This is when a parallel story of solidarity and support began to play out simultaneously, reminding me of the glory of what I had experienced on the campus in my years as an undergraduate student.

In another letter released to the press by former teachers and alumni the other day, they say, "We, the former students and teachers of IPCW, believe in the cornerstone principles laid down by its founding members, described in its brochure even to date... Founded as part of a nationwide campaign for women's educa-

tion and empowerment... its vision is to educate, enable, empower young women... to ensure justice and equity and belief in self as women... We, therefore, register our dismay over the specific incident, the handling of the matter and urge a larger discussion on the safety of gender minorities in educational institutes." The inter-generational solidarity of women reminds me of author Arshia Sattar's words. "...feminism cannot be exhausted. Or exhausting, for those who continue to care about equality and justice. I'm not sure that you can actually separate the fight for the rights of others (even after you have secured your own) from feminism."

The lessons of freedom, fun, friendship and responsibility that I imbibed in IPCW have stayed with me. They continue to inspire the work I do and choices I make. I knew I had to write about this today.

I must reciprocate with protective care towards a space and institution that offered the same to me when I needed it the most. Solidarity is the most precious resource we have. The more we offer to others who are vulnerable, the stronger we become wherever we are.

-The writer is a filmmaker & author

ADITYA ROY KAPUR EATS HALF KG ICE CREAM IN ONE SITTING ON HIS CHEAT DAY

Bollywood actor Aditya Roy Kapur, who believes in following a strict diet regime and healthy lifestyle, shared how he used to gorge on a half kg ice cream tub in one go without any hesitation on his cheat day.

He said: "Most of the time, I follow a diet so when it comes to enjoying food, one should make use of the cheat meal. There is no use enjoying one or two scoops of ice cream. And ice cream is literally like air."

Aditya, who started his acting career in 2009 with the movie 'London Dreams', rose to fame with 'Aashiqui 2' in 2013 and also acted in the romantic comedy 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani' followed by 'Daawat-e-Ishq', 'Fitoor', 'Ok Jaanu', and 'Kalank'. 'Ludo' and was also seen in the web series 'The Night Manager'.

He shared some fitness tips on Kapil's show as he spoke about his upcoming project 'Gumraah', which starts with a murder and the story revolves around finding the truth and the real culprit in the case.

Mrunal Thakur plays investigating officer Shivani Mathur who is on a mission to solve the murder mystery. It is a remake of the 2019 Tamil film 'Thadam'. 'Gumraah' features Aditya in a double role along with Ronit Roy and Deepak Kalra.

The entire cast of 'Gumraah' including Aditya Roy Kapur, Mrunal Thakur, and Deepak Kalra followed by the musicians Mithoon and Vishal Mishra appeared on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' as celebrity guests to promote their film.

The show airs on Sony Entertainment Television.



Soundarya Sharma Is Training For MMA 'For Something Special Overseas'



Soundarya Sharma, who made her acting debut with the movie 'Ranchi Diaries' and was also seen in 'Bigg Boss 16', is on cloud nine for her upcoming Hollywood project for which she is taking mixed martial arts training.

Soundarya said that it is too early for her to talk about any project in particular but she is putting all her efforts physically and mentally to give her best. This MMA training is part of that.

"I am training for MMA for something special overseas. I'm very thrilled about it. It's a lot of hard work and I am loving it. Shall announce and share more details soon."

The actress who did a cameo role in 'Thank God' and also worked in the web series such as 'Raktanchal 2', 'Country Mafia', and 'Karam Yuddh' added further that she is looking forward to some exciting projects and wants to explore Hollywood with some prominent roles.

I have signed two big Bollywood films, they will be announced next week. God is very kind. As of now I cannot share the details, shall wait for them to come straight from the makers and shall speak when the time is right," she added.

GAFOOR KOLATHUR - THE MULTILINGUAL LYRICIST WHO IS MAKING WAVES IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY"

Gafoor Kolathur is a name that is rapidly gaining popularity in the Indian music industry. A multilingual lyricist, he has penned songs in Arabic, English, Hindi, Urdu and Malayalam. His versatility has made him a sought-after songwriter, with his music arrangements and lyrics being widely appreciated across the country.

Born in Kolathur, Kerala, Gafoor inherited a love for music from his father, who was a madrasa teacher. He pursued his studies in Sabeel ul Hidayat Islamic College, affiliated to Darul Huda Islamic University,



where he honed his skills in contemporary studies and language expertise. It was during this time that Gafoor discovered his passion for music, and he started writing songs in multiple lan-

guages. Gafoor's work as a lyricist gained recognition when he penned a qawwali song for the legendary music director Gopi Sunder.

He also composed a Christmas song in Spanish, which was well-received by music lovers. One of his most notable achievements was the lyrics he wrote for the Qatar FIFA World Cup song 'Ball Ball Qatar Qatar', which was sung by playback singer Akbar Khan. Gafoor also wrote the lyrics for the Kuwait National Day song 'Eid Al Kuwaiti', which was released by Kuwait Governor His Highness Mubarak Al

Kaheer and was a hit among the masses.

Apart from being a lyricist, Gafoor has also composed music for various projects. He arranged the music for the Urdu Gazal in the Malayalam movie 'Abhyuham', which received rave reviews from critics and audiences alike. He also worked on the Malayalam album 'Kannoram', which was sung by Dana Razik and Fahis Hamza, and the Hindi album 'Aashiyaa', composed by the famous music director Faisal Razi and sung by playback singers Shikha Prabakaran and Faisal Razi.

Guneet Monga To Zoya Akhtar: 5 Power-Packed Female Directors & Producers Who Have Captivated Our Hearts With Their Fine Work



Who rules the world, it's the women. It is a treat to our eyes to see women directors on a rise and making our nation proud. Their beautiful portrayal of complex stories and making the characters feel alive on the screen.

Here is a list of 5 female directors who have captivated our hearts with their fine work. A powerhouse producer-turned-director, Guneet Monga has made waves with her directorial debut 'Pagglait', which has been hailed for its unique perspective and fresh take on grief. Monga is a dynamic and innovative filmmaker who brings a unique voice to the table. She has produced several critically acclaimed and commercially successful films like 'Gangs of Wasseypur' and 'Lunchbox'. She has been honoured with several awards for her work.

Zoya Akhtar: A veteran in the industry, Zoya Akhtar has established herself as one of the most celebrated filmmakers of our time. With films like 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' and 'Gully Boy', she has proven her ability to tell engaging and thought-provoking stories that resonate with audiences across the globe.

Preity Zinta claims being harassed in Mumbai, I'm a human being first then a mom, then a celebrity

Actor-entrepreneur Preity Zinta has opened up about allegedly facing harassment on two separate occasions during her recent visit to the city, saying the incidents have left her a "bit shaken". In a lengthy post on Instagram, Zinta wrote that a woman tried to take a photograph with her toddler Gia, but when the actor "politely" refused, the lady "suddenly" scooped my daughter in her arms & planted a big wet kiss next to her mouth & ran off saying what a cute baby."

"This woman lives in an elite building & happens to be in the garden where my kids were playing. If I wasn't a celebrity I probably would have reacted badly but kept my cool as I didn't want to make a scene," the actor, who shares twins Gia and Jai with husband Gene



Goodenough, said. Detailing the second incident, the co-owner of the IPL team Kings XI Punjab said she was rushing to the airport when a disabled man started getting "aggressive" as she couldn't offer him money due to lack of cash in the time. "I had a plane to catch & this disabled man kept trying to stop me. Over the years he has harassed me for money & I have given it to him when I could. This time when he

asked for money I said sorry today I have no cash, just a credit card.

"The lady with me gave him some money from her purse. He threw it back at her cuz it wasn't enough & started getting aggressive," she wrote alongside a video of the disabled man following her car. The 48-year-old actor, based out of Los Angeles, is currently in India to attend the ongoing IPL 2023 tournament.

Zinta, known for starring in movies such as "Dil Se...", "Soldier", "Kal Ho Naa Ho", "Koi... Mil Gaya", "Veer-Zaara" and "Lakshya", said it's high time people realised that celebrities are "human beings" first.

"I'm a human being first, then a mom & then a celebrity. I also don't need to apologise for my success constantly & be bullied for it cuz I've worked very hard to get where I am."

Working with Vishal Rekha Bhardwaj dream come true : Lara Dutta on series 'Charlie Chopra...'



Actor Lara Dutta on Sunday said working with director Vishal Bhardwaj and singer Rekha Bhardwaj on the upcoming series 'Charlie Chopra & The Mystery Of Solang Valley' is a dream come true for her. The SonyLIV original show is the official adaptation of Agatha Christie's novel 'The Sittaford Mystery'. The project marks the debut of Vishal Bhardwaj, known for films such as 'Maqbool', 'Omkaara', and 'Kaminey', into long-format storytelling.

Lara, who stars in the series, penned a brief note on her official Instagram account about collaborating with the multihyphenate couple. "Yes, you can manifest your reality. To work with both Vishal sir and Rekha ji together is just a dream come true! One that I've been hoping and praying for, for a long time! Love, admiration and deep respect for both of them. @vishalbhardwaj @rekha_bhardwaj @sonylivindia #charliechopraandthemysteryofsolangvalley," the former Miss Universe wrote alongside a picture with the duo. Set in the snow-capped mountains of Himachal Pradesh, 'Charlie Chopra & The Mystery Of Solang Valley' will follow the journey of Charlie Chopra and her quest to uncover a deep mystery.

The series also stars Wamiqa Gabbi, Priyanshu Pailyuli, Naseeruddin Shah, Neena Gupta, Ratna Pathak Shah, Gulshan Grover, Chandan Roy Sanyal, and Paoli Dam, among others. It is backed by Vishal Bhardwaj Pictures along with Frit Shahani's Tusk Tale Films in association with Agatha Christie Limited.

Vishal Bhardwaj will direct and co-produce the series. He will also serve as co-screenwriter, alongside Anjum Rajabali and Jyotsna Hariharan. James Prichard, Basi Akpabio and Leo Dezoyza will serve as executive producers on the show on behalf of Agatha Christie Limited.



Glamour most important aspect in cinema costume designer: Neeta Lulla

People come to watch films in theatres to forget about their worries and glamour plays a key role in transporting the audiences to a "dream world", says veteran costume designer Neeta Lulla, whose latest work is multilingual mythological drama 'Shaakuntalam'. Based on Kalidasa's acclaimed Sanskrit play 'Abhigyan Shaakuntalam', the upcoming film revolves around the love story of Shakuntala and King Dushyant, portrayed by Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Dev Mohan, respectively. Lulla, whose film credits

include "Chandni", "Lamhe", "Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!", "Devdas", "Balgandharva" and "Jodhaa Akbar", said cinema may have undergone a sea of change but the glamour quotient continues to be a "constant". "What is constant then and now is the fact that the glamour aspect in cinema is most important. This is because audiences are going to (watch) a film to forget about their worries and issues and they want to see something that transports them into a dream world," the four-time National Award winner

told PTI in an interview. For "Shaakuntalam", the designer created around 3,000 costumes for the lead actors, supporting cast and junior artists. "The story of 'Shaakuntalam' itself excited me," said Lulla, adding, she grew up reading about the mythological character in the classic children's magazines Amar Chitra Katha and Chandamama. The couturier said she followed Gunasekhar's brief, design costumes for the eponymous character. "Shaakun-talam" marks the

second collaboration between Lulla and the director after the 2015 Telugu film "Rudramadevi". "The discussions were with Gunasekhar sir. Every time he would explain a scene, I would draw it out and then do the final sketch. Then we did Samantha's look test. She put her full trust in me and Gunasekhar sir and adapted to it beautifully. There were times when the costumes were heavy, but she really adapted to them well," she added. Her team comprised around 20 to 25 people who worked on the accessories, flow-

ers and costumes for the cast. The Mumbai-born industry veteran said they used organic cottons and muls for the character of Shakuntala, and Kanjivaram, Kalamkari, and Patola for King Dushyant. "There must have been 3,000 costumes in the film that we did for soldiers and demons. We sourced the material from South India, and then from North India we used Lucknow Chikan kari. We weren't restricted to one place," Lulla said, adding, period films take about eight to nine months of work.

GET A GRIP! USE THESE HAND EXERCISE TOOLS FOR STRENGTH

You may not realise it, but your hand grip strength is very important. Even doing household chores requires a good hand grip. Whether you are mopping the floor or gardening, it is what you need. Many assume that grip exercises can only be done at gyms. There are dumbbells or barbells that can be used for it. But ladies, you can even use easily available tools at home to improve hand grip!

Maintaining a good grip is all about regularly making use of the muscles in your hand or forearm. So, HealthShots connected with fitness guru Aminder Singh of Team Aminder fame, to find out about the importance of hand grip and ways to improve it.

If you love online shopping, you can buy hand grippers from

anywhere. It is a portable and compact lever-type device that can be used to build up arm strength and muscle. All you have to do is squeeze it. Mind you, it's quite challenging to squeeze it. That's why it is a great way



do many other activities. So, you need to train grip strength. Hand grippers

would be surprised to know that making a dough in the kitchen is a well-known hand grip, says Singh. That's because finger and hand muscles are used at an extensive level while making rotis.

each end. Start twisting the towel with both your hand, and when it gets too tight, undo it. Who should avoid using hand exercise tools? Forearm muscles are used daily for normal day routine, so

YOUR HANDS AND ARMS NEED TO BE STRONG TO CARRY OUT DAILY ACTIVITIES. SO, USE HAND EXERCISE TOOLS AND IMPROVE YOUR GRIP.

to improve hand grip. Benefits of using hand exercise tool Hand grip strength is needed as it allows women to function normally and carry out daily activities without any problem, says Singh. When women strengthen their forearms, wrists and grip, they find it easier to carry the groceries, hold a child, do gardening and

great because you can do it from anywhere and anytime even while watching a TV, allowing you to turn your relaxation time into productive exercises. 1. Dough You probably make a dough every night for dinner. You

2. Rubber band Tying your hair up with a rubber band? Well, you can use a thick rubber band or rubber bracelet. Place it around your five fingers for grip exercise. All you have to do is extend your hand outward as much as you can. 3. Towel Washing machine has made our lives very easy and comfortable. We no longer have to carry the heavy wet clothes and squeeze them to take out water. Well, you should do that as a grip exercise. Use a towel and roll it into a sausage shape then grab it at

they recover also fast. That's a good thing as they can be trained daily. But if you feel little discomfort, you can take rest for one or two days and then start again working with a hand exercise tool, suggests the expert. Also, people who have already been way too injured should avoid using hand exercise tools. Even gym enthusiasts should focus on a good grip. If your grip strength is poor then you may face problems in doing other exercises like pull ups, deadlifts or lunges. So, hand grip strength should not be ignored.

Dietitians hate the term 'superfood' and wish you'd use this instead: 'One food is not going to be a cure-all'

"Superfood" is the buzzy word we use to describe foods that are packed with nutrients, have many benefits, and that experts say are essential to a healthy diet. Think kale, blueberries, chia seeds and avocados.

But many dietitians wish the term would go away.

"I don't really resonate with the 'superfoods' idea," says Felicia Porrazza, a registered dietitian nutritionist.

"One food is not going to be a cure-all. It's really about someone's dietary patterns [and] their other lifestyle factors."

The concept of superfoods also causes other healthy alternatives to be overshadowed, Porrazza adds.

Diana Ushay, registered dietitian at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and Erica Leon Nutrition, agrees. "There are so many foods that are good for you that if we just isolate certain ones, it's going to increase demand for these products," Ushay says.

"Also, I don't think you can really call something a superfood if it's not accessible to everyone of all budgets."

Instead of 'superfood,' use



'nutrient-dense' "What's funny about superfoods is that there isn't really a regulated, accepted definition," says Porrazza. Most people use the term to define foods that have a high nutritional value and provide benefits beyond what other typical foods offer, she adds. "I like to think of a superfood as being in the category of a nutrient-dense food," Porrazza says. "One that would be high in nutrients and low in calories. It's going to have vitamins, minerals [and] maybe complex carbohydrates."

Kale, quinoa and chia seeds aren't the only healthy foods. This doesn't mean that popular "superfoods" aren't healthy, says Ushay, because they are great choices. But, kale, quinoa and chia seeds aren't the only healthy foods to choose from, Porrazza says. Here are some nutrient-dense foods that Porrazza and Ushay say deserve just as much attention: 1. Legumes "Lentils [and] any kind of legume are really fantastic sources of nutrients [like] fiber and protein," Ushay says.

Legumes are "such an affordable and healthy food that people could really be focusing on." Some legumes you can try in your next meal include: Lentils Chickpeas Beans Peanuts They're also very high in potassium, "which is really good for the heart," Porrazza notes. 2. Dark, leafy greens (beyond just kale) Dark, leafy greens are packed with nutrients like iron and vitamins A and K, says Porrazza. They're also extremely versatile,

which gives you plenty of options to choose from for how to prepare them. "You can certainly do things like salads, but you can also throw them into a smoothie or do a stir fry," Porrazza says. Consider going for one or two of these options on your next grocery run:

- 1. Spinach
- Arugula
- Broccoli greens
- Bok choy
- Mustard greens
- Or, of course, kale
- 3. Berries and frozen fruit "No fruit is off limits," says Porrazza, but berries are lower in naturally-occurring sugar so they're a nice choice. Blueberries are already a pretty well-known "superfood," but other berries like blackberries and raspberries are also high in nutrients, she adds. "They're great in terms of antioxidant capacity, are high in vitamin C and great in terms of fiber content," says Porrazza. Even frozen options for fruits, like berries, can provide many health benefits, says Ushay. "They're frozen at their peak freshness," she says, "and they really don't have any less of a nutrient profile than fresh stuff."

KITCHEN TIPS: HOW TO REMOVE BAD ODOUR FROM REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES



Whether from the point of view of environmental sustainability or simply for a matter of convenience, reusable water bottles are quite common nowadays. It is so easy to fill up a water bottle and take it wherever you go to stay hydrated and replenished on the go. During summers, we often fill up our bottles with different kinds of drinks - maybe an iced tea or even some vitamin-infused water. Sometimes, these drinks may leave a leftover bad odour in the reusable water bottles - for no fault of your own. Here's all you need to know about cleaning up your bottle properly and removing any foul smell from it. Is It Safe To Drink Water From Smelly Water Bottles? It is not recommended to consume water from a smelly water bottle. This is because the foul odour indicates the presence of harmful bacteria inside the bottle. This could be due to improper cleaning and human saliva that may cause bacteria to breed inside it. Recently, a group of researchers from a US-based company found that reusable water bottles may harbour four times more bacteria than a computer mouse and a whopping 40,000 times more bacteria than a toilet seat.

Water bottles can often have a foul odour that may take some time to go away. Photo: iStock/How To Clean Reusable Water Bottles Properly And Remove Bad Odour Ideally, a reusable water bottle should be cleaned at least once every alternate day. If the bad odour comes more often, it can be removed using some simple kitchen ingredients. Luckily, there are so many foods in our humble Indian kitchen that can prove effective as cleaning agents for smelly water bottles. These ingredients can be kept handy for removing the bad odour from your water bottles. Here's How You Can Remove Bad Odour From Reusable Water Bottles: 1. Baking Soda/Soda bicarbonate or baking soda is one of the most effective cleaning agents in our kitchens. From tough stains to foul smells, it can smoothly eliminate all this and more. Simply add a teaspoon of baking soda to your water bottle and fill it with water. Give it a good shake and let it soak overnight. Rinse properly and see the difference! 2. Vinegar Believe it or not, the strong-smelling vinegar can be a great antidote for smells in your reusable bottle. Add it to your water bottle in a small quantity (no more than a cap full) and dilute it with some water. Let the solution rest and rinse it out. Your bottle will shine and smell as good as new.

White vinegar can be an effective way to clean up your reusable water bottles. Photo: iStock/Lemon Juice/Like vinegar, even lemon juice is an acidic solution that can prove to be an effective cleaner. This is why several detergents and cleaning solutions in the market make use of lemon as an ingredient. Simply squeeze in some lemon juice and add some water to make a natural cleaning solution to remove bad odour. Alternatively, you could also use a lemon slice or an orange peel. 4. Tea Leaves Did you know that the humble tea leaves can be used for more than just making our favourite beverage? Use leftover tea leaves to clean up the grease and odour from your reusable water bottle. Tea leaves act as a natural astringent and cleaning agent and give great results every time. Simply add a tea bag to your water bottle and let it soak overnight. You will see that the odour disappears completely!

Did you know tea leaves can be good cleansing agents too? Photo: iStock/ Soap And Water/ Nothing else works, there's always the classic combination of soap and water. This frothy solution will remove all the excess bacteria and leave behind a clean and shiny bottle sans any foul smells.

So, keep your bottles clean and reuse them without worrying about catching infections or harming your health.

Weight loss and cardio workout: Which is good for you, weight training or HIIT?

In the past few years, our changing lifestyles with better disposable income, consuming convenience and processed food habits and sedentary lifestyles have caused an alarming increase in diabetes, cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and cancer. Gaining excessive weight and body mass has been strongly linked to developing these diseases. Also, in today's fast pace, cut-throat competitive world, overcoming work and personal stressors in life has become increasingly challenging.

1Five-minute yoga stretches for a busy weekday

2Can music and dance therapy slow progression of Parkinson's?

3How doctors diagnosed gelastic epilepsy in this 45-year-old from Bihar, who was thought to be cursed and possessed by spirits Lack of physical activity, poor dietary habits and lack of sleep have contributed to our weight gain problem today. However, as per research, regular exercise is associated with stress reduction due to an increase in the release of happy hormones known as endorphins, building good food habits and getting better sleep. All these elements together help us



bring down our weight. However, it is tough to find two hours every day to burn 1000+ calories to bring our weight down and maintain it for life. Thus, our quest for an effective weight loss regimen has introduced various workout techniques and exercise routines. The two most popular methods that have been adopted and have gained serious attention are

weight training and high-intensity interval training (HIIT). Both methods have their unique benefits. However, which one is more effective in helping you lose weight? In this article, we will explore the difference between weight training and HIIT to assist you in making an informed decision on which method is the most suitable for you to shed that excess

weight. Weight Training, also known as strength or resistance training, involves exercises that use resistance to build strength and muscle mass. Typically, the resistance in the activity is provided by selectorized machines, kettlebells, dumbbells or

The best outcomes will be seen if you combine the two modalities and divide your week into 2-3 days of 45 minutes of weight training and 1-2 days of 30 minutes of HIIT training. Combining both modalities with a sound nutritional plan and sufficient sleep, rest and recovery, you will lose weight, says functional medicine expert Vijay Thakkar

barbells. When travelling or on the go, weight training can also be done using your body weight with burpees, pull-ups, push-ups, or resistance bands. Benefits of Weight Training: 1) Improved Muscle Mass: Weight training helps stimulate the growth of our skeletal muscles, which is the muscle around our joints such as arm, chest, back and leg muscles that help us move our body against gravity, be stronger and move without aching joints. Skeletal muscles also help improve our energy expenditure throughout the day, known as the

basal metabolic rate or metabolism. Increasing our metabolic rate helps us burn more calories and lose fat faster. 2) Better Body Composition: Our body is made up of two distinct masses, which are the fat mass and the lean mass. Lean mass mainly comprises protein, water, vitamins and minerals such as muscle mass. On the other

hand, fat mass particularly possesses fat deposits. Weight training helps improve our body composition by increasing lean mass, mainly muscle mass and decreasing body fat. This composition improvement improves overall health and gives you a slim, chiselled look. 3) Improved Metabolic Rate: Weight training causes microscopic damage to the muscle tissue, also known as eustress. This eustress on the muscle encourages nutrients and oxygen to flood into the area to initiate the recovery process and super-compensation by improving the

strength and size of the muscle so that the same amount of exercise does not cause damage again. As a result of this growth, the individual, after doing resistance training, experiences a boost in his metabolic rate for up to 48 hours post-exercise, also known as post-exercise oxygen consumption (EPOC).

It is a type of cardiovascular activity that encourages alternating between short bursts of intense exercise and intermittent recovery periods by reducing the pace of the movement. For example, while doing an outdoor run, alternating between sprints for 30 seconds and brisk walking for two minutes before continuing this cycle would be termed HIIT.



SPECIAL SUMMARY REVISION-2023

Additional Secretary Sandesh Gupta reviews electoral roll revision in Kathua

Calls for concerted efforts to raise awareness, include all eligible voters



J1 NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 09: Additional Secretary, Office of Chief Electoral Officer, Sandesh Gupta visited Kathua district to review the ongoing Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls that began on 5 April 2023.

During his visit, Gupta interacted with locals while encouraging them for participating in the electoral process. He inspected several polling stations including HSS Girls Kathua, Old Age Home, Animal Husbandry Office Shiva Nagar, Sheep Husbandry Office, Kallbari, Industrial Area-

Logate, DIC Kathua, Logate CFC, Lachhipur and Barnoti. Gupta highlighted that claims and objections can be filed both online and offline. He encouraged stakeholders and officers to participate in the revision exercise to ensure maximum enrolment of eligible voters. He also emphasised the importance of facilitating unregistered youth and the general public through house-to-house campaigning.

Election officials were directed to create awareness through various SVEEP activities related to special summary revision and ensure timely disposal

of claims and objections as prescribed by the Election Commission of India. The Additional Secretary was accompanied by District Election Officer, and Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rahul Pandey, Deputy DEO, Danish Rasool, Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers.

In the meantime, special camps were conducted at all designated polling stations throughout the administrative units of Kathua district as part of the ongoing SSR. BLOs and election staff were present with voter lists for public inspection and to receive applications for additions, deletions, corrections and transfers of names in electoral rolls through the completion of prescribed forms such as Form-6, Form-7 and Form-8. District Election Cell teams also enlightened visitors to polling stations about the importance of conscientiously exercising their right to vote and contributing to the democratic process of electing representatives without bias.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Kisan Sampark Abhiyan to be held under HADP



J1 NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, APRIL 09: To review and finalize the arrangements for smooth conduct of farmer's orientation programme (Kisan Sampark Abhiyan) under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), a meeting of officers was today convened under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal-Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at mini-secretariat, here.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Showkat Ahmad Rather,

JDP Zahid Sajjad, ACR Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz, ACP Shurjeet Ali, CAO, CAHO, DSHO, BDOs and resource persons from Agriculture and Allied departments.

During the meeting, Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam (District Nodal Officer HADP) apprised the chair regarding the arrangements put in place for the successful conduct of farmer's orientation programme under the HADP which will be held from 24th April upto 31st of August 2023.

The DC stressed upon

the Sectoral Officers of Agriculture and allied departments to give the programme a wide publicity in advance so that mass participation of the farming community can be assured.

He also instructed to aware the farmers about modern tools and techniques that has been incorporated in HADP to overcome the prevailing constraints and use different extension methods to motivate the farming community in adoption of proposed interventions in the approved projects.

He assured all possible help from District Administration for the successful implementation of the programme in the district to uplift the livelihood of the farming community. It is important to mention that the Govt. of UT of J&K has recently sanctioned 29 projects for Agriculture and Allied Sectors for an amount of Rs 5013 Crores with an aim to increase the farmer's income and to make the UT of Jammu and Kashmir a leading Agrarian Economy in the country.

DC Doda reviews progress of Jal Jeevan Mission

PLANS DAILY VIRTUAL VISIT OF WORKS



J1 NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 09: Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, who also serves as Chairman of the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) under the Jal Jeevan Mission, reviewed the implementation of the mission in the district in a meeting held at the district headquarters.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised adherence to timelines for all projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission and ensuring that citizens are provided with safe drinking water in their homes as envisaged in the scheme.

The meeting was informed that out of 185 tendered projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission, 150 have been allotted, Letters of Intent have been issued for 9 works, and work is ongoing on 137 projects. All Jal Jeevan Mission works must be completed by the end of June this year, emphasised the DC.

Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department in Doda have been instructed to send their tour calendars to their work sites and the Deputy Commissioner will personally visit Jal Jeevan Mission works virtually every day at 5pm. Assistant Executive Engineers have been instructed to visit concerned Divisional Forest Officers tomorrow to resolve issues for the smooth completion of Water Supply Schemes passing through forest areas.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, CPO, SE Jal Shakti, Ex Ens of JSD/ Irrigation/ Ground Water/ Mechanical, DFO Doda/ Bharderwah/ Batote, AEs, AEs, and JEs of JSD and other concerned officials.

TISC Kangan organizes Awareness programme on 'World Health Day'

J1 NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, APRIL 09: On the directions of Secretary District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakaak and under the guidance of Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TISC) Kangan, Essar-Ul-Nabi, the TISC Kangan today observed World Health Day at Primary Health Centre Hariganwan.

Besides Chief Guest Essar-Ul-Nabi (Chairman TISC Kangan), DDC Member Gud Ghulam Noorani Jara, Dr. Arshid (Dental Surgeon), Dr. Upendar Kumar Dhar, Dr. Fariyal were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman TISC Kangan said that World Health Day is observed every year on the 07th of April. He said that in order to keep ourselves Healthy, we shall have balanced diet which include Vitamins, Minerals, Carbohydrates, Nutrients etc. He said that we shall also have regular medical checkups.

He said that Drug addiction among young generation is a big menace in society today which badly affects the health of people.

He said that in order to control Drug addiction among young generation, parents shall have a close watch on their Children and enquire about the activities they do during the day.

The chief guest said that Hypertension is also a big health issue in today's society and once we realize this problem in someone, we shall consult a doctor.

Resource Person Adv. Sajid Ahmad Khan also appraised the gathering about the World Health Day. He said that sudden heart attacks are rapidly growing and particularly raised among the younger generation.

Throwing light on the day, he said the day is observed to raise awareness about the health of the public, and to make people aware about health issues faced by the people in daily life.

Budget 2023-24 will foster inclusive development of all sections

7 transit accommodations for nomadic population, 24 ST hostels to be completed this year

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 9: The substantial budget for the fiscal 2023-24 will foster inclusive development for all segments of the society with government's keenness towards empowering the weaker sections through various social and tribal welfare initiatives.

According to budget 2023-24, 7 transit accommodations for nomadic population and 24 Scheduled Tribe hostels are targeted to be completed during this financial year.

On the directions of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, the Tribal department has initiated a special project envisaging a transhumant support system including transit accommodations and transport facilities for the migratory population.

In line with the announcement made by Lieutenant Governor to minimize hardships being faced by the tribals during seasonal migration, the Tribal Affairs Department procured a fleet of 40 trucks for transporting around 30,000 families from Jammu to Kashmir via Mughal road and National Highway-44 connecting Jammu with Srinagar. These trucks had been procured by the

department through J&K Road Transport Corporation.

Transport facilities are being made available to tribal families for the seasonal migration of their goods and cattle this year also, the budget document reads.

In this year's budget, more Milk villages will be established with an aim to support milk production and supply chain besides providing sustainable employment opportunities to youth. Also, market linkage would be created for tribal products like milk, mutton, sheep wool, leather etc.

The budget has kept a provision for setting up of more smart classrooms for tribal children and tracking of educational, healthcare and economic status of nomadic population. Besides, the budget has a provision for providing scholarship to 124300, Pre-Matric students (1st-8th) belonging to Scheduled Caste/Other Backward Classes/Physically Challenged Persons categories.

All the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) would be developed on modern pattern with best living conditions for the inmates under the new budget. Besides, 1700 inmates in 19 Bal Ashrams and 12 Nari Niketans

would be covered under the initiative.

This year's financial plan has also a provision for establishing District Disability Rehabilitation Centers (DDRC) in all 20 districts besides creation of Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW)-Mahila Shakti Kendras.

Schools Found Forcing Parents To Buy Books, Uniforms From Them May Lose Recognition: Atishi

NEW DELHI: Delhi Education minister Atishi on Sunday said strict action, including termination of recognition, will be taken against privateschools forcing parents to buy books and uniforms from them or any specific vendor.

During a press conference, she was asked about the issue, and she said that the Directorate of Education has been getting complaints over the matter, and guidelines will be issued by it.

"Many private schools are pressuring parents to buy uniforms and books from them."

Prisoners make high quality furniture for Nagpur court under rehabilitation programme



NAGPUR, APR 9: Inmates from four prisons in Maharashtra have been engaged in making high quality teakwood furniture for a new court building in Nagpur as part of their rehabilitation and to provide an employment opportunity to them, an official said.

The prisoners working on the project get wages under the skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled categories, the official told PTI. "Interestingly, the chairs on which the judges and other staff of the Nagpur sessions courts' extension building would be sitting are being made by those convicted by such courts," Nagpur Central Jail's superintendent Anup Kumar said. Such work contracts are really benefiting the jail inmates. They are getting a good employment opportunity in the jail itself, he said.

Nagpur Central Jail's deputy superintendent Deepa Agey said prisoners lodged at Nagpur, Kolhapur and Nashik and Yerwada (Pune) jails are working in the carpentry section of the respective prisons to make 22 types of furniture required for the new extension building of the Nagpur sessions court.

"These are very high quality teakwood furniture pieces which are otherwise not available outside with private suppliers. We make the chairs of judges. The Pune Central Jail makes special judges' chairs with monogram which cannot be made outside," said Kumar.

The Nagpur Central Jail had received a contract of Rs 5.50 crore for the furniture. The work had started in March 2021 and the delivery of these furniture items is now in the final stages, Agey said.

The intention of the prison administration behind this exercise is correction and rehabilitation of prisoners and provide them some employment in jail, she said.

Anitesh Raj's Yorteks helps businesses double their revenue with dynamic strategies

NEW DELHI: Anitesh Raj, a 24-year-old marketing graduate from Bihar, has founded Yorteks, a leading company based in Pune that provides business development services and consulting needs. Since its establishment in 2021, Yorteks has encouraged several businesses to serve online platforms and double their revenues. Yorteks' team of experts who work closely with clients to develop dynamic strategies to grow their businesses and attract potential clients. The team delivers a complete report to study the analytics and development

achieved, and a thorough discussion with clients ensures on-time delivery of services to achieve targets. The successful business model of Yorteks has enabled them to reach a wider audience and take businesses to the next level. Yorteks offers a range of services that are both accessible and affordable, including generating more B2B prospects, finding and targeting the right audience, conducting market research, developing B2B branding, strategy and positioning, digital marketing and site designing, and making sales preparation easy.

Srinagar Admin conducts intensified Market Checking across District

RS 84300 PENALTY IMPOSED ON FBOS FOR INDULGING IN ILLEGAL PROFITEERING & VIOLATING FSSAI REGULATIONS

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 09: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the special teams conducted intensified Market checking of various City parts and booked several erring shopkeepers found failing to maintain the quality of food items, not displaying rate lists of essential commodities, selling expiry products, besides indulging in practices of illegal profiteering.

During the drive, a sum of Rs 84300 was realised as fine from erring shopkeepers in different parts of the City.

The team of Food Safety Department headed by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Designated Officer under FSSAI Srinagar, Yameen ul Nabi conducted rigorous market checking of various Restaurants, Bakery shops, Meat and Chicken sellers and Ethnic street food makers.

During the inspection a



Mobile Food Testing van was put in place for conducting on-spot testing of food commodities.

On the occasion, dozens of food business units were inspected and a fine of Rs 12000 was also imposed on several

erring shopkeepers for operating food business in unhygienic and insanitary conditions and violation of Food Safety Regulations 2011.

In addition as many as 3 improvement notices were also issued to some dealers for lack-

ing necessary steps to improve their premises/ food operations as per the standards as laid down in food safety and standards act.

Similarly, special teams of District Administration Srinagar under the supervision of respective Tehsildars of Eidgah, North, South, Pantha chowk, Khanyar, Chanapora and Shalting conducted market checking in Saiteng, Lagan, Khanyar, Nowpora, Rawalpore, Sanat Nagar, Zakura, Gulab Bagh, Saderbal, Eidgah, Soura, and other markets of Srinagar during which a fine of Rs 72300 was realized from erring shopkeepers.

On the occasion, the teams warned the erring food business operators not to indulge in violations of food safety regulations and insanitary conditions which are against public health falling which a hefty compound will be imposed upon them in future, which can even lead to closure of facility.

During the market checking

huge quantities of rotten vegetables, fruits and other food items were also destroyed on the spot.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar has asked the Market Checking teams to continue the drive to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the quality standards with sufficient availability of consumables in wake of ongoing Holy month of Ramzan.

'Science on Tap'- Learning about universe climate change over pint of beer

Pune, Apr 9

Discussions and workshops on science topics are common in schools, colleges and formal events, but people have now started having casual chats on a plethora of science topics such as machines, universe and climate change in informal settings like pubs, lounges and cafes, and that too over a pint of beer. Their logic is: "Science + craft beer - jargon and seriousness = Super Fun!" Yes, you heard it right! A bunch of science enthusiasts from Pune, led by climate scientist Anoop Mahajan from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), are on a mission to reduce the gap between science and the common public with their unique outreach initiative called 'Science on Tap'.

As part of the initiative, they rope in experts to unlock mysteries around some of the complex subjects during the interactive sessions.

Mahajan, the brain behind 'Science on Tap', which offers discussions on science at local pubs and bars, said the outreach initiative has been started with an aim to reduce the gap between science and people.

"There is a lot of misinformation. People do not know what information is correct and what is fake. Most people are exposed to information on social media that is unverified, and this dissemination of misinformation is for all subjects, including science," he told PTI.

Generally, a lot of science outreach programmes are conducted, mostly aimed at children and those who are already doing some work in that particular subject.

"All such outreach events take place in formal settings like auditoriums, schools and colleges where access is limited. Even if we organise talks by inviting experts to an auditorium and keep them open to all, the chances are people won't come," Mahajan said.

"So, we decided to reach out to the general public and tried to find out

where these young people go to have a good time. The answer was restaurants, lounges, cafes or their favourite bar or pub, and then it was decided to hold discussions at such places," he said.

Mahajan said they keep the chats casual and interactive so that these sessions go well with the place and mood. "We wanted people to ask questions without thinking about how simple or basic the question is. As far as the audience is concerned, our target is not only young people, but those who are currently running the world, making decisions and owning businesses," he said.

Initially, topics pertaining to climate change and monsoon were covered in which Mahajan had the expertise, but later it was realised that people had interests in a wider range of subjects related to mathematics, biology, physics, and organic chemistry.

"We then started conducting sessions on topics ranging from mathematics, artificial intelligence, organic chemistry, climate change, the science of food, science of machine learning, the universe, and many more," said Mahajan.

So far, 30 sessions on varied topics have been conducted in which the experts in each respective domain were invited to discuss the subjects, he said.

"On April 23, we have organised the 'Science on Tap' session on an interesting subject - The Science of Colour - in which the thrust would be on how we perceive certain colours, if animals look at colours the same way humans do, and how these colours have evolved," Mahajan added.

This is a one-of-its-kind initiative to bring science that happens within laboratories to everyone in the community, said Dr Amrita Hazra, a microbiologist and biological chemist at the Pune-based Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, who

conducted a session at a brewery on the 'Science of Fermentation'.

"The impression that most people have about science is that it is a difficult and dry topic. Having a space where one gets to meet a scientist in an informal setting, listen to the science they are working on, their stories from the laboratory, and then just chat with them over some food and drink makes science interesting and real," she said.

Dr Hazra, who is working on how vitamins are made and exchanged by bacteria in the natural world, said the setting where she conducted the discussion was also great.

She said mattresses were laid out on the floor of a brewery where everyone sat, surrounded by large fermentation vats and she stood in front of one while talking about how microbes conduct various types of fermentation.

Shraddha Rathod, a conservation biologist and a researcher, who attends such discussions on a regular basis, said Pune has so many research institutes, but she noticed that scientists and non-scientists do not move in the same circle.

"Science on Tap is the only platform I know which brings the two together. And how? Science + craft beer - jargon and seriousness = Super Fun!" she said.

"Scientists from various fields, including those working on marine life, wildlife, bacteria in your gut, fungi, ethnography, climate change, world history, and many more, talk about their work in a very simple and casual way," she said.

Rathod said she not only gets to learn something new in every discussion, but also gets the most up-to-date research simplified (from the horse's mouth). "I love the part where I can interact one-on-one with the speakers and attendees, who I know are interested in the same subject. I am always waiting for their next discussion and getting to learn about some very exciting science," she added.

'Politics of convenience' Sibal hits back at PM Modi over his dynasty remarks in Telangana



New Delhi, Apr 9

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Sunday accused the BJP of indulging in 'politics of convenience', as he hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks on dynasty in Telangana and cited past instances of the party allying with dynastic political families in various states.

Addressing a public meeting in Hyderabad, Prime Minister Modi took a swipe at Bharat Rashtra Samithi chief and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu and

urged the state government to not allow any hindrance in the works related to the development.

In a tweet, Sibal said, "PM Takes swipe at KCR: Says corruption and dynasty go hand in hand. Why did BJP join: 1) Punjab (Akalis) 2) Andhra (Jagan) 3) Haryana (Chautalas) 4) J&K (Mufits) 5) Maharashtra (Thackerays)...Not dynasties when BJP joined them!"

"It's called politics of convenience!" the former Union minister said.

In another tweet, Sibal said, "PM:

Takes a swipe at KCR, says dynasty and corruption go hand in hand. BJP makes allegations of corruption against AAP."

No dynasty there. Need not be dynasty to allege corruption. "You say BJP not dynasty. Is BJP corrupt?" he said.

In his remarks in Telangana, Modi said his government has attacked the real root of corruption of dynastic forces who want to keep their control over every system.

"Should we fight against corruption or not? Should we fight against the corrupt or not? Should the country be liberated from corruption or not? Should legal steps be taken against the corrupt however big or not. Should the law be allowed to work against the corrupt or not," he asked the gathering.

"That's why 'these people' are upset and they are doing anything out of anger, Modi said.

Modi, who said corruption and 'parivarवाद' (dynasty) are not different from each other, maintained that every type of corruption begins to grow where there is 'parivarवाद'.

Delhi Mayoral Poll On April 26: Saurabh Bharadwaj

NEW DELHI: The mayoral poll in Delhi will be held on April 26, city minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said on Sunday.

Incumbent Shelly Oberoi, an AAP councillor who was elected on February 22, will continue to hold charge till her successor is elected. She had defeated the BJP's Rekha Gupta by a margin of 34 votes.

Oberoi polled 150 votes, while Gupta received 116 votes out of the total 266 votes polled.

"The fresh mayoral polls will be held on April 26," Bharadwaj told agencies on Sunday.

Sources said the Aam Aadmi Party is likely to repeat Oberoi and deputy mayor Aaley Mohammad Iqbal as its candidates for the respective post. The city gets a new mayor after the end of the financial year. The post of mayor in the national capital sees five single-year terms on a rotation basis, with the first year being reserved for women, the second for the open category, the third for the reserved category, and the remaining two again for the open category. The December 4 civic polls last year were the first after the three corporations were unified into the MCD and a fresh delimitation exercise was carried out, reducing the total number of wards from 272 in 2012 to 250.

Uttarakhand CM Dhama Reiterates Warning Against 'Illegal' Mazars

UTTARAKHAND: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on Sunday warned occupiers of illegally built mazars (tombs) to remove those on their own and reiterated that his government would not allow "land jihad" in the state.

The Uttarakhand chief minister was in Haridwar to review development works and preparations for the Char Dham Yatra.

Under a conspiracy, thousands of shrines have been built illegally on public and forest land without permission, he said.

"The occupiers of illegal tombs should remove those themselves soon. Otherwise, the administration will demolish those," he warned.

Dhama had issued a similar warning at a programme in Nainital district's Kaladhungi on Friday, saying illegally built mazars would be demolished.

"Land jihad" will not be allowed in the state at any cost and all the wrongdoings

of the past in the name of erecting mazars will be rectified, he said.

More than 1,000 such places where tombs have been built but no remains could be found under them upon digging have been identified, Dhama said.

Dhama added that while his government did not mean to harm anyone, it would also not allow anyone's appeasement either.

Referring to alleged demographic imbalance creeping into parts of the state, Dhama said his government will launch a special drive against it.

Last November, the Dhama government, while further tightening the state's anti-conversion law, made a strict provision for punishment of up to 10 years for those found indulging in forced conversions.

He has also constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship of Justice (Retd) Ranjana Desai to draft the law to fulfil his pre-poll promise of implementing a uniform civil code in the state.

UP Urban Local Body Polls: Triple-Engine Govt Must For State's Rapid Development, Says Adityanath

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday exhorted people of Uttar Pradesh to vote for the BJP in the upcoming urban local body polls, saying a triple-engine government is a must for uninterrupted and rapid development of the state.

He also appealed to people to make the lotus - the BJP's poll symbol - bloom in municipal and Lok Sabha polls in 2024.

Adityanath was speaking at a programme at Hindustan Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited ground where he inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 258 development projects worth Rs 1,046 crore.

The chief minister inaugurated 56 development projects worth Rs 333.85 crore and laid foundation stones of 202 projects worth Rs 711.81 crore. These projects include a mini-stadium, roads, flyovers, educational institutes and hospitals, an official statement said.

Addressing the gathering, Adityanath appealed to people to



vote for the BJP in the forthcoming urban local body polls and said a triple-engine government is a must for ensuring uninterrupted and rapid development of the state and prosperity of its people.

The country is scaling new heights under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has emerged as an ideal nation for the world where heritage is respected and benefits of welfare schemes reach every poor person and farmer, he

said. "In Uttar Pradesh also development is taking place in every field. Infrastructure has improved by leaps and bounds in the last six years. Today no criminal can walk with his head held high. Mafia and gangsters are getting the treatment they deserve under law," he said.

The venue of today's programme is a factory that was shut down in 1990. It is running at its full capacity today, he said. The development seen in Gorakhpur today could have happened earlier as well but there was a lack of will on the part of the erstwhile government, he added.

Hitting out at previous governments, Adityanath said, "Before 2017, there was a riot in the state every two-three days. No businessman, no daughter and no village was safe. Land mafia, sand mafia and organised gangs were operating freely. Besides, there was widespread corruption in government schemes and people were deprived of their benefits."

Adani hard-working down to earth with big ambitions in building infrastructure Sharad Pawar in 2015 autobiography

NEW DELHI, APR: NCP chief Sharad Pawar may have broken ranks with other opposition parties on the Adani issue, but his friendship with Gautam Adani dates back to nearly two decades when the businessman was exploring expansion into the coal sector.

In his Marathi autobiography 'Lok Maze Saangati...' published in 2015, Pawar has lavished praise on Adani describing him as "hard-working, simple, down to earth" and with ambition to make big in the infrastructure sector.

The veteran leader also wrote that it was at his insistence that Adani ventured into the thermal power sector.

Pawar recounts in the book how Adani built his corporate empire from scratch starting as a salesman in Mumbai locals, dabbling in small ventures before trying his luck in the diamond industry.

"He was earning well in the diamond industry, but Gautam was not interested in that. He had ambitions to enter the infrastructure sector. He had good relations with Gujarat Chief Minister Chimanbhai Patel and



had submitted a proposal to develop a port at Mundhra," the NCP chief wrote.

He recalled that Patel had warned Adani of the port being closer to the Pakistan border and in an arid region. "Despite the adversities, he accepted the challenge".

Pawar wrote that later Adani made his

foray in the coal sector and it was at his suggestion that the businessman ventured into the thermal power sector.

Pawar, who was the then Union Agriculture Minister, said he had made the suggestion to Adani during a function to mark the death anniversary of NCP leader

Praful Patel's father at Gondiya in Maharashtra.

"Gautam acknowledged my suggestion in his speech. Usually, nothing much happens on statements made from the podium, but Gautam pursued the matter and established a 3,000 MW thermal power plant in Bhandara," the former Maharashtra chief minister said.

In the book, Pawar recounts how he developed close ties with several businessmen as he sought to usher in development in Maharashtra during his decades-long political career.

The NCP chief said he remained in regular touch with business leaders who could meet him without appointment daily between 2 pm and 4 pm during his tenure as the chief minister.

Pawar recounted his arrangement with the then Gujarat chief minister Chimanbhai Patel, who would divert big projects to Maharashtra. Pawar said he reciprocated the gesture by sending some small projects to Gujarat, an arrangement that ensured the two states scaled greater heights on the economic

front. Pawar has also written about how he helped Hyundai Motors set up a manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu after the Korean car-maker faced some hurdles in setting up business in Maharashtra during the Shiv Sena-BJP rule.

Amid a strident opposition campaign demanding an investigation into the Adani Group by a Joint Parliamentary Committee, Pawar surprised his fellow opposition leaders by favouring a probe into the dealings of the Gujarat-based business house by a Supreme Court-appointed panel.

Pawar also came out in support of the Adani Group and criticised the narrative around Hindenburg Research's report on the conglomerate, saying that he felt that the business group was "targeted" and that he was not aware of the antecedents of the US-based short-selling firm.

Pawar has charted a different course than the Congress on issues such as criticism of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and the Adani Group.

Tensions build around Jerusalem shrine after Syria rockets

JERUSALEM: Israeli warplanes and artillery struck targets in Syria following rare rocket fire from the northeastern neighbour, as Jewish-Muslim tensions reached a peak on Sunday at a volatile Jerusalem shrine with simultaneous religious rituals.

Thousands of Jewish worshippers gathered at the city's Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews can pray, for a mass priestly benediction prayer service for the Passover holiday. At the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a walled esplanade above the Western Wall, hundreds of Palestinians performed prayers as part of observances during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Hundreds of Jews also visited the Al-Aqsa compound under heavy police guard Sunday, to whistles and religious chants from Palestinians protesting their presence.

Such tours by religious and nationalist Jews have increased in size and frequency over the years, and are viewed with suspicion by many Palestinians who fear that Israel plans one day to take over the site or partition it.

Israeli officials say they have no intention of changing long-standing arrangements that allow Jews to visit, but not pray in the Muslim-administered site. However, the country is now governed by the most right-wing government in its history, with ultra-nationalists in senior positions. Tensions have soared in the past



week at the flashpoint shrine after an Israeli police raid on the mosque.

On several occasions, Palestinians have barricaded themselves inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque with stones and firecrackers, demanding the right to pray there overnight, something Israel has in the past only allowed during the last 10 days of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Police removed them by force, detaining hundreds and leaving dozens injured.

The violence at the shrine triggered rocket fire by Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon, starting Wednesday, and Israeli airstrikes targeted both areas.

Later on Saturday and early Sunday, militants in Syria fired

rockets in two salvos toward Israel and the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights.

A Damascus-based Palestinian group loyal to the Syrian government claimed responsibility for the first round of rockets, saying it was retaliating for the Al-Aqsa raids.

In the first salvo, one rocket landed in a field in the Golan Heights. Fragments of another destroyed missile fell into Jordanian territory near the Syrian border, Jordan's military reported.

In the second round, two of the rockets crossed the border into Israel, with one being intercepted and the second landing in an open area, the Israeli military said.

Israel responded with artillery fire into the area in Syria from where the rockets were fired. Later, the military said Israeli

fighter jets attacked Syrian army sites, including a compound of Syria's 4th Division and radar and artillery posts.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed the violence in a telephone call with Israeli counterpart Isaac Herzog late Saturday, telling Herzog that Muslims could not remain silent about the "provocations and threats" against the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and said the hostilities that have spread to Gaza and Lebanon should not be allowed to escalate further.

In addition to the cross-border fighting, three people were killed over the weekend in Palestinian attacks in Israel and the occupied West Bank.

The funeral for two British-Israeli sisters, Maia and Rina Dee, who were killed in a shooting was scheduled for Sunday at a cemetery in the Jewish settlement of Kfar Etzion in the occupied West Bank.

An Italian tourist, Alessandro Parini, 35, a lawyer from Rome, had just arrived in the city a few hours earlier with some friends for a brief Easter holiday. He was killed Friday in a suspected car-ramping on Tel Aviv's beachside promenade.

Over 90 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire so far this year, at least half of them affiliated with militant groups, according to a tally by The Associated Press. Palestinian attacks on Israelis have killed 19 people in that time. All but one were civilians.

UK PM Sunak to receive US President for Good Friday Agreement anniversary

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will welcome US President Joe Biden to Belfast in Northern Ireland next week as the UK commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, the peace treaty struck for the region in April 1998, Downing Street said on Sunday.

Biden will arrive in the UK on Tuesday evening, when Sunak will meet him off Air Force One and the US President will then undertake a programme of engagements including a bilateral with Sunak.

It comes as Monday marks a quarter of a century since the Good Friday Agreement was signed, transforming the political and economic landscape of the devolved region of Northern Ireland.

"The Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement was an incredible moment in our nation's history. It was a powerfully rare example of people doing the previously unthinkable to create a better future for Northern Ireland," said Sunak.

"It is that promise of a better future that we offered to everyone in Northern Ireland that I will be thinking of first and foremost over the coming days. It is my responsibility as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to



ensure we are making good on that promise," he said.

The British Indian leader said that Northern Ireland is "teeming" with opportunities, talent and ingenuity.

"The biggest thing we can do to improve people's standard of living and secure a prosperous and thriving Northern Ireland is economic growth. That's something I'm relentlessly focused on delivering," he added. The US strongly supported the Agreement process and played a pivotal role in boosting peace away from secessionist violence in Northern Ireland.

The UK government says it will use the Biden visit and his engagements with business leaders and others in the Northern Ireland capital of Belfast to celebrate the region's successes and encourage further long-term investment.

The US is one of the largest sources of foreign investment into Northern

Ireland, putting GBP 1.5 billion into its economy over the last decade and creating 13,000 jobs. This includes tech giants such as Microsoft establishing themselves there.

Sunak is to announce that the UK will host a Northern Ireland Investment Summit in September this year to connect international investors with Northern Ireland businesses, showcasing the best of what Northern Ireland has to offer.

The Good Friday Agreement, signed by then British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart, Bertie Ahern, backed by then US President Bill Clinton, brought an end to 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland, known as the Troubles. It was signed on April 10, 1998, and approved by public votes in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

UN voices concern over tense situation in Sudan

KHARTOUM: The United Nations Human Rights Volker Turk has sounded the alarm over the tense situation in Sudan. He called on Sudan's rivals to work to overcome obstacles to civilian transition, Turkish News Agency Anadolu reported. In a statement, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk urged all parties to redouble their efforts to restore a civilian-led government, News Agency Anadolu reported. The UN Human Rights chief appealed to all parties of Sudan "to set aside entrenched positions and personal interests, to focus on the common interests of the Sudanese people by redoubling efforts towards restoration of a civilian-led government." "Much work has been done and many positive steps were taken towards the signature of a final agreement, all efforts must now go to get the political transition back on the right path," he added.



Turk also urged "all sides to work together to overcome obstacles on security sector reform and avoid any further delays in the signing of the agreement that would revive the democratic transition process after the 2021 coup. April 6 is a symbolic date for Sudan's civil opposition, the anniversary of the uprisings in 1985 and 2019 that eventually toppled two leaders who had seized power in coups. Last December, Sudan's military and political forces signed a framework agreement to resolve the months-long crisis. Sudan is still ruled by a military leader, General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan,

who took power in an October 2021 coup, cancelling the transition to civilian rule agreed upon after the 2019 ouster of General Omar al-Bashir, who seized power in a 1989 coup. Sudan has been without a functioning government since October 2021 when the military dismissed Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok's transitional government and declared a state of emergency, a move decried by political forces as a "military coup." On December 5 of last year, a Political Framework Agreement was signed between civilian leaders and the military as the first step towards a political agreement and the restoration of a civilian-led Government. However, the signing of the final political agreement, which was expected to take place on April 1 and then postponed to April 6, remains pending due to disagreements over key security and military reforms between the army and the paramilitary forces.

Sri Lanka's President assures justice for Easter Sunday victims

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Sunday assured justice for all the victims of the 2019 Easter bombings in which 270 people, including 11 Indians, were killed, saying legal proceedings are being processed independently and impartially, without any influence.

President Wickremesinghe also pledged his unwavering commitment to ensuring the security of the country, by preventing any recurrence of heinous acts.

On April 21, 2019, nine suicide bombers belonging to the local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels in Sri Lanka, killing 270 people and injuring over 500.

"The legal proceedings related to this tragic incident are being processed independently and impartially, without any influence. The necessary groundwork towards this end has been laid, to ensure justice for all the victims," Wickremesinghe said in his Easter Sunday message. "I pledge my unwavering commitment to



ensuring the security of our country, by preventing any recurrence of such heinous acts," the President said. He also said that the Government is dedicated to realising the aspirations of all Sri Lankans regardless of race, religion, party or colour. "I strongly believe that we can overcome these challenges in the near future," he said. The Easter Sunday bombings triggered a political storm as then-President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Wickremesinghe were blamed for their inability to prevent

the attacks despite prior intelligence being made available. Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on January 12 ordered Sirisena to pay SLR 100 million as compensation to the victims. The former president stressed the attack took place without his knowledge. As many as 12 victims, including the kin of the petitioners, the Catholic clergy, and the lawyers' body Bar Association of Sri Lanka, filed the fundamental rights petition against the then-president for his negligence in preventing the attacks.

Pakistan is reeling under skyrocketing inflation as cash-strapped govt struggles to stabilise economy

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: Nazim Malik pulled out his children from a private English-medium school and enrolled them in a government-run Urdu school because he can no longer afford their fees amid the spiralling inflation that has made life miserable for most Pakistanis who are now worried about two meals a day for their families.

The Pakistani rupee in recent months has seen a dramatic erosion in its value to the US dollar, currently trading at around PKR 286 in the open market. In the month of Ramzan, buying fruits to break the fast has become a luxury for millions across the country.

The economic situation has never been so grim in a country which since independence has thrice seen military coups and the ouster of elected governments.

Cash-strapped Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation, making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make ends meet. Their woes increased

manyfold after last year's catastrophic floods that killed more than 1,700 people and caused massive economic losses.

"Mehngai (inflation) has crushed my buying power. Literally, the two-time meal is not possible with what I earn," Malik, who works as an accountant in Lahore, said.

During the last six months, inflation climbed to a level where his salary - 65,000 Pakistani rupees (PKR) - seems to be only meant to buy food for his wife and three children. "I pulled out my children from an English-medium school to get them enrolled in a government-run Urdu public school because I can no longer afford their fees. I am lucky that I don't have to give house rent as I am living in my parents' house. I am desperately looking for some extra work to supplement my income," he said.

Malik cursed the incumbent rulers for paying no attention to the plight of the people and being busy with politicking.

Over two-dozen people, mostly women, have died during the last two weeks in the country in their bid to get free food or wheat.



Shakil Ahmad, who works in a canteen on a monthly salary of 25,000 rupees, says although he is single the amount he earns is spent in the first two weeks of the month and he either lives on borrowed money or does overtime to survive for the remaining period.

The prices of fruits and vegetables have gone beyond the reach of most people and the poor are only concerned with flour and rice, he said.

In Lahore, one kg of flour is priced at PKR 170, which Mohammad Hanif, a labourer, said he could not afford if he does not get work all days of the week.

"So, the day I don't get work, I prefer to stand in long queues to get free flour under the government scheme," Hanif said.

School teacher Abbas Rana, 59, says he has never witnessed such biting inflation in his life. "Price of every commodity shot up to a level where only the affluent can think of buying them. Fruits and meat are prohibited for us. My struggle is to ensure two meals a day for my family," Rana said.

The people complain that they no longer have any money left for medicines, new clothing or travelling.

"The prices of commodities have quadrupled during the last year, whereas the income has shrunk," Sagheer Ahmad, 39, said as he carefully checked each piece of onion before putting it in a plastic bag before buying them.

Onions are considered a highly-priced everyday item and their price per kilogramme has been fluctuating between PKR 150 to 200.

"It is impossible for me to run the house with the prices getting higher almost on a daily basis. We feel there is no government in this country," said Safiya Bibi, a 45-year-old mother of four. "You see, bananas are PKR 450 per dozen and apples are PKR 400 per kilogramme. How can a common person buy fruit?" she said angrily.

As prices of essentials spiked, the State Bank of Pakistan in a meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on April 4 decided to increase the interest rate by 100 basis points to 21 per cent.

The MPC noted that "inflation in March 2023 rose further to 35.4 per cent, and is expected to remain high in the near term." The MPC viewed its

"decision as an important step towards anchoring inflation expectations around the medium-term target, which is critical for achieving the objective of price stability."

Experts doubt it would help to control the prices.

Dr Qaisar Bengali, a leading economist, said the increase in the "interest rate will not curb inflation, but increase the cost of doing business."

Pakistan has trapped itself in a debt cycle and its economic woes don't seem to go away soon, says economic writer Ahmed Fraz Khan.

With a per year tax collection of around PKR 5,000 billion of which PKR 3,500 billion goes into debt servicing and the remaining taken by the Army (for defence purposes), the country is left at the mercy of borrowing more loans.

Cash-starved Pakistan is awaiting a much-needed USD 1.1 billion tranche of funding from the International Monetary Fund. The funding is part of a USD 6.5 billion bailout agreement reached in 2019 with the global lender.

"With the Pakistani rupee under extreme pressure already

shedding over Rs 100 during the last 11 months and an IMF deal not in sight, the country's economy is in complete letters.

The premier (Shehbaz Sharif) visited almost every friendly country including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and China but they are not ready to give any bucks to bailout Pakistan out of this economic quagmire," Khan said, adding that a perfect stage is set for default and God knows better how Pakistan will manage to avert it.

The only way forward is political stability and consensus among the institutions. If the politicians, the Army and judicial establishments do not sit together to agree upon some kind of 'understanding' for political stability, this country has no future, he added.

Ruhma Rehman, an economist in Karachi, said, "This inflation is killing thousands of households and there is no quick fix."

The biggest problem is our rulers expect the common man to make sacrifices but are simply unwilling to take and implement real austerity measures."

Union Law Minister inaugurates LADC facility at Court Complex, Budgam

SAYS J&K PEOPLE ARE OVERWHELMING, HAVE FULL FAITH IN JUSTICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

JI NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, APRIL 09: Union Minister for Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju, in presence of Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice N Kotsiwar Singh and Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman JKLSA today inaugurated the office of Legal Aid Defense Counsel at ADR Centre in District Court Complex, Budgam.

Union Minister also presided over an awareness programme on Legal Assistance at Pre-arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage on the occasion.

In his presidential address, Union Minister said that the Legal Aid Defense Counsel system would be fruitful in helping the marginalized sections of society, who have no access to justice. He emphasized the importance of such awareness programmes in providing Legal Assistance at Pre-arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage to the down trodden people of the society, thereby giving a meaning to access to justice.

Appreciating people of Jammu and Kashmir as hearty



and always overwhelming, Union Law Minister said they have full faith in justice delivery system. "Kashmir is a paradise on earth, and people here are so privileged to live blissfully in this heaven", he maintained.

Lauding the role of J&K Legal Services Authority, Union Minister said that the institute is ensuring delivery of justice in an efficient and competent manner across the UT.

Rijiju said that objective of

through Nyaya Bandhu and Tele-Law Services by both offline and digital services.

He emphasized that Nyaya Bandhu and Tele-Law Services are instrumental in providing legal aid to the deserving.

Rijiju said that doors of justice are open to all without any discrimination of rich and poor and it is being ensured that no innocent is punished and no guilty is spared. He added that Union Government has taken various initiatives to reduce the pendency of cases in all courts ensuring prompt justice delivery.

He said measures have been taken to ensure citizens including those living in remotest areas of the country have easy access to justice.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Justice N. Kotsiwar Singh, in his key note address stressed to make the judicial system accessible to every citizen, so that the judiciary comes up to the expectations of the litigants.

Chief Justice urged upon the people to avail the services of legal aid in most efficient manner.

He also enlightened the gathering about the sanctity of the preamble of the Constitution of India, which provides access to justice for all especially the marginalized section of society and that too free of cost. He further emphasized that Legal Services Authorities are playing role of a bridge between judiciary and various other departments.

Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Tashi Rabstan, also threw light on the importance of such aids for having an access to justice for the people who actually need it.

He also elucidated the functioning of the Legal Aid Defense Counsels and asked the selected counsels to work for the people who by reason of economic or any other disadvantageous position are not able to have their grievances redressed.

Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Deputy Commissioner Budgam and other district officers were present on the occasion.

CMD SIDBI calls on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to discuss potential development initiatives in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR APRIL 09: Sh Sivasubramanian Ramann, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) called on the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today.

The CMD briefed the Lt Governor about various initiatives of SIDBI as a part of the SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF) to promote and strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Kashmir Division.

He also discussed support from SIDBI in promoting local entrepreneurship through skill development and capacity building.

Former Legislator calls on Lt Governor

JI NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, APRIL 09: Sh. Devender Singh Rana, former Legislator and Senior BJP leader called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today.

Sh Rana discussed with the Lt Governor several issues of public importance and also gave his inputs on upcoming G20 meet in Srinagar.

Sh Rana also expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for the support and guidance in organizing the Yatra on the Pracheen Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine route.

The Lt Governor assured the former legislator of appropriate action on the genuine matters put forth by him.

Secretary holds interactive session with stakeholders regarding tourism scenario of Patnitop

JI NEWS SERVICE

PATNITOP, APRIL 9: Secretary, Tourism, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, reviewed tourism scenario of Patnitop in an interactive session held with representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Tour Travel Operators, Hotel Associations and officials of Patnitop Development Authority here today.

Chairing the session, Secretary said that PDA jurisdiction is a prime and

all season destination of J&K which witness annual footfall of lakhs of tourists. He appreciated the efforts of PDA for overall development and promotion of tourism in its jurisdiction. In this regard, he specifically appreciated initiatives like sustained innovative tourism campaign, significant national and international outreach programmes and creation of tourism infrastructure and avenues.

However, a lot needs to

be done to not only sustain that position, but keep on improving it and realize the dream of making it a world class destination with the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders and the concerned departments, he said.

The stakeholders voiced their concerns, suggestions and long pending grievances regarding water availability, power, road connectivity, road widening, maintenance of gardens, registration of

hotels with Industries and Commerce Department, among others.

Dr Shah assured them of an appropriate action regarding redressal of their issues.

Also, present in the interactive session were Parkash Chand, Chairman BDC Chenani, Thakur Sher Singh, CEO PDA, Kushal Magotra, President Patnitop Hotels, Restaurants and Bar Association and others.

Special camp held at Pune for enrollment of migrants in electoral rolls

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 9: On the directions of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, P K Pole, special camps are being held for enrollment of migrants in the electoral rolls and create voter awareness among the people regarding electoral process.

The aim of holding such camps is to reach out to young people to enroll them as voters. These camps are receiving overwhelming response which is extremely encouraging, and many people have applied for voter registration, as part of the special summary revision.

One such camp has been held in Pune, Maharashtra, where a large number of people have availed the facility and registered themselves as migrant voters.

The people have appreciated this significant move of Election Commission.

SPECIAL SUMMARY REVISION -2023

DEO Ramban inspects polling stations

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, APRIL 09: District Election Officer, Ramban Musarat Islam visited various polling stations in Ramban district to oversee the ongoing Special Summary Revision during special camps.

Among others, the District Election Officer was accompanied by Deputy District Election Officer Lal Chand; Electoral Registration Officer, Gias-ul-Haq and Assistant Electoral

Registration Officer, Rafiq Ahmad and officials of district Election department.

During the visit, the DEO inspected polling stations in Assembly Constituency-54, Ramban. These included UPS Govindpora (Polling Station No. 83), GFS Garh (Polling Station No. 95), GMS Maitra (Polling Station No. 94), GGMS Maitra-A (Polling Station No. 96), GHSS Ramban (Polling Station No. 59) and GHSS Ramban-A (Polling Station No. 60).



The DEO enquired about the pace of electoral roll updates from Booth Level Officers (BLOs). BLOs were instructed

educate the public and eligible youth about the ongoing revision and focus on registering all eligible voters. They were also asked to update voter information, including deletions, corrections and Aadhaar number seeding, and to identify PwD and 80+ year voters. BLOs were instructed to ensure that their polling stations have Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) such as drinking water, electricity, ramps, toilets and furniture.

100 Trucks flagged-off to facilitate migratory tribal population

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 9: In a significant development the Tribal Affairs Department today flagged off a fleet of 100 trucks for transportation of livestock and families of migratory tribal population from various districts to the highland pastures.

In line with the announcement made by the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha for various tribal welfare measures the department initiated a special project for transhumant support system including transit accommodations and transport facilities for migratory population.

These trucks have been procured by the Tribal Affairs Department through J&K Road Transport Corporation. Pertinent to mention here during last year the transport facility was provided to and fro thereby mitigating the hardships faced by the migratory people through highways.



The J&K Government had earlier announced the provision of transport/freight services for migratory tribal population during annual migration to highland pastures. There was persistent demand from the migratory tribal community that they face lot of hardships during migration due to traffic jam and other hindrances and to make their journey smoother they should be provided some transportation mode. It was observed that occasionally due to harsh weather conditions there was loss of livestock and other damages causing lot of

inconvenience to the affected families. The government took the decision to help the migratory tribals and to minimise frequent traffic jamming on Srinagar - Jammu Highway and the Mughal Road. According to official figures more than 16,000 migratory tribal families were benefitted during the last year after spending summer months in Kashmir pastures and brought back in the trucks to their destination in various districts of Jammu division.

The transportation system put in place by the Tribal Affairs Department has reduced the trav-

el time from 20-30 days on-foot to 1-2 days while it has also helped in smooth traffic management. These trucks have been deployed both on National Highway-44 and Mughal Road. More number of trucks are being inducted this year by the department to ensure coverage of 100% families. Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department informed that Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has committed to provide transportation support/transit facilities to the migratory tribal population. Directions were also issued by the Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta to ensure saturation in transport facilities and to cover 100% migratory population on National Highway and Mughal Road.

Further, he said that required funds are also being released in favour of J&K Road Transport Corporation for procurement of trucks to provide transportation facilities to the migratory tribal

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